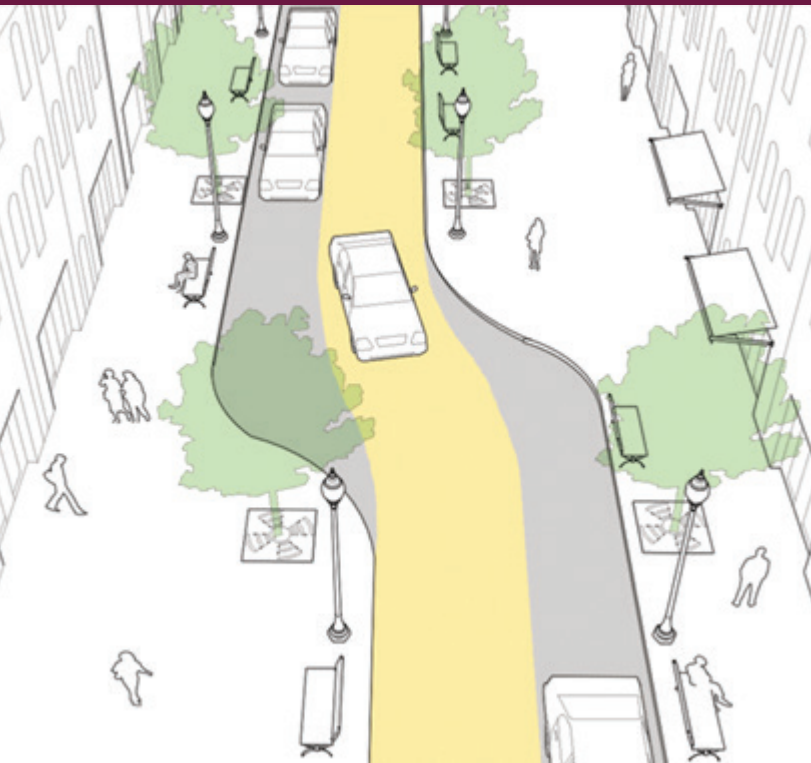


Chicanes

A chicane is a series of alternating curves or lane shifts that are positioned to guide a motorist to steer back and forth out of a straight travel path. The curvilinear path is intended to reduce the speed at which a motorist is comfortable travelling through the feature. The lower speed could in turn result in a traffic volume reduction



Typical Use

- Chicanes have a traffic slowing effect which may be more suitable for streets with low traffic and with a typical speed limit of 35 mph.
- Chicanes are most effective of slowing traffic by encouraging motorists to moderate vehicle speeds through a series of horizontal deflections.

Design Features

- A chicane design may warrant additional signing and striping to ensure that drivers are aware of a slight bend in the roadway.
- A curb extension or edge island that forms a chicane should have vertical elements (e.g. signs, landscaping) to draw attention to it.
- Chicanes may be designed using a return angle of 45 degrees, or more gradual taper and transition, resulting in an S-shaped roadway.

Materials & Maintenance

Chicanes require few additional maintenance requirements to local roadways. Signage, landscaping, and other design features should be inspected and maintained according to local standards.

Further Considerations

Advantages

- Reduces vehicle speeds.
- Reduces straight line of sight and enhances visual breaks in the streetscape.
- Provides landscaping opportunity.
- Can accommodate emergency vehicles.

Disadvantages

- Removes on-street parking.
- Landscaping must be designed so as not to obstruct sight lines.
- Inattentive drivers may not abide by the new centerline. May disrupt ability of service/delivery vehicles to find parking.

