

# SafeRoutes



# Academy

[Saferoutesnj.org](http://Saferoutesnj.org)



# Taking it to the Streets – Conducting Walkability Audits



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# Welcome!

## *Taking it to the Streets: Conducting Walkability Audits*



**RUTGERS-NEW BRUNSWICK**  
**Edward J. Bloustein School**  
**of Planning and Public Policy**  
Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center

# Agenda

- Conducting Walkability Assessment
- Overview of Resources
- Conduct Walk Assessment
- Wrap-up & next steps



# Conducting Walkability and Bikeability Audits

## What is an assessment?

Engaging stakeholders in evaluating the walkability and bikeability of an area or neighborhood.



# Tips & Tools for Audits

## Gather a group

- ❑ Work with partners to recruit volunteers
- ❑ Not just adults!

## Be Prepared

- ❑ Plan and map the route
- ❑ Prepare an Introduction/Training
  - Identify roles/responsibilities
  - Identify what to look for
  - Demonstrate how to take pictures
- ❑ Be familiar with the area
- ❑ Bring supplies to complete the assessment



# Tips & Tools for Assessments

## Listen

- Everyone's input is important

## Have a back-up plan

- Know what you can finish later if you get cut short

## Conduct a group debrief

- Discuss conditions – good and bad
- Discuss potential improvements
- Develop a list of priorities



# Take Effective Pictures

- Take many pictures!
- Avoid close-ups – make sure the scope of the problem can be seen and the issue can be easily identified
- Try to add some scale to your pictures
- Have a photographer work with a note taker – record where each picture is being taken



# How comfortable is it for walking/biking?

## ***Walkability & Bikeability:***

- ✓ Is it ***accessible?***
- ✓ Is it ***welcoming?***
- ✓ Is it ***convenient?***
- ✓ Is it ***safe?***



# Streets for All People



Pedestrians

Cyclists



Is this welcoming?



# Is this welcoming?



# Pedestrian Safety

Is the surface smooth?



Are there any other infrastructure issues?



# Accessibility



# Crosswalk Ramps

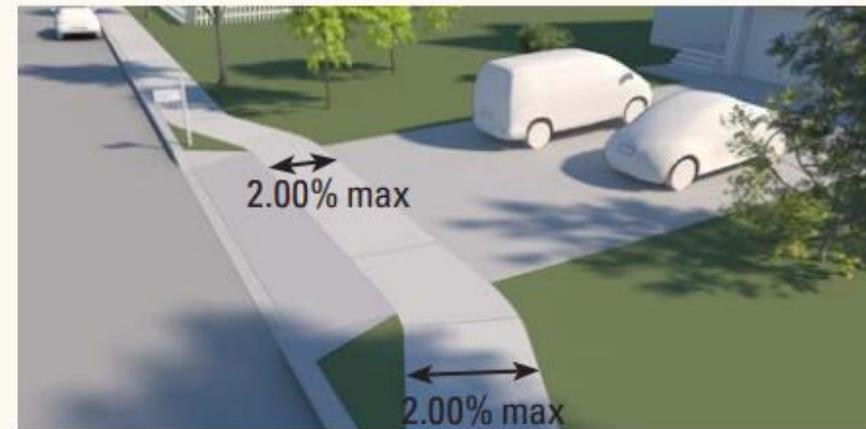
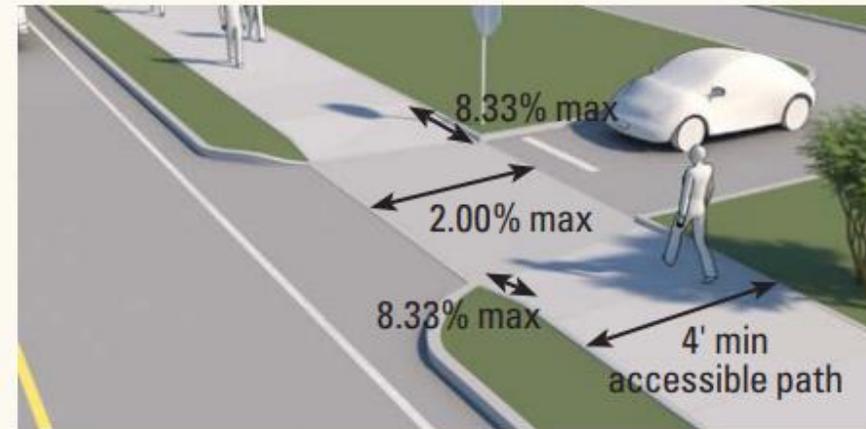
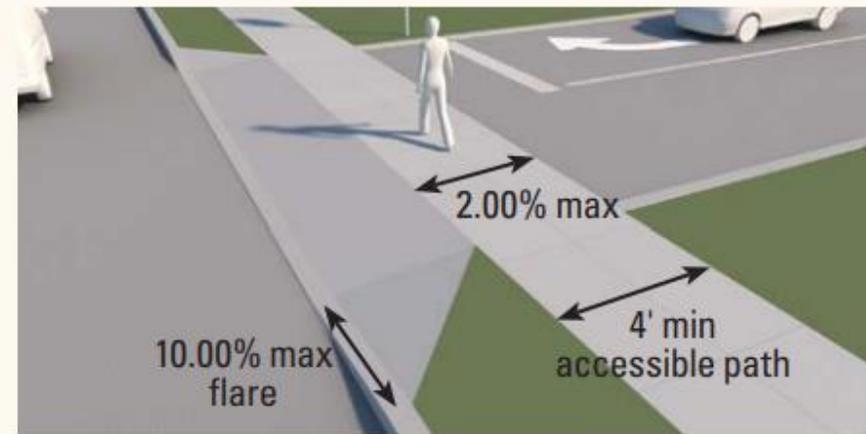
- Should face crosswalk
- Can't be too steep
- Smooth transition at bottom
- Truncated domes for the blind



