



Creating Livable Communities Through Road Design

***Dan Hartman
Golden, Colorado***

11 7:44 PM

Howdy Folks Welcome To Golden



What makes a Community “Livable” from a Drivers Safety Perspective?

- Minimal conflicts, bikes, pedestrians and other vehicles
- Clear expectations
- Minimal congestion, less frustration
- Route choice, and reliability

What makes a Community “Un-Livable” concerning traffic safety?

- Speed
- Noise
- Parents Scared for the Safety of Children
- Hard to Visit Neighbors
- Barriers to Important Locations

**Are there any conflicts between
what makes a community safe
&
roads both safe and efficient?**

YES !

**So how do we reconcile the
need for safe traffic mobility
and the desire for a quiet
peaceful
safe community
when the interests are often
varied?**

You have to start with the community and define yourself!

- What are the goals?
 - Stay away from solutions!
- Define the stakeholders, and find common vision.
- Only after you have the vision can you successfully use the tools that are available.

What are the things that most people like about our communities?

- **Great Intersections?**
- **Speed Humps?**
- **Speed Limits?**
- **Wide Open Roads?**

What are the things you might really show a guest

- Parks
- Museums
- Trails
- Scenic Areas
- Wild Life
- Shopping Areas
- Historic Sites



Think About It – The best forms of “Traffic Management” should have the following characteristics

- Make communities feel like safe and friendly places for residents and guest
- Be unobtrusive – especially to drivers
- Add to the local environment
- Meet city objectives
- Be embraced by the community

Golden Downtown Redevelopment 1992



Golden Down Town Success

- **Prior to reconstruction nearly 70% vacancy**
- **Full occupancy in 2011**
- **Commercial Retail and Residential space tripled**
- **Sales tax per-square foot continues to increase**
- **Center of the community**



Howdy Folks!
WELCOME TO GOLDEN
WHERE THE WEST LIVES
STANLEY

ACE
HI
TAVE

PRIME RIB
\$15.99

GOLDEN

THE SHACK

R

RadioShack

LIVESTRONG

BJ9-Y590



Higher
Speed

Lower
Speed



Project Results

	Pre-calming	With humps	With islands
85 th % Speed	39 mph	26 mph	29 mph
Peak Speed	65 mph	45 mph	40 mph

