

Myths of Traffic Calming & Complete Streets

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Department of
Transportation

Local Technical
Assistance Program





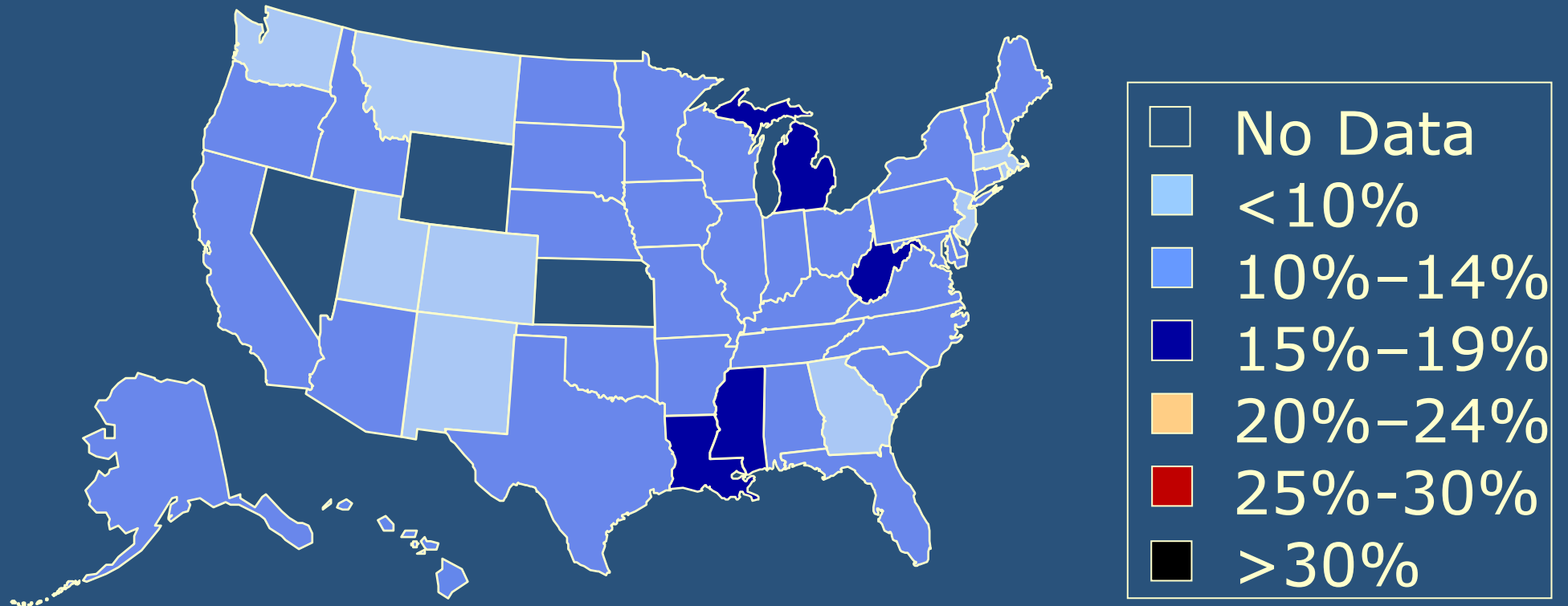


Why?



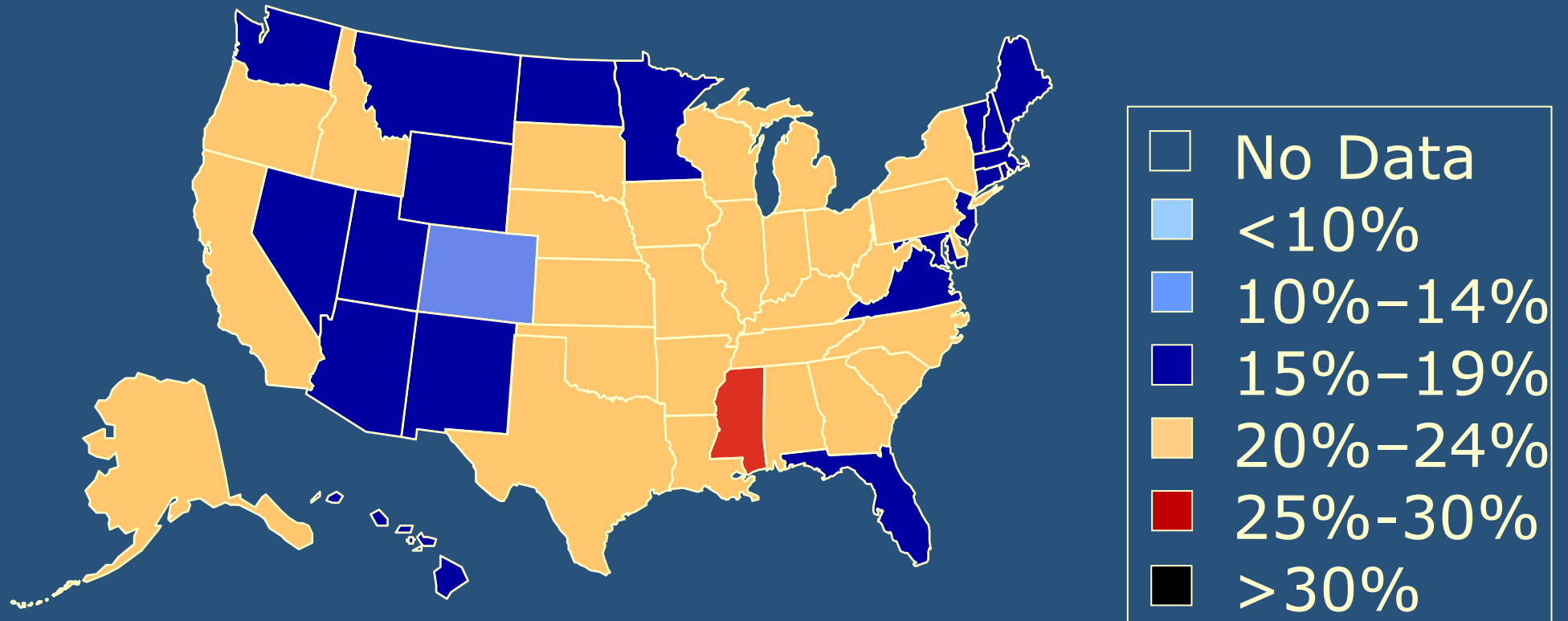
Obesity Trends*

Among U.S. Adults (BRFSS, 1991)