ADA Curb Ramp Improvement Example  
in Amada Neighborhood

# Driveways

- Steep grades and cross slopes at driveways are dangerous
- Provide as level a surface as possible
- Sidewalks should NOT stop at driveways



Does this seem okay?



If driveways and curb ramps aren't done right,  
sidewalks can't be used



# Improper Placement/Obstructions



# Pedestrian Accessibility

- **Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines**
  - Width: Federal minimum was 36"
  - NEW – 48" min, exclusive of curb
  - Wider is always better!
- **Be careful with:**
  - Vertical obstructions
  - Protruding objects
  - Slope

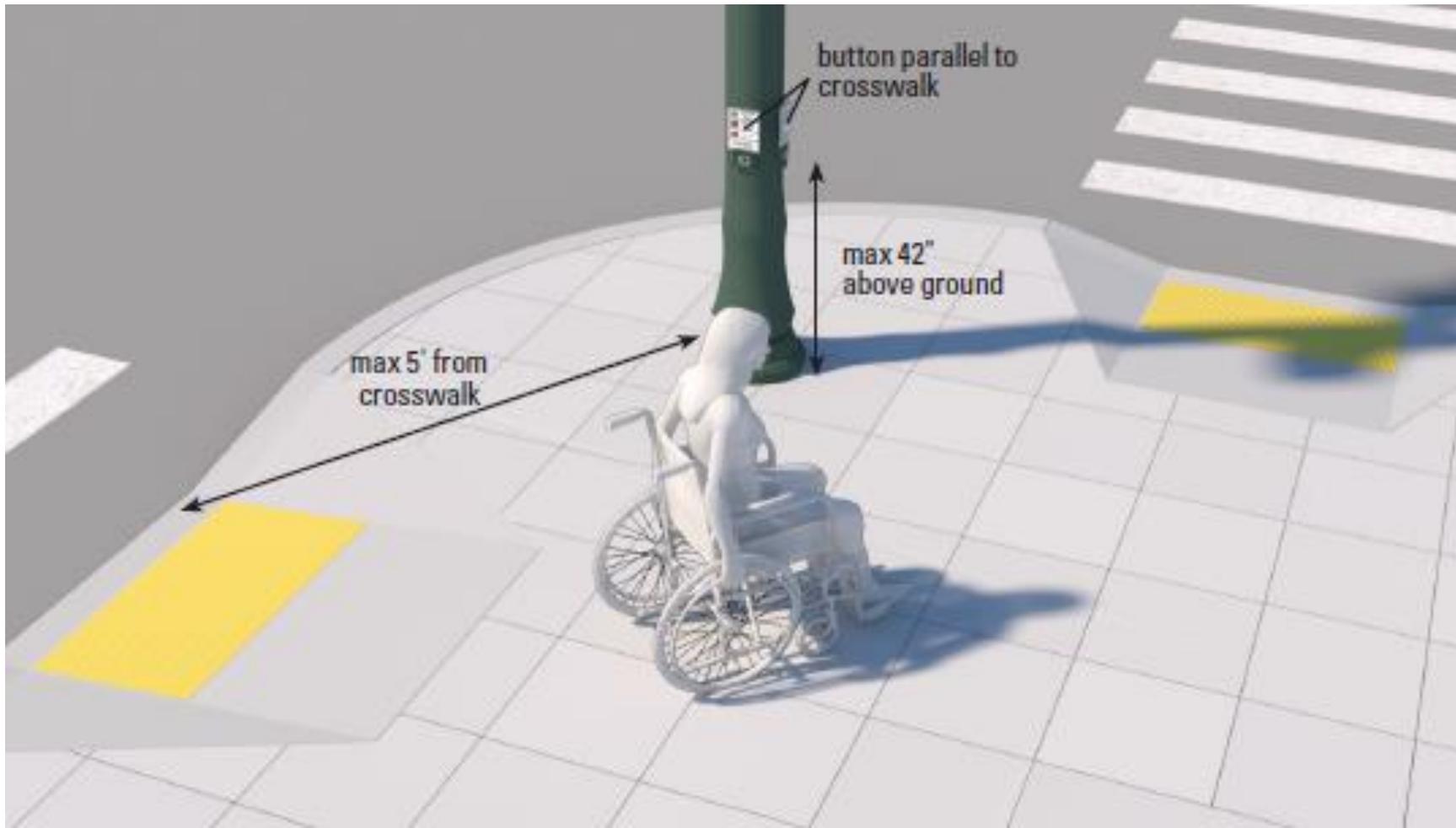


# Countdown Signals/ ADA Push Buttons/ Increased Crossing Time



# Push Buttons

- Must be within 5 feet of the extended crosswalk line
- Must be parallel with crosswalk



