One-way Couplet Conversions

DESCRIPTION:

One-way couplets consist of a pair of parallel one-way streets that carry traffic in opposing directions. Couplets are established to provide greater capacity for automobiles particularly in areas with heavy peak directional demand. In a grid system, one-way couplets are often separated by a single city block, have fewer turning movements at intersections, and better synchronization of traffic signals.

APPLICATION:

One-way couplets are most appropriate for core urban areas with an established grid street system where the emphasis on mobility over land access is desired. Recognizing the need to maintain capacity for peak hour travel, this strategy is meant to manage rather than restrict or redirect vehicles. One-way couplets can be designed and configured to reduce the pedestrian crossing distances, establish bicycle lanes, and/or create needed on-street parking.

Advantages

- Higher automobile capacity than equivalent two-way streets
- May reduce pedestrian crossing distances
- Fewer intersection turning movements may increase safety
- Provides opportunities to create bicycle lanes and/or on-street parking

Disadvantages

- Without other traffic management strategies speeds may increase
- Delays emergency vehicles
- Increases travel time and out of direction travel for local residents

Effectiveness Scorecard

Speed	Good
Volume	Fair
Cut-through	Fair
Crashes	Good
Emergency Vehicle	Fair
Pedestrian	Good
Bicycle	Good
Noise	N/A
Cost	$$$

Very Good · Good · Fair · Poor · N/A Not Applicable

Quick Glance