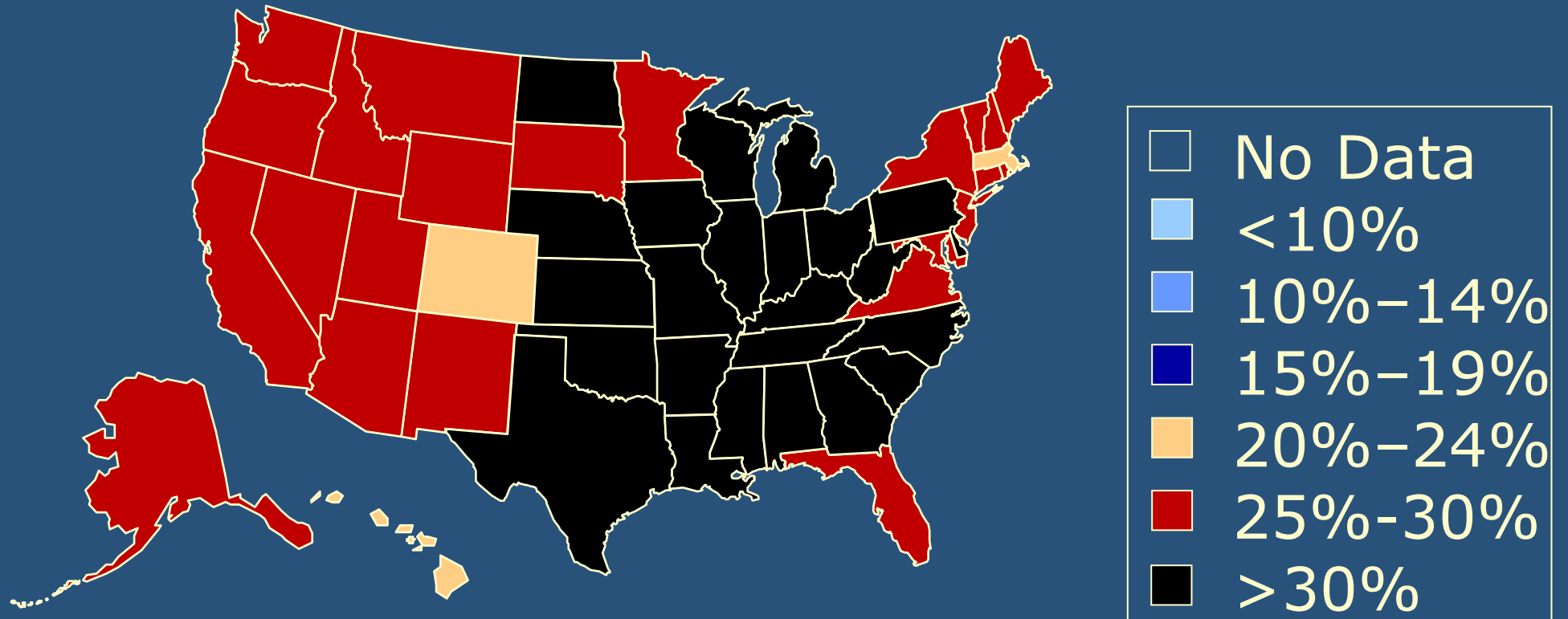
Obesity Trends*

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Obesity Trends*

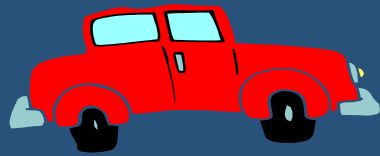
Among U.S. Adults (BRFSS, 2016)



Speed

- Cars travel too fast through here.