# Does this work?



# Crosswalk Visibility



Low  
Visibility



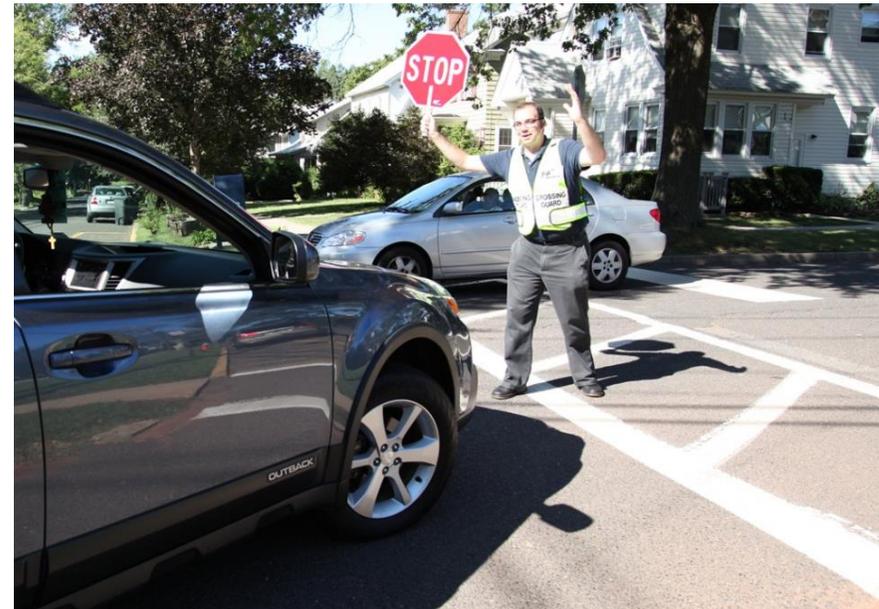
High  
Visibility

# Do Drivers Behave Safely?

*Do driveways  
cause issues?*



*Is there aggressive or  
careless behavior?*



# Bikeable for everyone!



On road, on the sidewalk, on paths

# On-Road Bicycle Facilities



None



Shoulder

# On-Road Bicycle Facilities



Sharrows



Bike Lane

# On-Road Bicycle Facilities

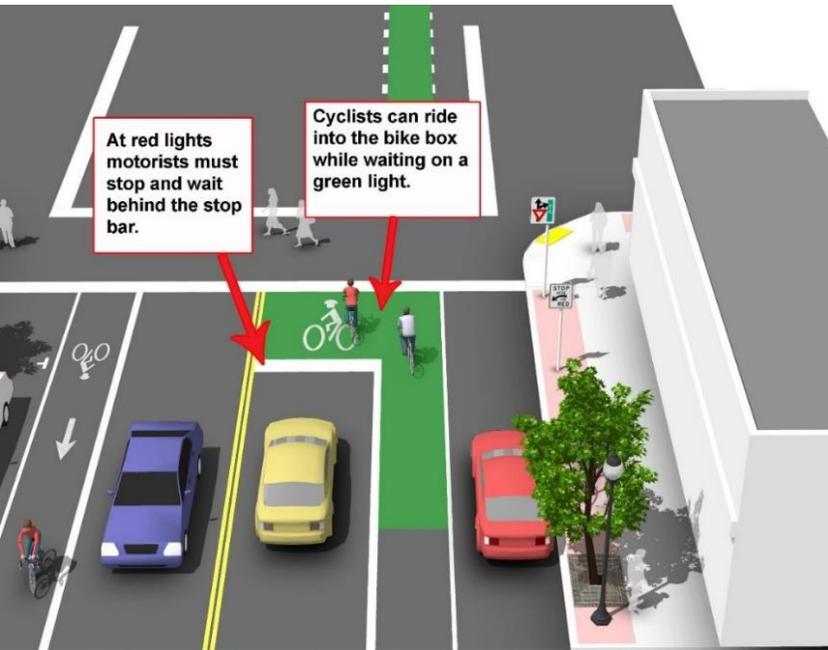


Buffered Bike Lane



Protected Bike Lane

# Other Bicycle Options



Bicycle box at intersections



Bike Signal



Bike Parking

# Facilities - What should we be looking for?

*Where do facilities start/stop?*



*Do facilities go where I want them to?*



# Facilities - What should we be looking for?

*Are there any blockages/obstructions?*



