TARGET SPEEDS

OUR PRIORITIES

A Street design priority framework for Ann Arbor

Our streets connect people to each other, to oportunity, and to a healthier, more vibrant Ann Arbor. This framework helps guide how we plan, design, and use our street space — putting safety first and creating a more equitable, sustainable, and connected city for everyone.

These priorities help determine an appropriate target speed and the street design needed to support it.

Safer streets for people walking, rolling, and biking make Ann Arbor safer, healthier, and better for everyone.

1. Safety for All:
Design our streets to eliminate deaths and serious injuries, with particular attention to people who are most vulnerable in crashes, such as those walking, rolling, and biking.

2. Pedestrian Accessibility & Mobility:
Provide continuous, accessible sidewalks, crossings, and connections to key destinations, including transit for people of all ages and abilities.

3. Bicycle & Transit Mobility:
Build a connected All Ages and Abilities bicycle network and prioritize reliable, convenient transit service with high-quality stops and access.

4. General-Purpose Vehicle Operations:
Maintain functional vehicle circulation and access for residents, businesses, visitors, and movement of goods — within the context of the above priorities.

Always Included: emergency response and essential services.

LOW TARGET SPEEDS - DESIGNING FOR SAFETY

TARGET SPEEDS

Road designs influence driver perception. Wide roads with many lanes make higher speeds feel comfortable. Narrower road designs with transit, bicycling, and pedestrian features constrain vehicle speeds, reducing the kinetic energy that causes severe crashes. A2R2 starts with target speeds that assume people walking and bicycling are present. These target speeds are an early design objective used to guide the street design and selection of safety treatments. Future projects should carry the target speed through detailed design and check whether the proposed design is expected to achieve it.

What is a target speed?

The target speed is the speed at which drivers should operate on a roadway given the intended safety, context, and function of that street — not necessarily the speed limit. It represents the desired operating speed that aligns with the street's purpose, surrounding land uses, and safety goals for all users.

How to set a target speed

The most important determinant of a target speed is the context. The City's Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) envisions the transformation of many of these corridors into walkable streets that serve residents and local businesses.

How to achieve the target speed

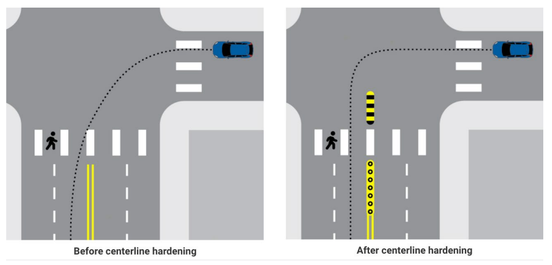
A lower target speed needs to be supported by the design of the street—not just by a speed-limit sign. Future projects can combine narrower or fewer driving lanes, intersection changes, signal timing, crossings, bicycle and transit facilities, parking, and other design tools so that slower driving speeds feel natural.

Speed, capacity and throughput

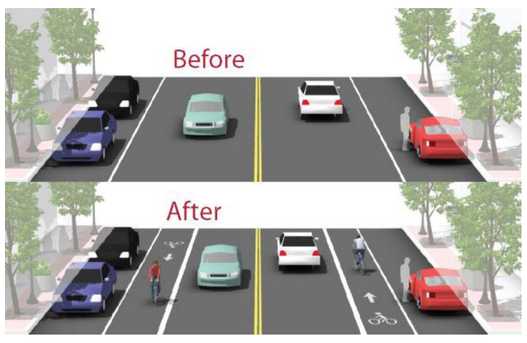
Traffic moves most efficiently at a slow, steady speed. Higher traffic speeds, interrupted by stopping at signals, is less efficient for accommodating high traffic flows and more likely to lead to crashes. Safe and efficient vehicle movement should be a priority in establishing a target speed.

ROAD SAFETY TOOLKIT

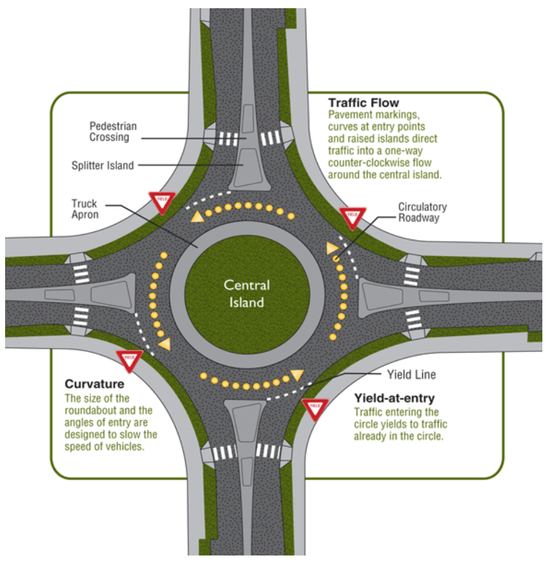
Hardened Center Lines



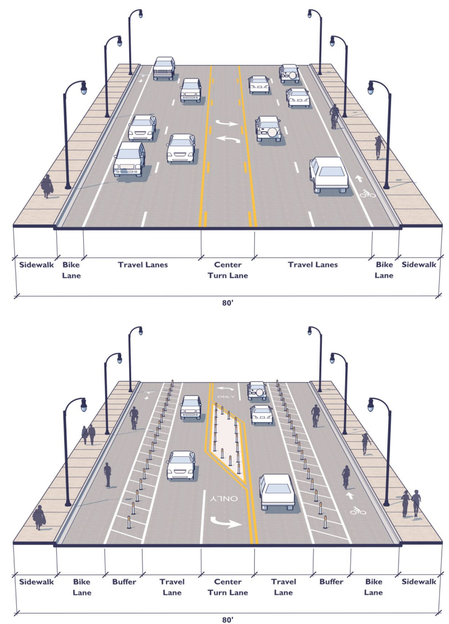
Narrow Lanes



Roundabouts



Fewer Travel Lanes



Signal Timing Change



Remove Right Turn / Slip Lane