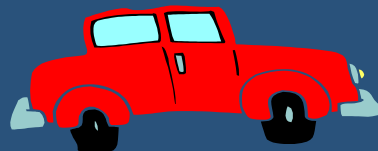




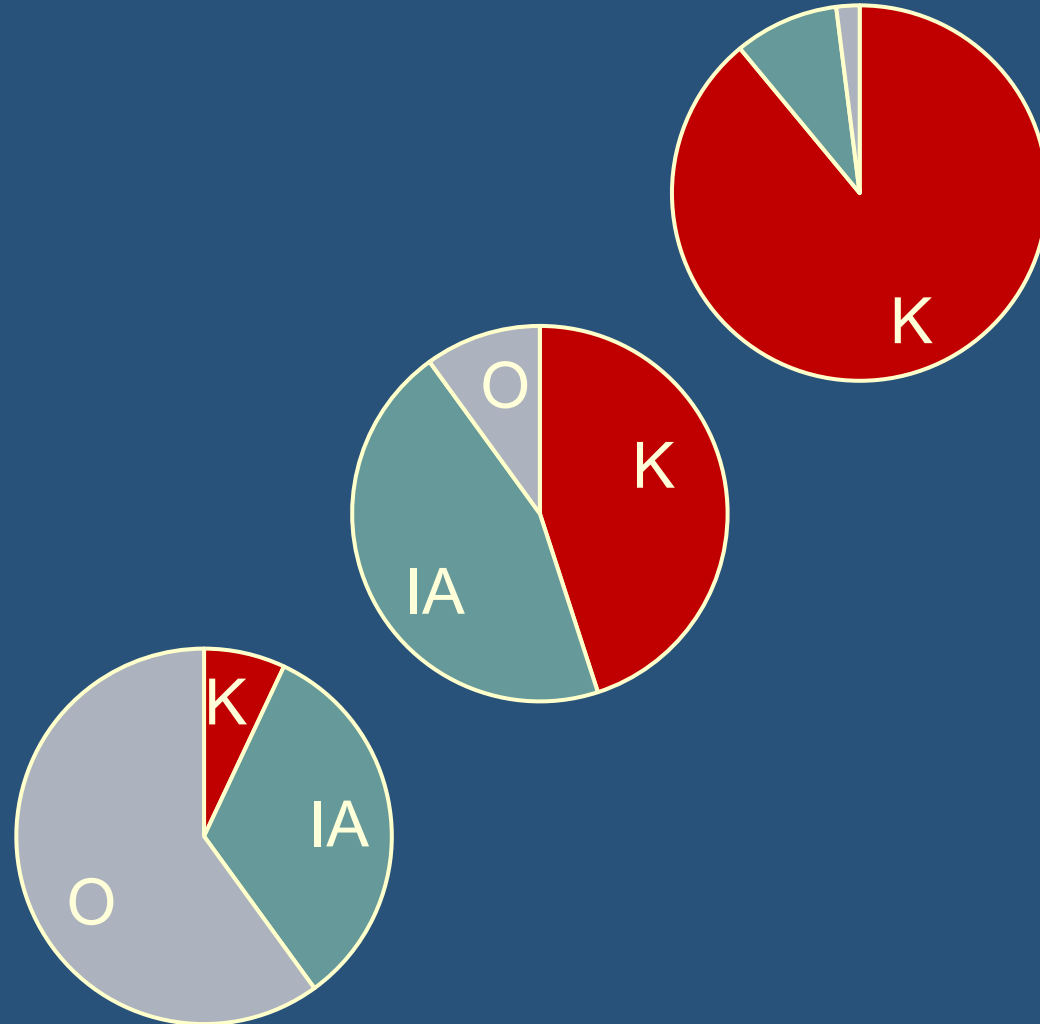
40 mph



30 mph



20 mph





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Complete Streets



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Complete Streets

- Streets are only for pedestrians
- Slow down everyone but me
- Why are there so many cars
- Have the DPW keep everyone else out of OUR neighborhood



Complete Streets

- Are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and bus riders of all ages and abilities are able to safely move along and across a complete street.*

* Institute of Transportation Engineers

Traffic Calming





Traffic Calming

- Herding cats to a solution
- Slowing cars down
- Getting cars out of *my* neighborhood
- Getting that highway department to understand my problem



Traffic Calming

- A combination of mainly physical measures that reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use, alter driver behavior, and improve conditions for non-motorized street users.*

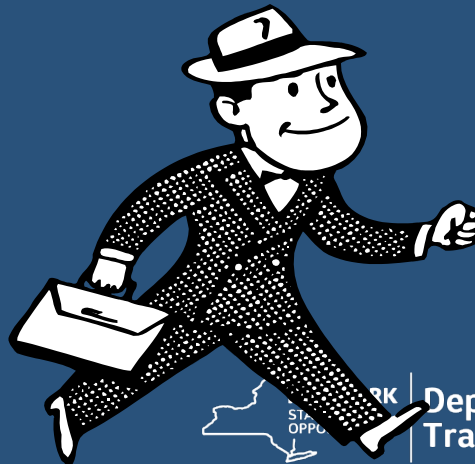
* Institute of Transportation Engineers

Complete Streets

- Streets are not just for cars
- Quality not quantity
- May require mixed functional classification

Traffic Calming

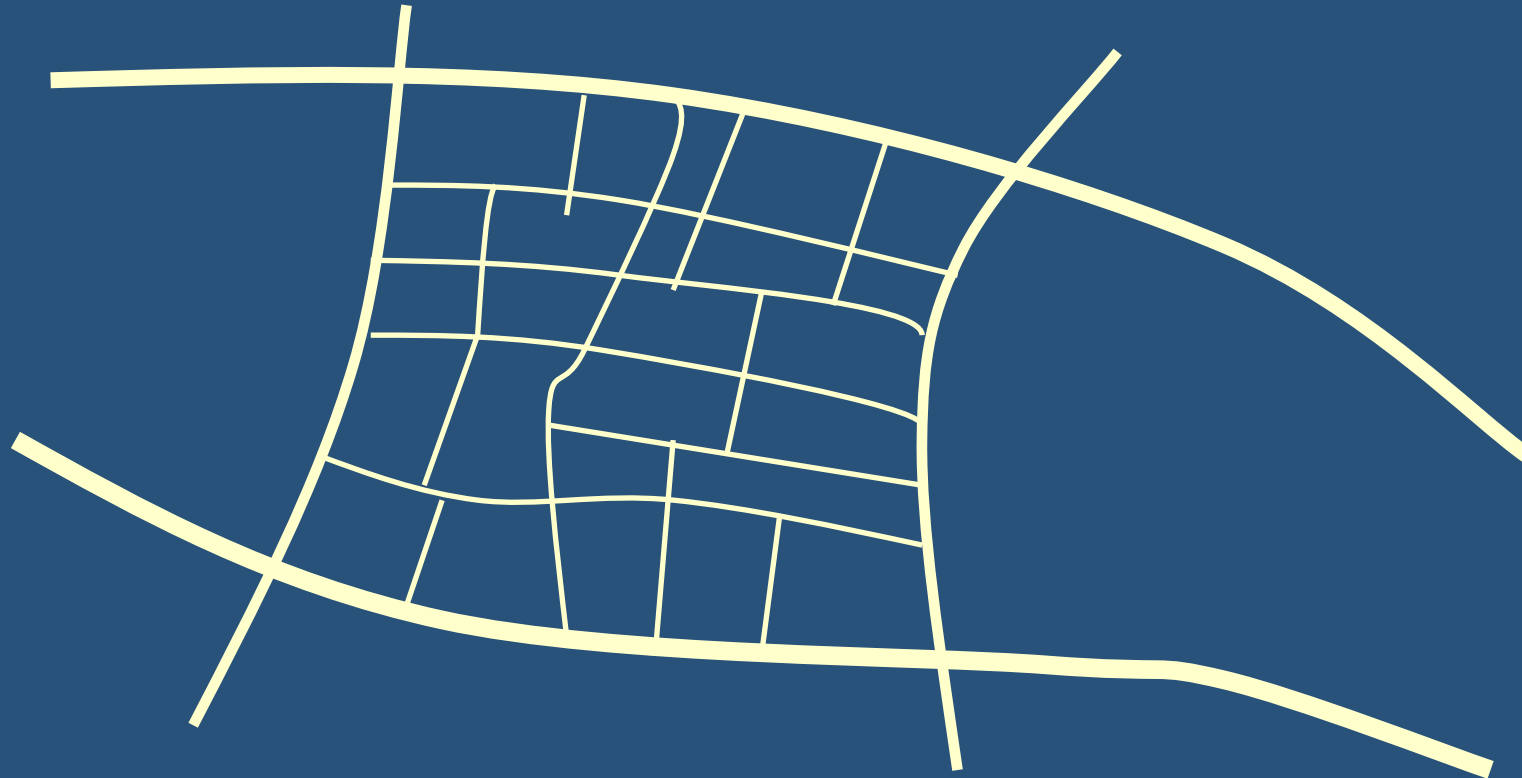
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- Quality not quantity
- Avoid mixed functional classification