*Do I feel comfortable at crossings?*



# Do Drivers Behave Safely?

*Are vehicles speeding?*



*Do drivers pass too close?*



# Are there places to park bikes?

*Are there bike racks?*

*Where are the bike racks?*

*Are they placed well?*

*Are they in good condition?*



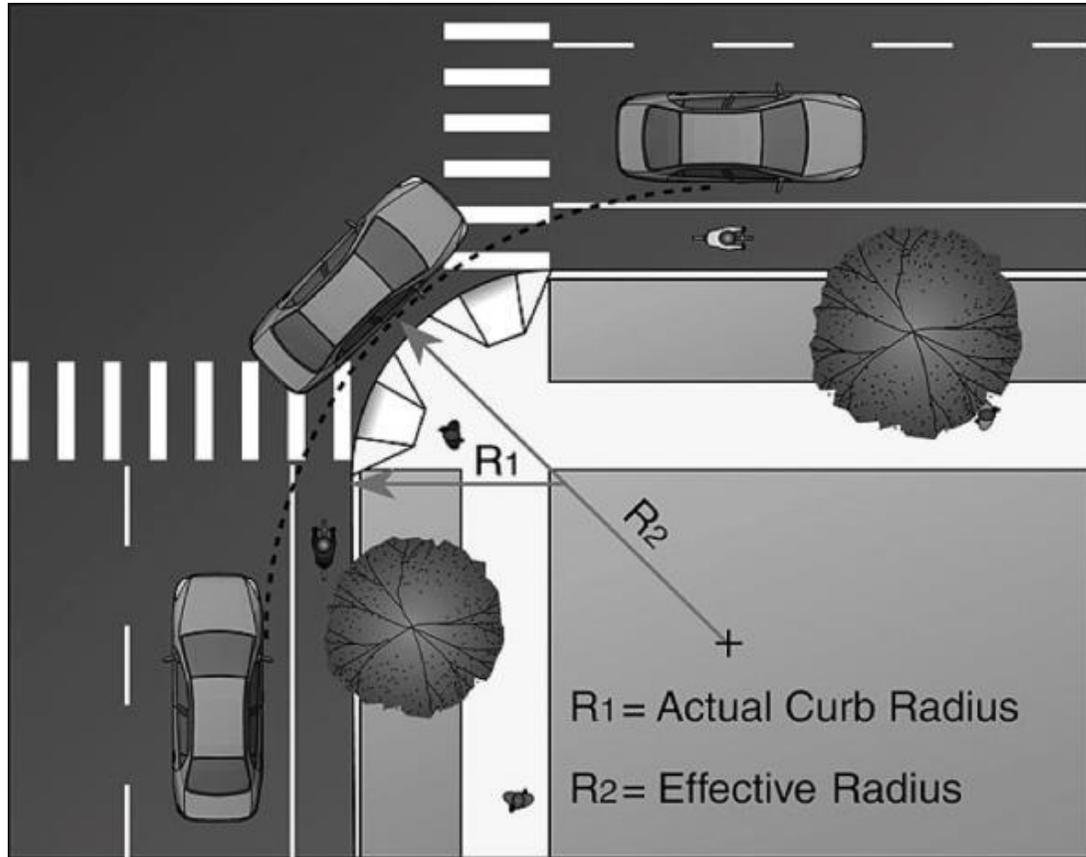
Photos: No Name, Jones, School Resource Center

# Tools for Reducing Speeding and Improving Safety

# Tool: Pedestrian Refuge Island

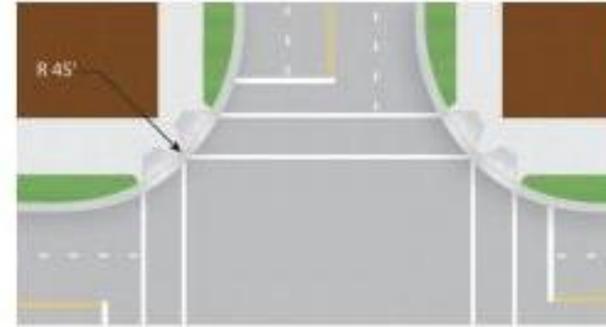


# Tool: Decreased Turning Radii



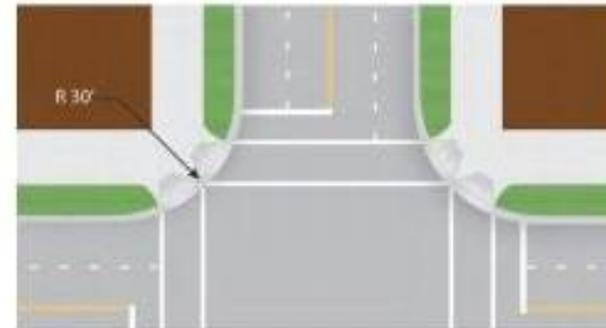
Source: Pedestrian Safety Guide and Countermeasure Selection System

R 45°

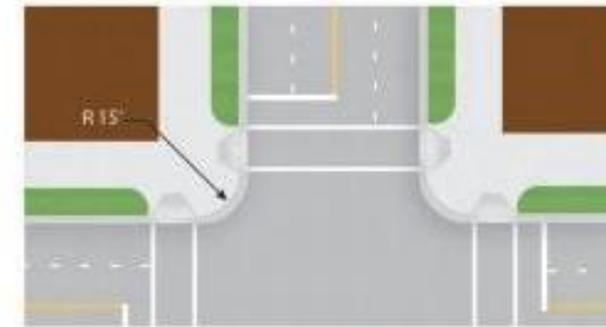


Undesirable

R 30°



R 15°



Preferred

Tighter corner radii reduce crossing distance and slow turning traffic (Credit: Michele Weisbart)

