

GRAND RAPIDS VITAL STREETS DESIGN GUIDE

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE GUIDE ARE TO:

- » Improve safety for all road users
- » Increase coordination
- » Provide consistent guidelines
- » Institutionalize “life-cycle” thinking and green infrastructure
- » Provide clear methods for prioritization and selection
- » Identify metrics and methods for performance evaluation
- » Increase accessibility
- » A step forward in achieving a vision of zero traffic-related fatalities

VISION

The network of city streets and rights-of-way will be accessible, attractive, multi-modal and safe; serving all people of our community, contributing to the livability of our neighborhoods and business districts, protecting the quality of our river, and increasing economic opportunity to individuals, businesses, and new development.

Infrastructure assets will be maintained and well-managed, using a multi-faceted funding and educational strategy and innovative approaches to preserve our investment.

Adapted from the Sustainable Streets Task Force, this vision statement defines vital streets and identifies the key principles that will guide development of the plan.

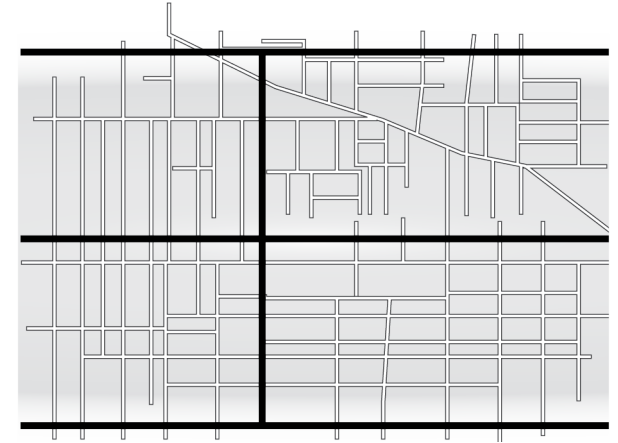
Vital streets are streets that:

- » Are soundly designed and well maintained for lasting investment.
- » Are developed in partnership among city agencies, communities, and other stakeholders.
- » Provide a continuous, interconnected, multimodal system offering comfortable, healthy travel options meeting a diversity of needs and abilities.
- » Efficiently move goods and people.
- » Strengthen community by promoting human interaction and reflecting local character.
- » Enhance the environment.
- » Encourage and embrace innovation and continuous learning through measurement and evaluation.

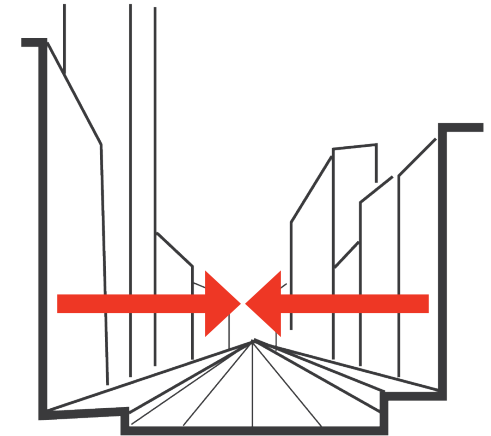


APPROACH

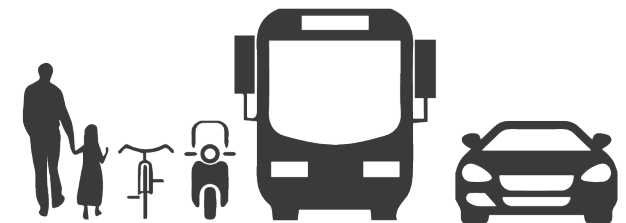
COMPLEX NETWORK



CONTEXT-BASED



MULTIMODAL

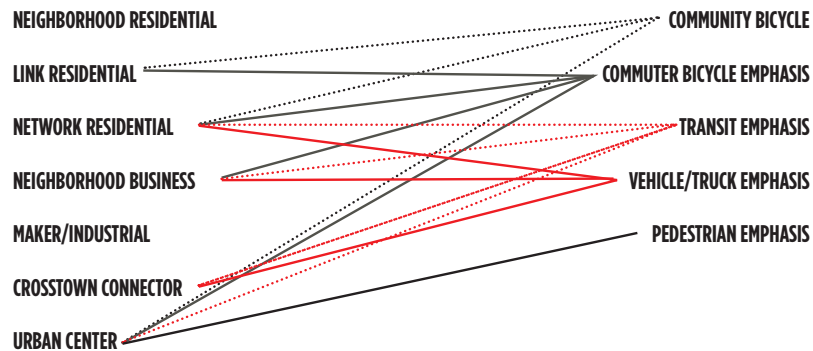


TYPOLGY

For each street type, the guide articulates the objectives and priorities that should be used in their design, operations and management, and performance evaluation. For example, a “Link Residential” street is a mostly residential street that provides connectivity between nearby neighborhoods or local destinations. The design objectives are to maintain modest vehicle volumes and low travel speeds.

STREET TYPES

MODAL OVERLAYS



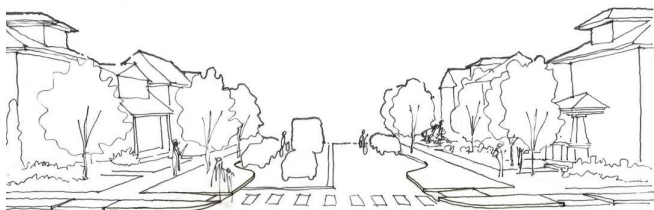
MODAL OVERLAYS

All streets must be safe for everyone to use and consider how to incorporate green infrastructure and stormwater management best management practices.

However, some streets may have additional enhanced emphasis to provide a higher level of accommodation to one or more modes of travel, such as pedestrians, transit riders, bicyclists, or drivers.



WEIGHING TRADEOFFS



A key component of the vital streets design guide is a framework and decision-making process to weigh tradeoffs between design decisions. For example, a street designer might not have enough room in the street to include all the design elements that are needed for a street that is a “Link Residential” street with a “Community Bicycle” mode overlay.

The guide provides a framework for balancing the design objectives of the street type with different methods to accommodate the cyclists that will use the street. Options might include reducing vehicle speeds through curb extensions, painting sharrows, or reducing a vehicle travel lane and adding a marked bicycle lane with on-street parking.



EVALUATION

SAMPLE METRICS

- » Vehicle Speed
- » Vehicle traffic volume
- » Number of Total Crashes
- » Number of Fatalities
- » Transit Travel Time
- » Vehicle Level of Service
- » Bike/Ped Level of Service
- » Vehicle to capacity ratio
- » Retail Performance
- » Property Values
- » Community Cohesion

MEASURING WHAT MATTERS

- » Safety
- » Operations
- » Economic Value
- » How the Street Feels/Quality of Life/Placemaking
- » Travel options/Appeal of non-motorized travel