Modern Roundabouts



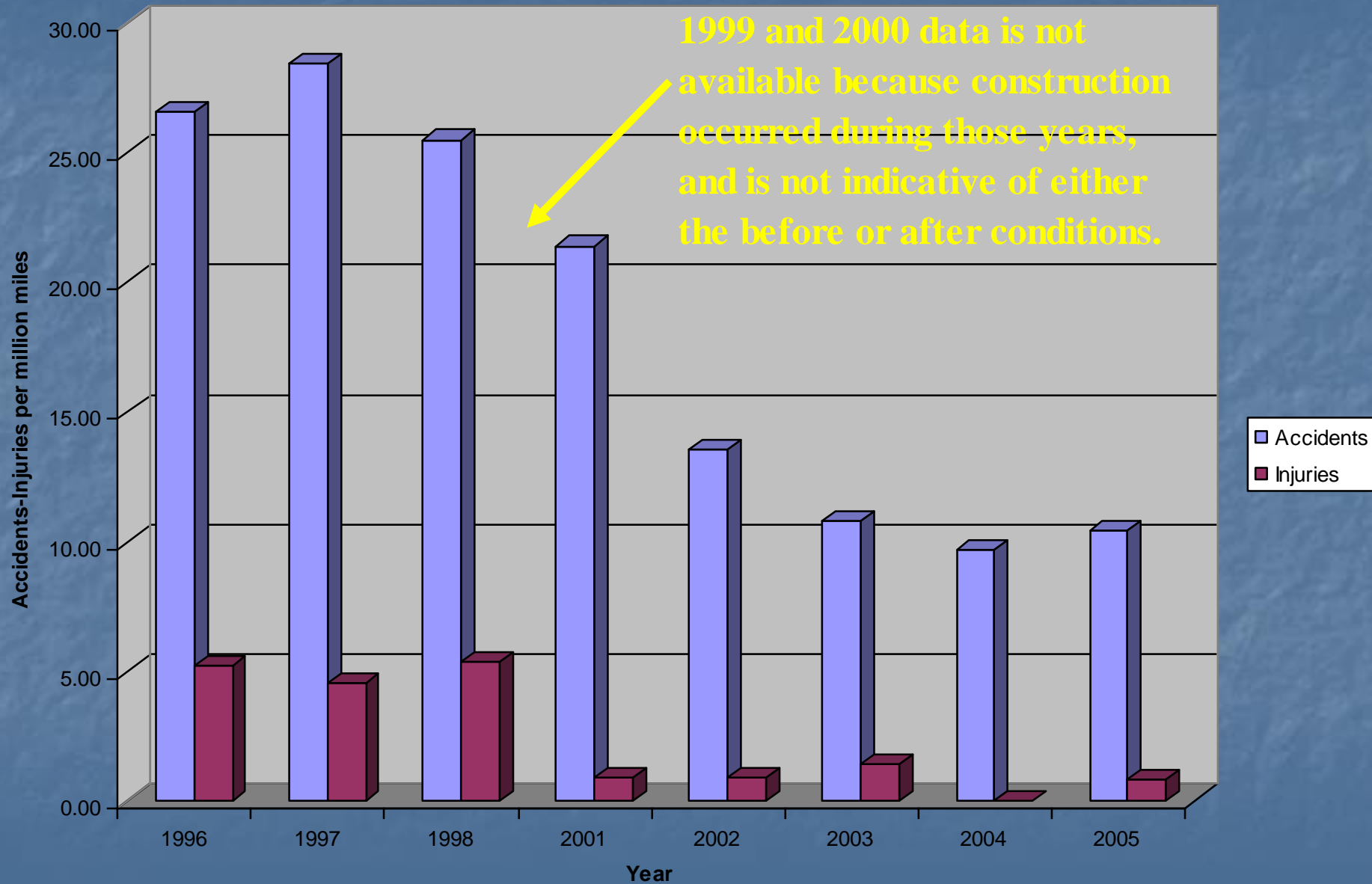
**Reduce approach
sight distance**



