

SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS

- Skinny streets are safer streets.
- Studies demonstrate that narrow residential streets with rights of way between 24 feet and 30 feet slow traffic and reduce vehicular crashes.
- Narrow streets should be our default standard, the go-to-move for developers and the city.
- Our current code allows for three local street options: 36 feet, 32 feet and 28 feet. The hardest to use and the most constrained is the 28 foot local street. The easiest ones to use are the 32 foot and the 36 foot.

- *** Single-family and two-family residential streets with blocks less than or equal to 640 feet in length may use the smaller width when the facing lots are 50 feet or wider with two car driveways 18 feet in width or with rear entry from alleys.
- *** Proposal being considered today to try to remedy overly prescriptive design constraints is to change **50 feet to 45 feet.**

Similar Commentary from Growth Management Team When Reviewing this Standard

- *“Table 19.15.3 it includes too many design standards and regulatory provisions as footnotes. For instance, the width of a type 2 local street is dependent upon the width of the driveway.”*

Safety Issues in Perspective

	2007		2008	
	Fire Incidents	Traffic Crashes	Fire Incidents	Traffic Crashes
Minor to moderate injuries	18	3,485	43	4,117
Serious Injuries	1	1,346	3	1,515
Fatalities	3	43	2	45

*Traffic reports that most of the streets needing traffic calming are wide and were built under the old subdivision code. None of the 30 foot streets in my district are eligible for traffic calming because there are very few accidents and the speeds are slow.

Conclusion

- 28 foot local streets should be our default standard, the least constrained and the easiest to use because they are safer. We should actively discourage the use of streets wider than 30 feet.

*** My Recommendation

*** Single-family and two-family residential streets with blocks less than or equal to 640 feet in length may use the smaller width ~~when the facing lots are 50 feet or wider with two car driveways 18 feet in width or with rear entry from alleys.~~

