

The Old Trinity & Design District "Woonerf - Living Streets" Conceptual Plan



Traffic calming has its origins in the Dutch 'Woonerf' schemes of the 1970's, and since then has been further extended and refined throughout northern Europe, but particularly in Germany and the Netherlands.

The concept of traffic calming is fundamentally concerned with reducing the adverse impact of motor vehicles on built-up areas. This usually involves reducing vehicle speeds, providing more space for pedestrians and cyclists, and improving the local environment.

The original 'woonerf' schemes introduced the concept of shared space between vehicle and pedestrian. Streets were constructed so as to tip the balance in favor of the residential function of the street and to reduce the domination of motor vehicles.



Speed humps, chicanes, road narrowing, planting and other measures were introduced to both physically and visually reinforce the message that the motorist is only a guest in the area and that the residential function takes priority.