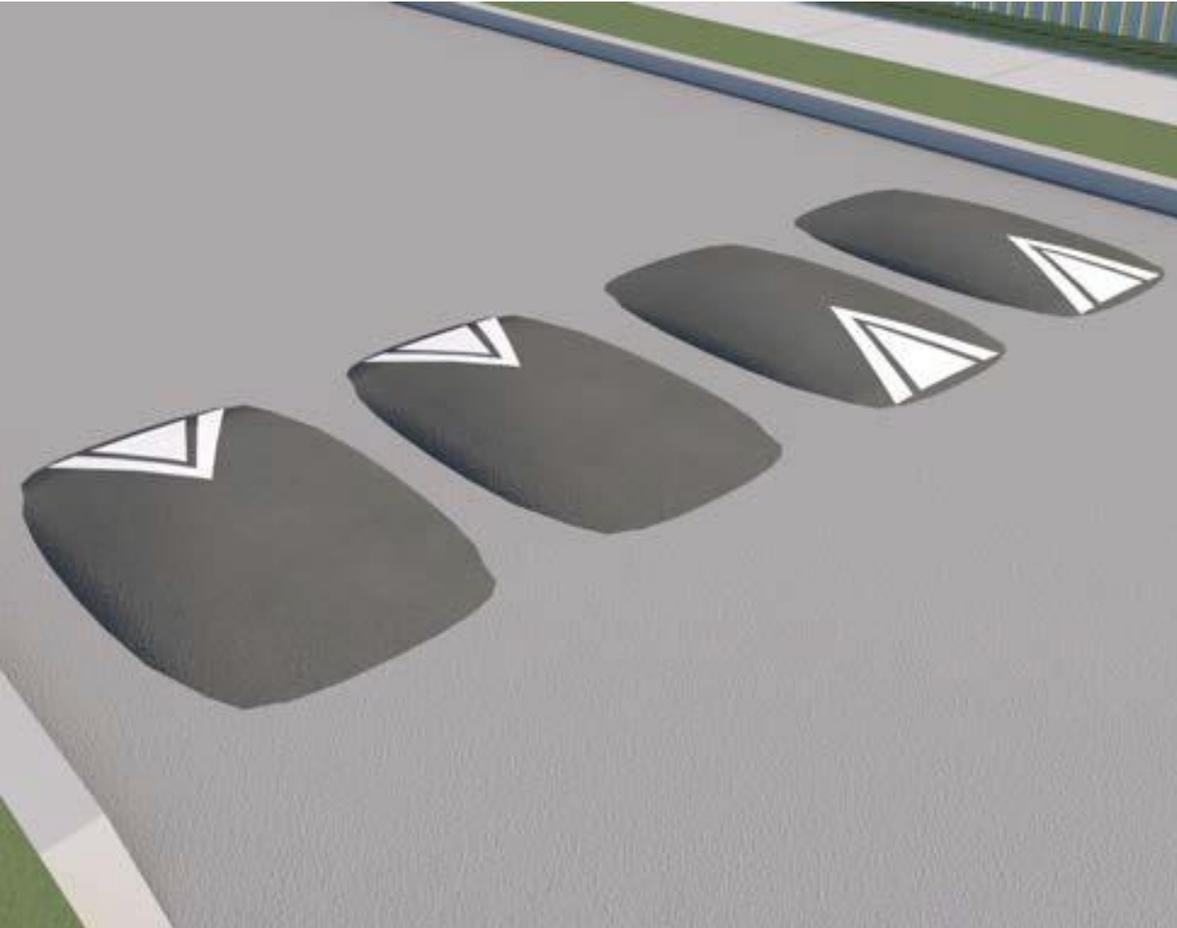
# Tool: Curb Extensions



# Tool: Bollards for Clear Sight Lines



# Tool: Vertical Speed Control - *Speed Bumps*



# Tool: Vertical Speed Control- *Raised Crosswalks*



# Tool: Horizontal Speed Control- *Neckdowns / Chicanes*



# Tool: Road Diet



# Tool: Road Diet





A yellow diamond-shaped sign with a black border, mounted on a black post. The sign features the text "Now what?" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The background is a clear blue sky with scattered white clouds.

