

Project Capsule



July 2024

Statewide Lane Reconfiguration “Road Diet” Screening for Louisiana

PROBLEM

A “road diet” is a solution that works within the existing Right-of-Way to improve safety and operations and/or expand multimodal access or address other needs. A road diet aims to remove travel lanes from a roadway and utilize the space for other uses and travel modes. The most common road diet application is to convert a four-lane divided roadway into a three-lane undivided roadway made up of two through lanes and a center two-way left-turn lane. Preliminary results of previous road diet projects in Louisiana, such as Government Street in Baton Rouge, suggest that road diets can be an effective strategy for improving safety and stimulating investment, as well as encouraging more people to walk and bicycle.

OBJECTIVE

This research aims to investigate opportunities for, and the feasibility of, implementing road diets to help Louisiana develop a network that better accommodates non-motorized travel and meets other potential needs (e.g., speed management).

METHODOLOGY

To meet the objectives of this research, the team will complete certain tasks. First, researchers will conduct a literature and current practice review of road diet feasibility assessment and implementation approaches. Second, the team will compile the necessary GIS files for screening. Third, they will screen the compiled network to assess the road diet opportunity and feasibility. Fourth, the team will develop case study examples, collect stakeholder opinions, and solicit public opinions. Finally, they will finalize the study results and develop a draft Road Diet Strategy for DOTD.

IMPLEMENTATION POTENTIAL

In the near term, results from this research will help DOTD develop its own Road Diet Strategy to guide future construction and preservation projects in making systematic multimodal access improvements. The results are also expected to provide useful inputs to active transportation planning, both locally and statewide. DOTD will continue to perform its leading agency role in implementing the Complete Streets Policy in the nation.

Long term, this study, together with the Road Diet Strategy to be developed, will help transportation agencies in Louisiana avoid repeated planning efforts, save project time, and address imbalanced regional staff/planning capacity issues. Additionally, this study will closely connect DOTD with different transportation-related agencies, which enhances partnerships among public agencies. Finally, this study will solicit public opinion on transportation planning and development, thus enhancing DOTD’s image by engaging the public in its decision-making process.

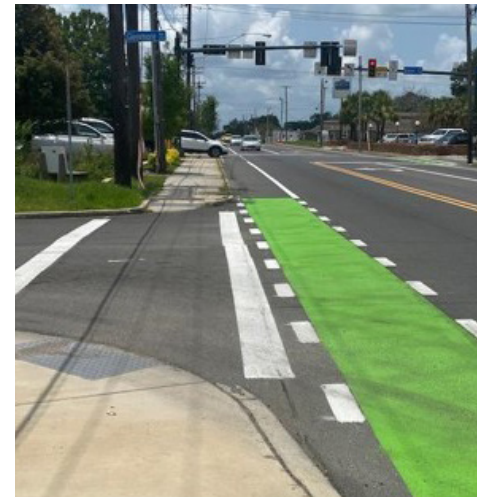


Figure 1. Government Street on a “road diet” (Photo: Tara Tolford)

Start Date

July 1, 2024

Duration

24 months

Funding

SPR: TT-Fed/TT-Reg - 5

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