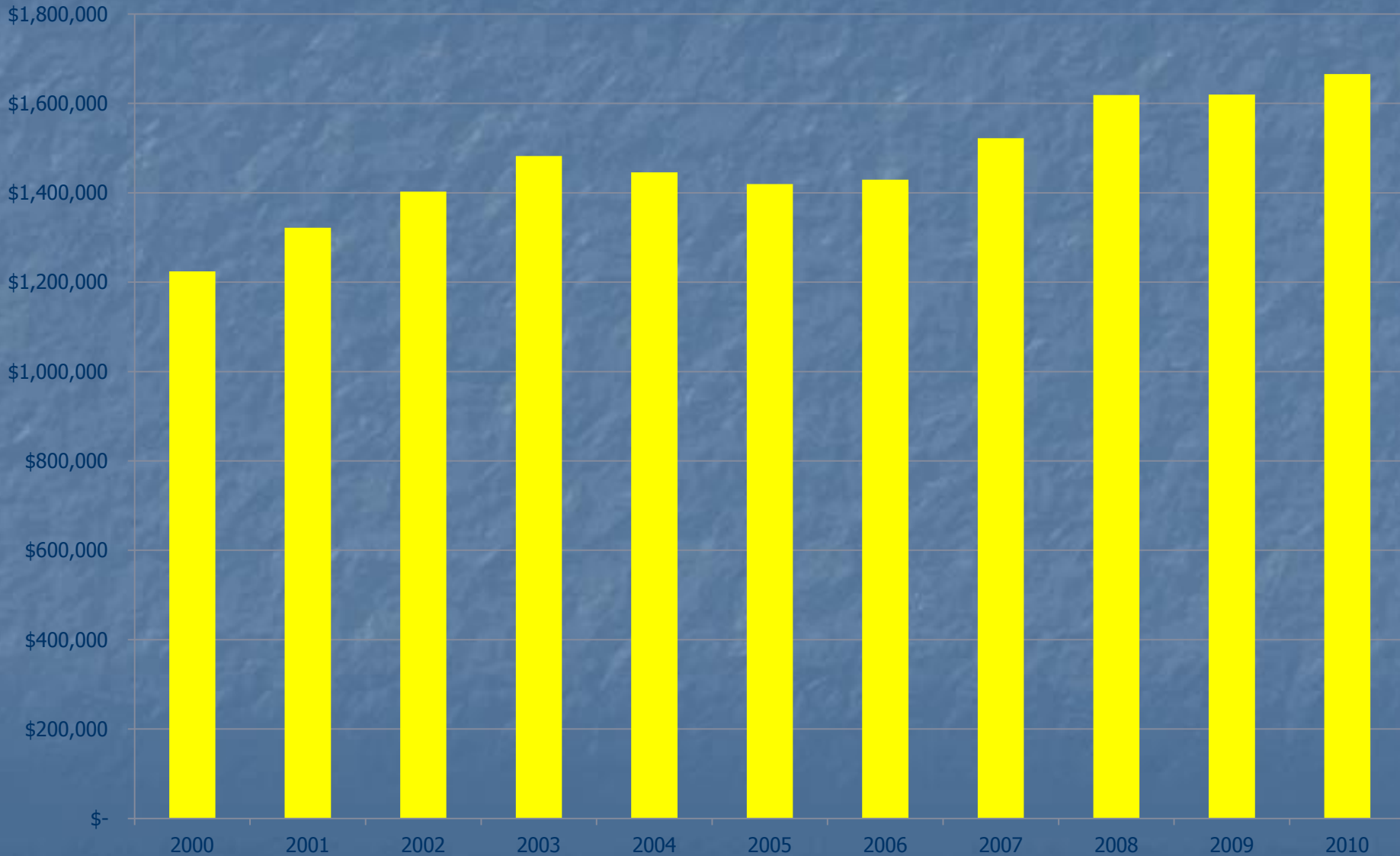
**While leaving
needed safe sight
distance**