Arterial Collector

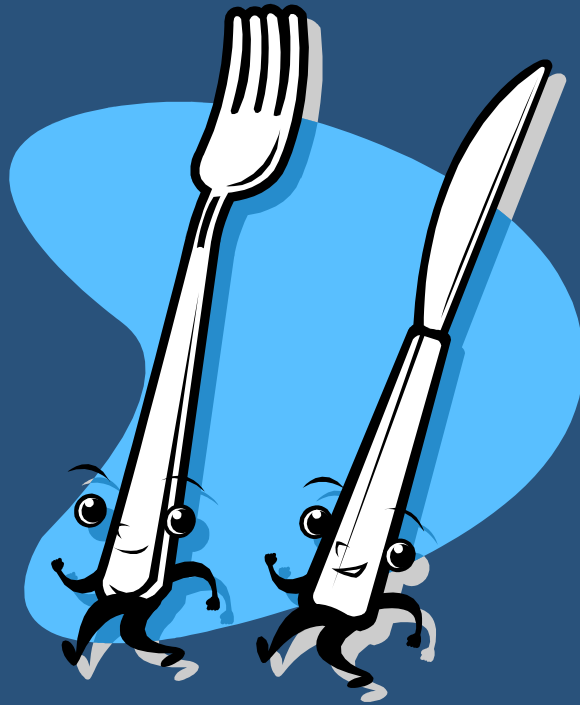
Local







Preconceived Notions



*When you come to a fork in
the road, ...
take it.
-Yogi Berra*



Choose a Sandwich

- 59 carbs



- 33 carbs



- 5 carbs





Choose a Sandwich

- 370 calories



- 350 calories



- 1,187 calories





Choose a Sandwich

- 5 g fat



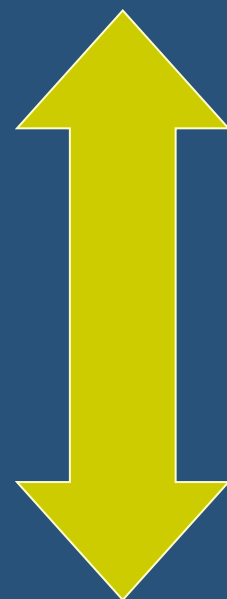
- 18 g fat



- 104 g fat



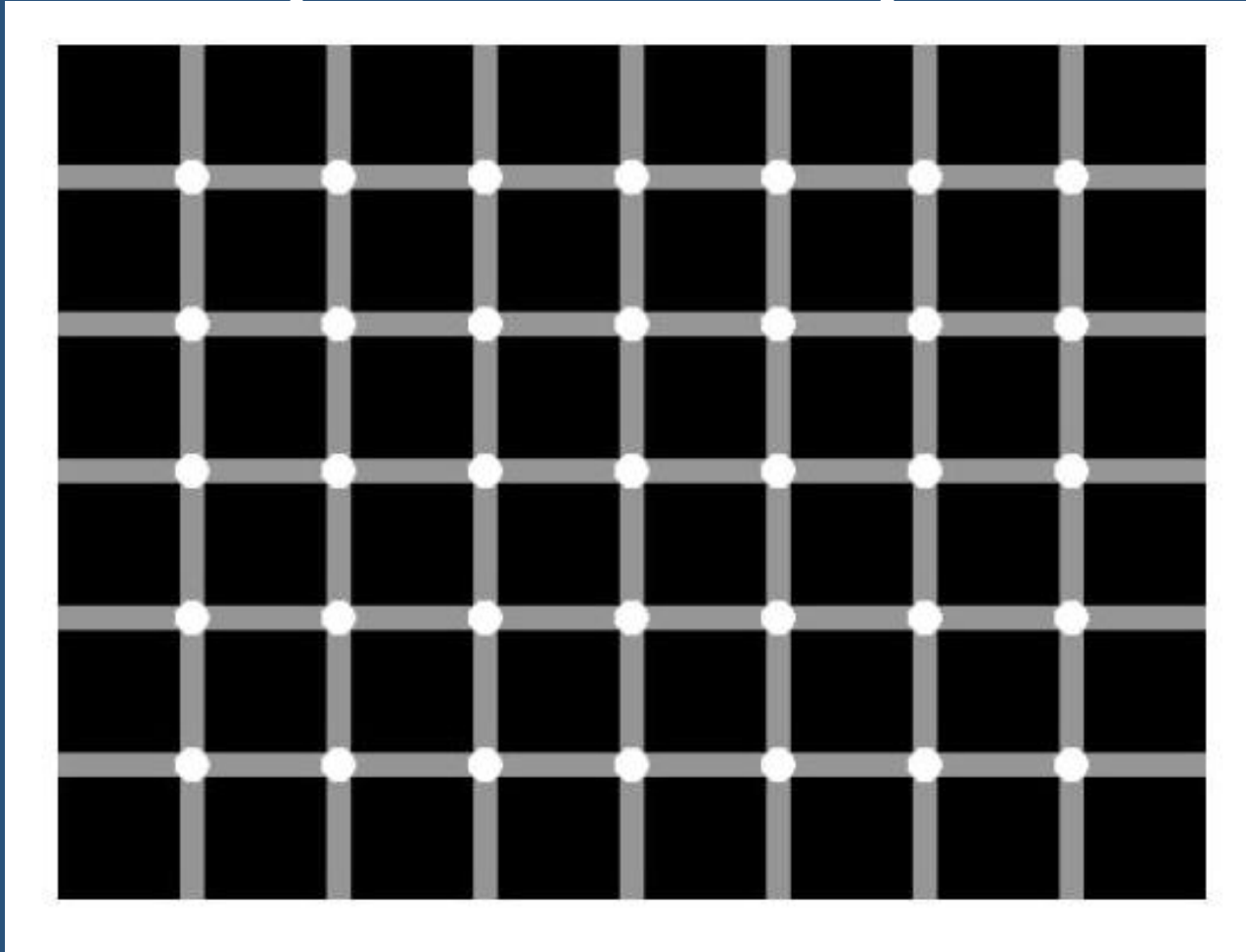
Perception is Reality



Which
way is
up?