**Now  
what?**

# NJ School Zone Design Guide

## New Jersey School Zone Design Guide



# NJ School Zone Design Guide

1	Introduction and Overview	Page 1	Includes a discussion on the benefits of walking and bicycling to school and an overview of the NJ SRTS Program.
2	What is a School Zone?	Page 5	Covers the definition of a school zone and includes a discussion of the statutes and laws related to pedestrians, bicyclists and school area safety.
3	MUTCD Traffic Control for School Areas	Page 17	Sets forth standards and guidance for the use of school zone signage, pavement markings and related devices.
4	Determining Placement of Crossing Guards	Page 26	Provides guidance on how to identify the locations where crossing guards are needed.
5	Crossing the Street	Page 40	Focuses on intersection and midblock crossing improvements.
6	Along the Street	Page 47	Focuses on the streetscape elements that enhance the pedestrian and bicyclist environment including sidewalks and bikeways that facilitate travel along the street.
7	Traffic Calming	Page 56	Highlights the engineering techniques that have been proven to be effective in reducing vehicle speeds and volumes.
8	Students & Bicycling	Page 72	Discusses some ways that bicycling to school can be encouraged and made safer.
9	The School Site & School Grounds	Page 85	Presents the key pedestrian and bicycle safety elements of locating a well-designed school site.
10	Crime Prevention through Environmental Design	Page 94	Discusses the potential to reduce the dangers associated with walking and biking to school through the careful design and manipulation of the physical environment of the school site.
11	Schools Near Railroad Crossings	Page 102	Focuses on the unique concerns related to students crossing railroads on their way to and from school.
12	Schools Near Highway Ramps	Page 112	Discusses the dangers pedestrians and bicyclists face crossing ramps and design solutions to improve visibility, reduce vehicular speeds and reduce pedestrian and bicyclist exposure.
13	Maintenance & Other Improvements	Page 117	Includes a discussion of maintenance issues and provides examples of prioritization of school zones for municipal snow shoveling.
14	How to Start Improving Your School Zone	Page 126	Includes a discussion of the steps needed to improve the conditions for students walking and biking to school.