Accident Data S. Golden Road



S. Golden Rd. Sales Tax Collections



\$7.6 million in New Development in corridor



\$8 million Business Investment/Redevelopment



Taco Bell



Sonic

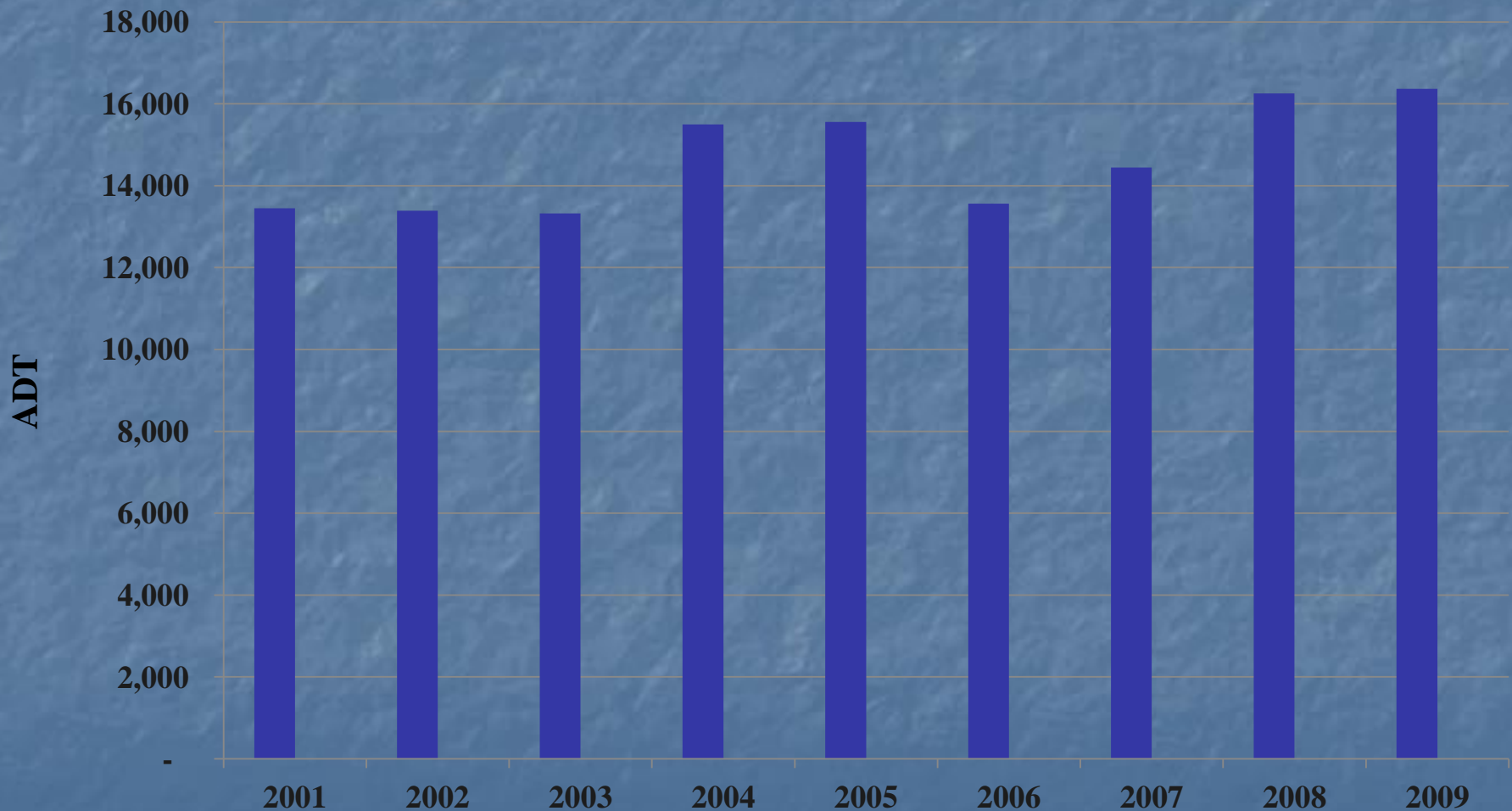


Mc Donald's



KFC

S. Golden Rd. Traffic volumes





Complete Streets



Complete Corridors



Jackson Street Corridor



Spring 2010



Fall 2010



Invite Neighborhood Involvement



Things that keep coming up in neighborhood meetings

- Can't you just lower the speed limit?
- Why don't you just put stop signs every block?
- The kids play in that street.
- "Hump ahead" signs get stolen.
- Just enforce the speed limit.
- The fire department can't respond!!

Things that we have learned

- When speeds are 25 to 29 mph in a residential neighborhood the residents do not perceive a problem
- When speeds are 29 to 34 mph complaints start
- When speeds are 35 or greater it is a crisis
- Speed can be reduced to 25 mph, you can't get it lower than that.