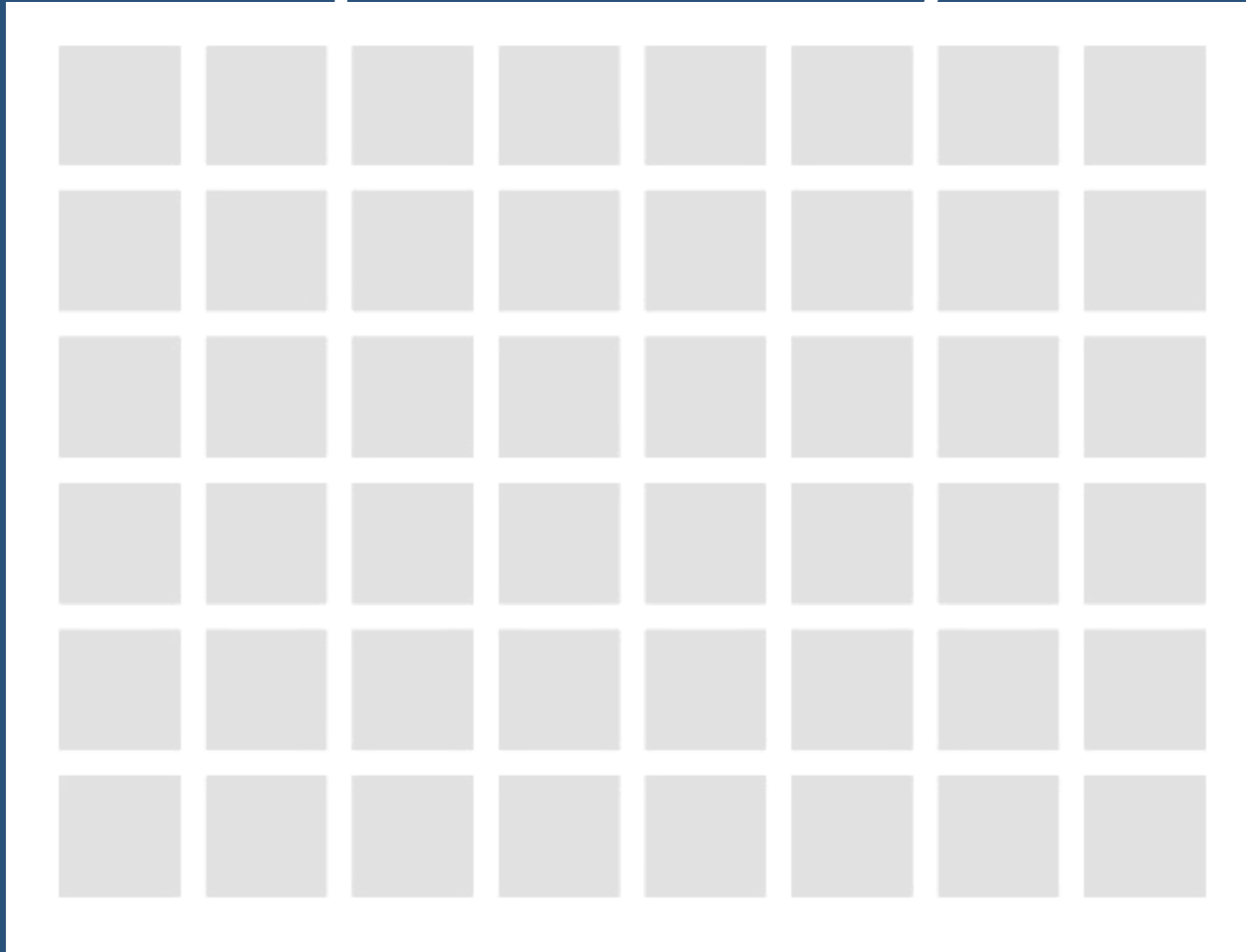
Perception is Reality



Count
the
black
dots



Perception is Reality



Count
the
black
dots



Preconceived Notions

- Nobody walks anymore





Traffic Calming &
Complete Streets will
NOT Change Beliefs



Perception is Reality



Traffic Calming & Complete Streets is NOT a Panacea



We Have Met the Enemy and They Are Us



Traffic Calming & Complete Streets Can Make Things Worse



The 4 E's



- Education
- Engineering
- Enforcement
- Emergency Response

Helping Identify and Describe the Problem





Communication



Traffic Calming Measures



- Vertical
- Lateral
- Constrictions
- Narrowings
- Entrance features
- Streetscaping
- Miscellaneous
- Traffic control devices
- Route modifications
- Enforcement



Helping Identify and Describe the Problem





Realities

- Needs community involvement
- Must examine alternatives
- The best traffic calming is self-enforcing
- Both are “Engineering”



Myths





Solve Problems at a Spot

- Congestion (at particular locations)





Stop Signs Slow Traffic

- *I want stop signs at these intersections to slow cars.*



Speed Limit Signs Slow Traffic

- *The speed limit sign says 45; reduce it to make cars go slower.*





We Have No Pedestrians

- *We don't need sidewalks; nobody walks here.*





There's No Place to Walk

- *I would walk if there were sidewalks*





Others Speed

- *It's those out of towners who speed through my neighborhood.*



Traffic Volumes Can be Reduced on Demand



- *All we need to do is reduce the number of cars.*





Wide Roads are Bad

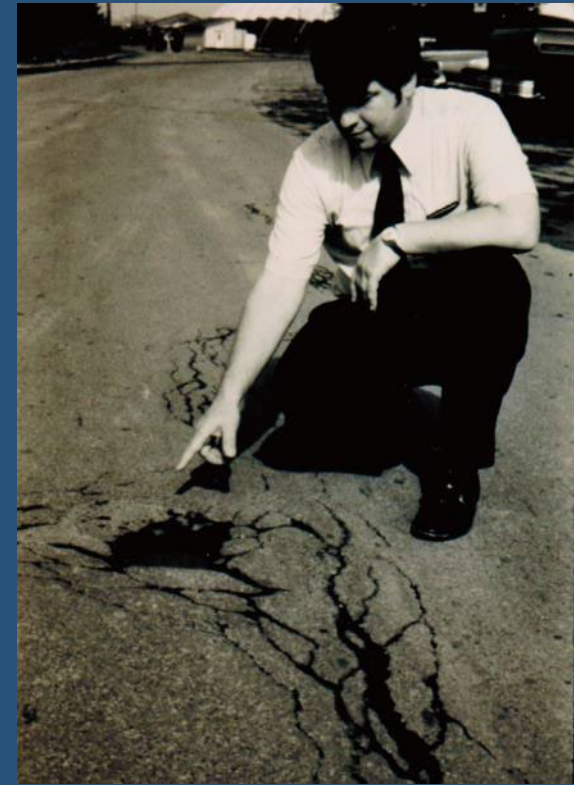
- *Look how fast they go on the interstate.*