# NJ Complete Streets Design Guide



2017 State of New Jersey  
Complete Streets  
Design Guide



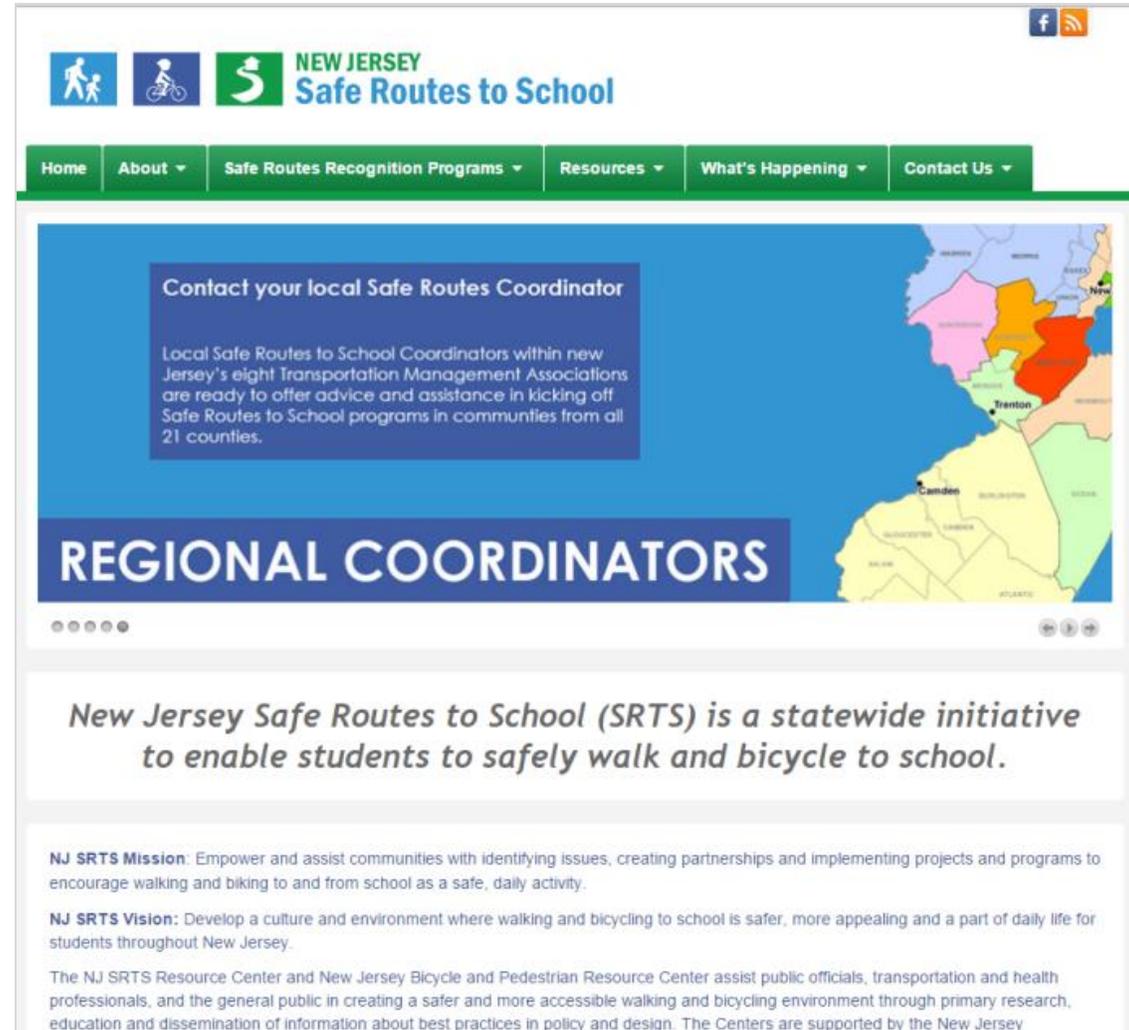
# NJ Complete Streets Design Guide

## Table of Contents

<b>1</b>	Chapter 1: Complete Streets in New Jersey
<b>13</b>	Chapter 2: Integrating Complete Streets into the Planning and Design Process
<b>31</b>	Chapter 3: Complete Streets Toolbox—Policy and Design Guidance for Implementing Complete Streets
<b>147</b>	Chapter 4: Street Typologies

# TMA SRTS Regional Coordinators

Website: [SafeRoutesNJ.org](http://SafeRoutesNJ.org)



The screenshot shows the homepage of the New Jersey Safe Routes to School website. At the top, there are icons for a pedestrian, a cyclist, and a person with a stroller, followed by the text "NEW JERSEY Safe Routes to School". To the right are social media icons for Facebook and RSS. Below this is a green navigation bar with the following menu items: Home, About, Safe Routes Recognition Programs, Resources, What's Happening, and Contact Us. The main content area features a blue background with a map of New Jersey on the right. A white text box on the left contains the following text: "Contact your local Safe Routes Coordinator", "Local Safe Routes to School Coordinators within new Jersey's eight Transportation Management Associations are ready to offer advice and assistance in kicking off Safe Routes to School programs in communities from all 21 counties.", and "REGIONAL COORDINATORS". Below this is a quote: "New Jersey Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a statewide initiative to enable students to safely walk and bicycle to school." At the bottom, there are sections for "NJ SRTS Mission" and "NJ SRTS Vision".

**NEW JERSEY**  
Safe Routes to School

Home About Safe Routes Recognition Programs Resources What's Happening Contact Us

Contact your local Safe Routes Coordinator

Local Safe Routes to School Coordinators within new Jersey's eight Transportation Management Associations are ready to offer advice and assistance in kicking off Safe Routes to School programs in communities from all 21 counties.

**REGIONAL COORDINATORS**

*New Jersey Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a statewide initiative to enable students to safely walk and bicycle to school.*

**NJ SRTS Mission:** Empower and assist communities with identifying issues, creating partnerships and implementing projects and programs to encourage walking and biking to and from school as a safe, daily activity.

**NJ SRTS Vision:** Develop a culture and environment where walking and bicycling to school is safer, more appealing and a part of daily life for students throughout New Jersey.

The NJ SRTS Resource Center and New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center assist public officials, transportation and health professionals, and the general public in creating a safer and more accessible walking and bicycling environment through primary research, education and dissemination of information about best practices in policy and design. The Centers are supported by the New Jersey

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