Ignore Maintenance

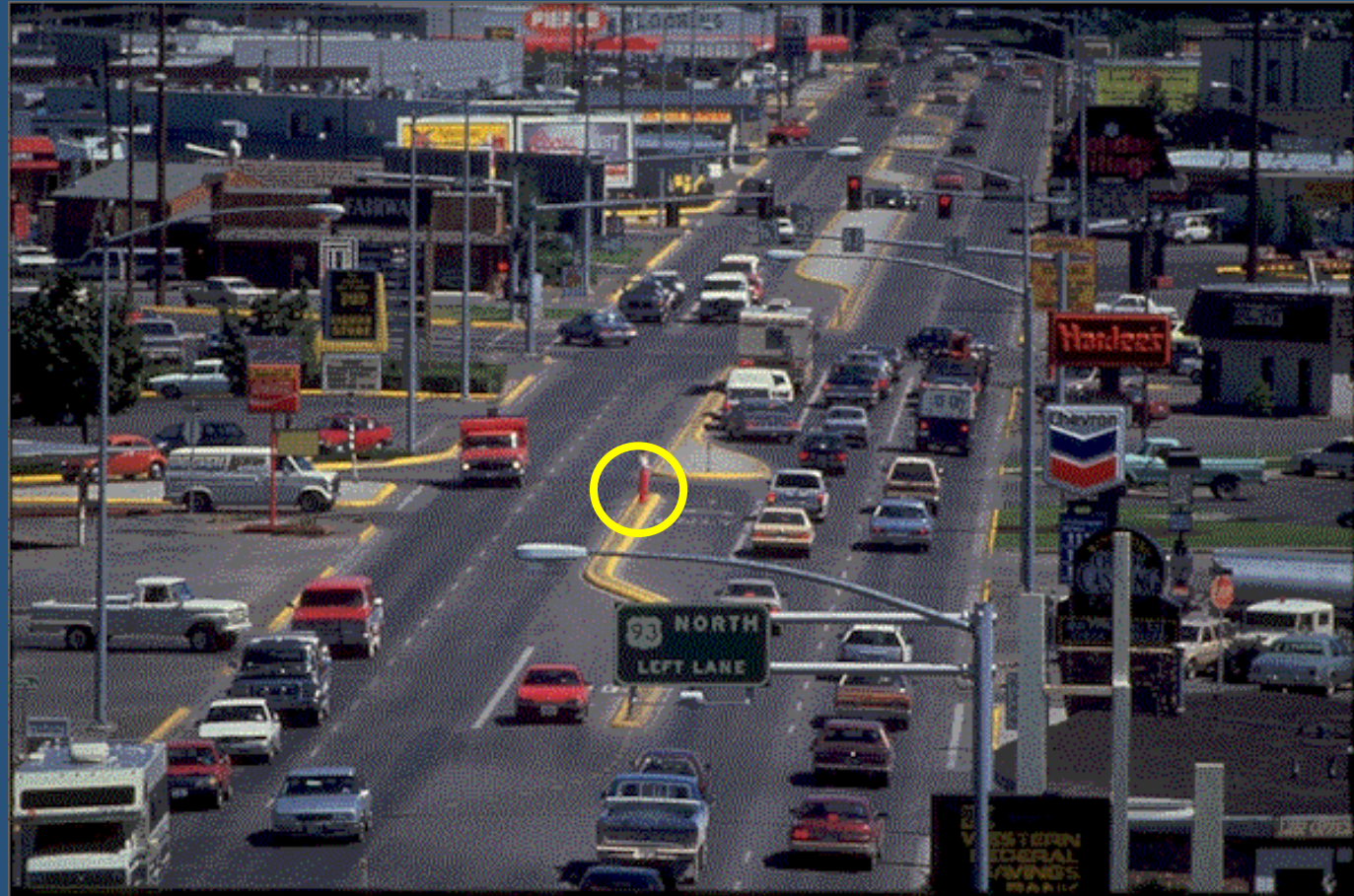
- *Leave the road filled with potholes and no shoulders and cars will go slower.*





Traffic Lights are Enough

- *The pedestrians can cross with the light*





Pedestrian Signals Help

- *We need to give pedestrians priority to improve safety*





Do Not Widen Anything

- *Adding sidewalks and shoulders will make the road look wide and cars will drive too fast.*



“Road Diets”



- *Narrow up the road and slow the cars down*



Before



After

Wide Shoulders

- *Wide shoulders are needed to improve safety*





It Cannot be Plowed

- *The plow (or emergency vehicle) won't be able to get through.*





No Bicycles Here

- *There aren't enough bicyclists to worry about*





Bike Paths

- *We don't need shoulders for bicyclists; they can use the bike path.*





ADA I

- *All we have to worry about are wheel chairs.*





ADA II

- *People in wheelchairs are fine.*





Police Enforcement

- *We need more speed enforcement.*



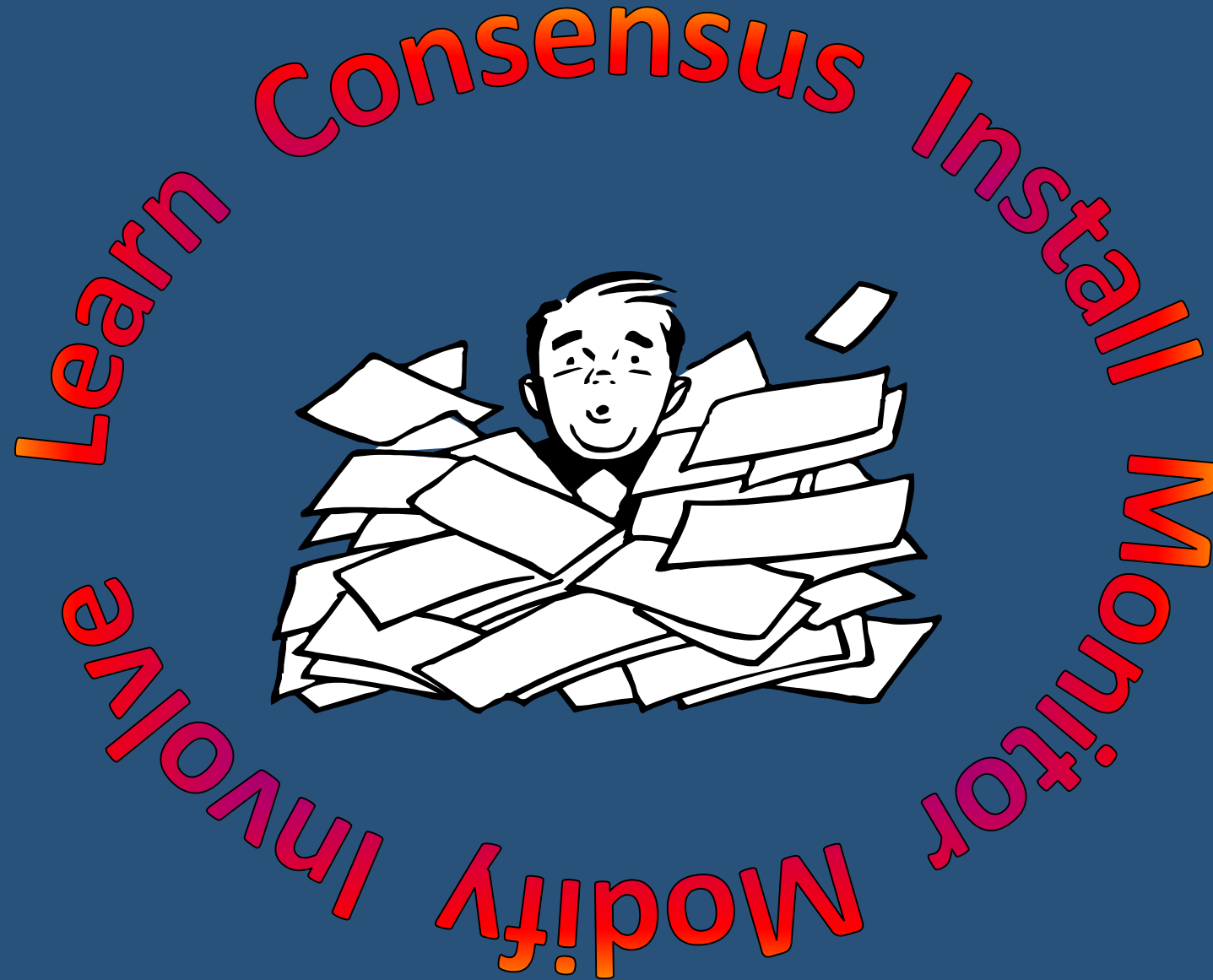


No Solutions are Possible

- *It will cost too much*
- *The public will complain*

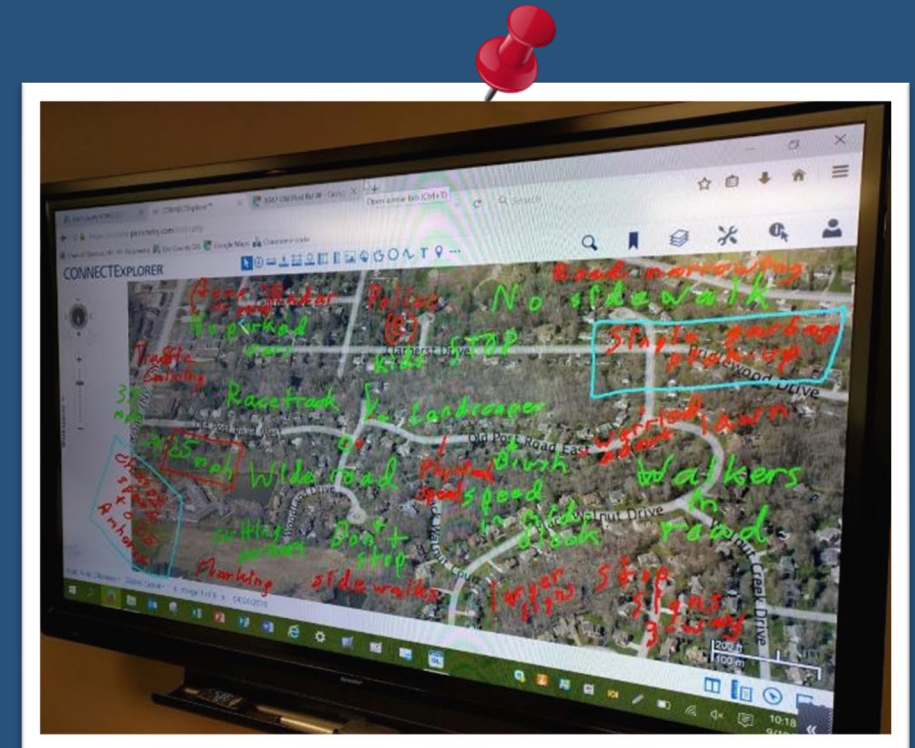
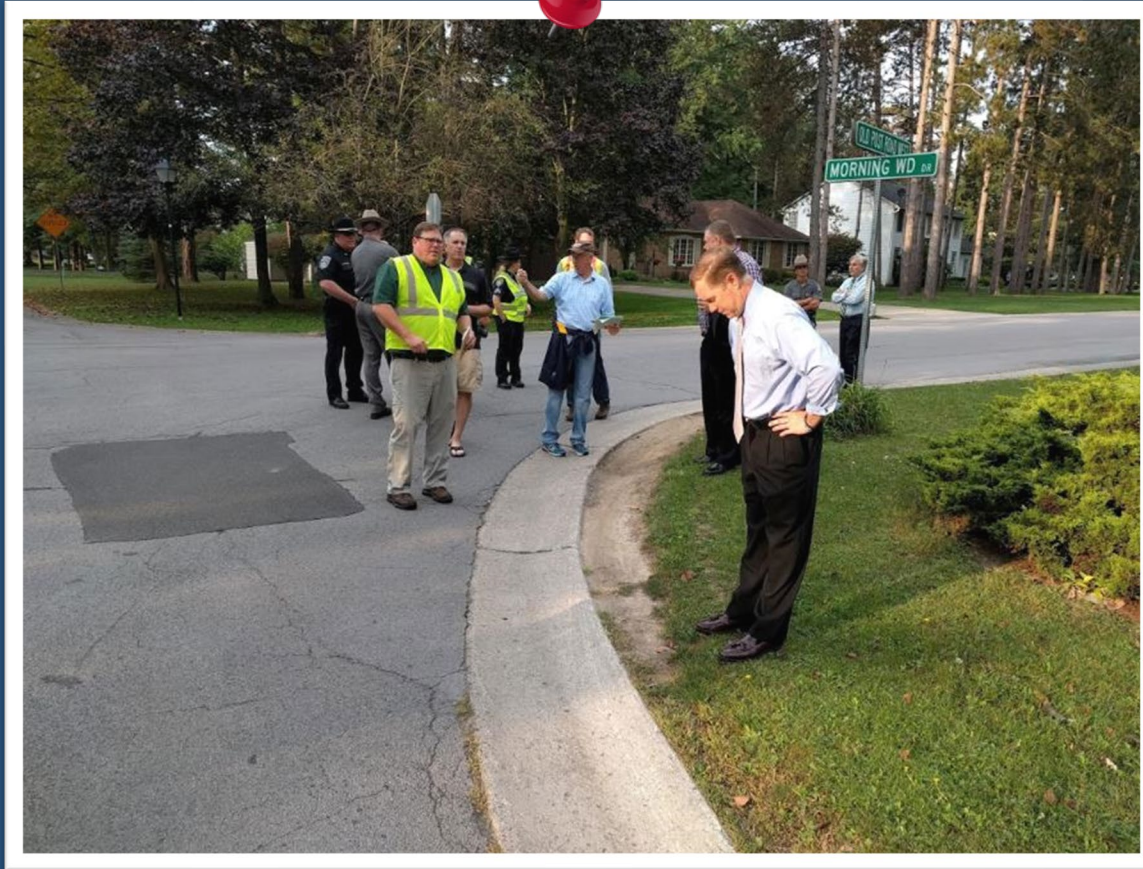


Process

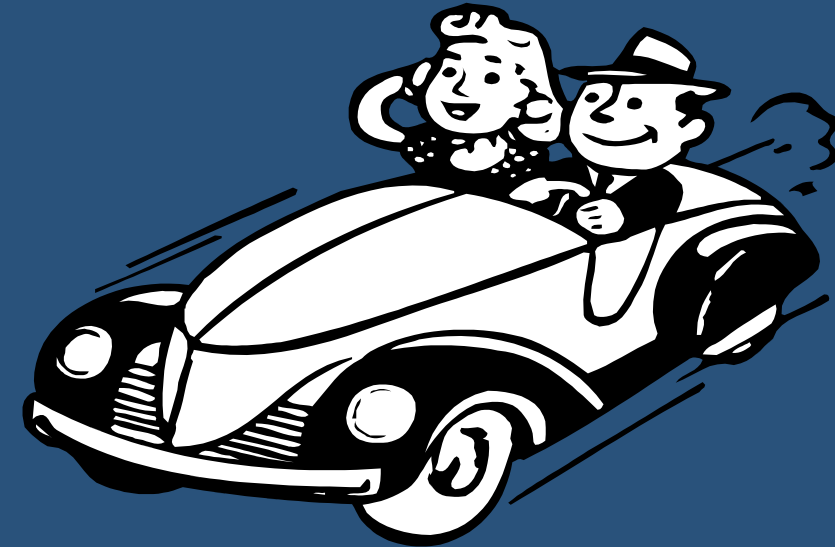




Road Safety Assessments



Define Complete Streets & Traffic Calming?





Community Involvement

- The most important element





Potential Involvement

- Residents
- Businesses
- Travelers
- Emergency services
- Public works
- Utilities
- Transit
- Planning boards
- Schools



When to Use

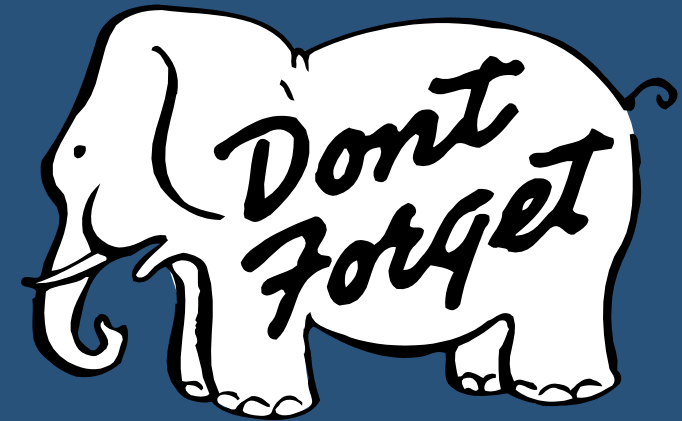
- Local community support
- Traffic conditions warrant
- Traditional methods do not work



Implementation



- Provide opportunity for input
 - From all interested parties
- Use area-wide plans
 - Not spot solutions
- Try temporary solutions first
 - If possible





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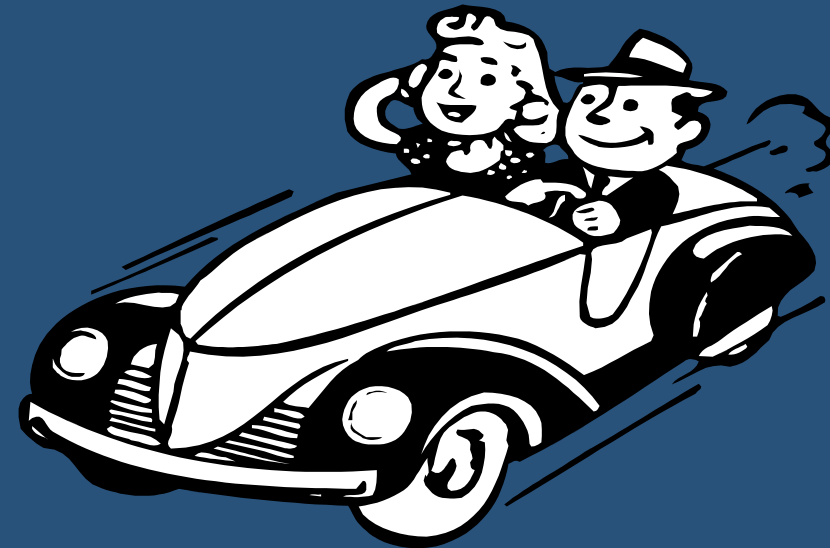
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Define Complete Streets & Traffic Calming?



- Techniques to allow all users to share the road as safely and efficiently as possible.



Thank You

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