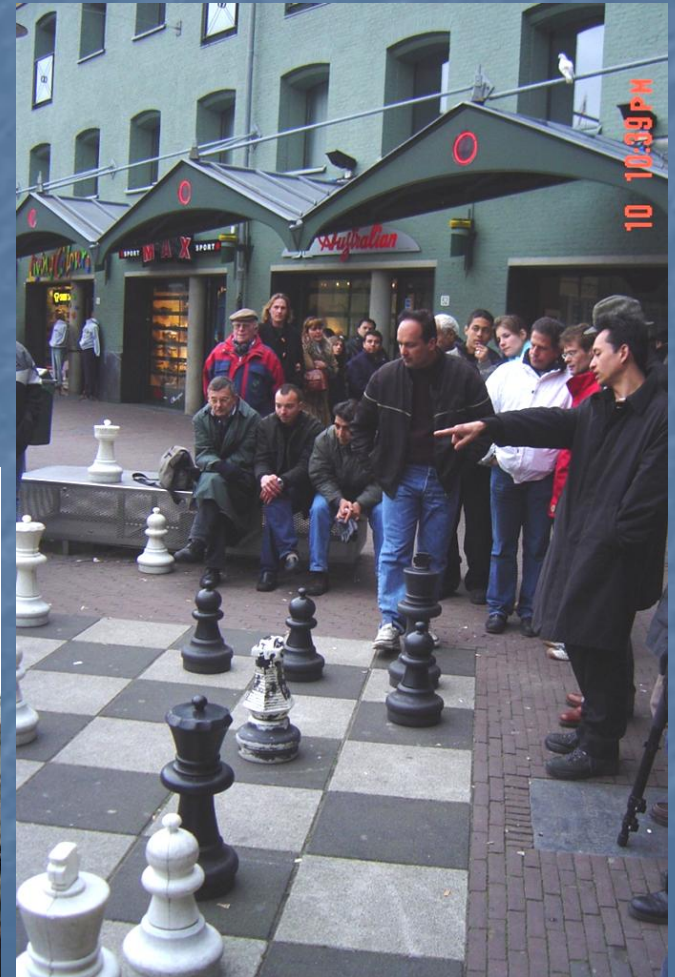
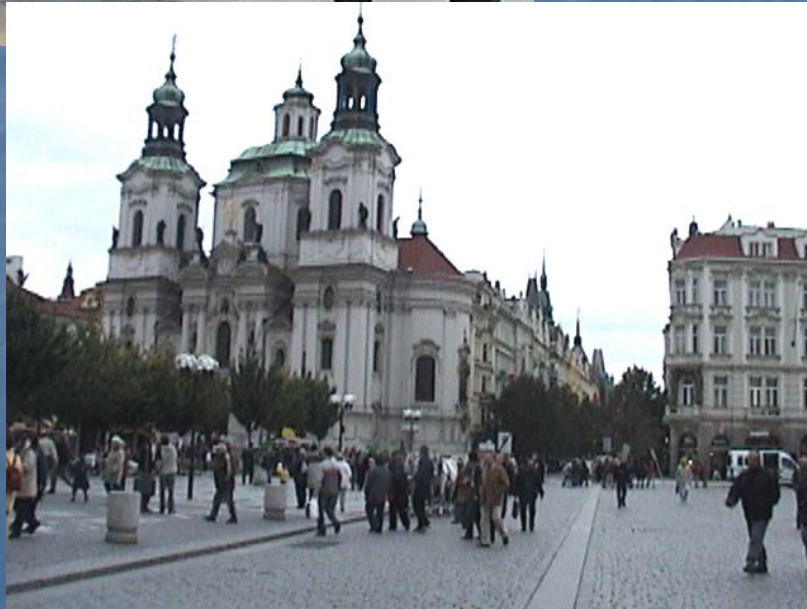
Things that we have learned (cont'd)

- You can't assume success from one location will carry over to the next
- There is no substitute for neighborhood involvement. Each location will require multiple meetings, and lots of education
- Most designs need to be worked out house to house with the owners.
- Calming takes courage, and a thick skin, but don't wimp out!

Things that we have learned (cont'd)

- You must work with the Fire Department
- Our Fire Department prefers Traffic Islands to Humps, but would rather have nothing.
- Snow plow drivers prefer Traffic Islands
- Real Estate brokers say that humps hurt property value, but Calming Islands add value.
- Visual aids are critical

Pedestrian – Local Friendly



Separation is Good



Barriers





Look for the “Designable Moment”

- Projects with high community value
- Places where community opportunity is as great as the traffic safety opportunity
- If the traffic mobility aspect of a project is dominant livable opportunities are lost
- Remember “Community Value & Safety” is hard to cost / benefit



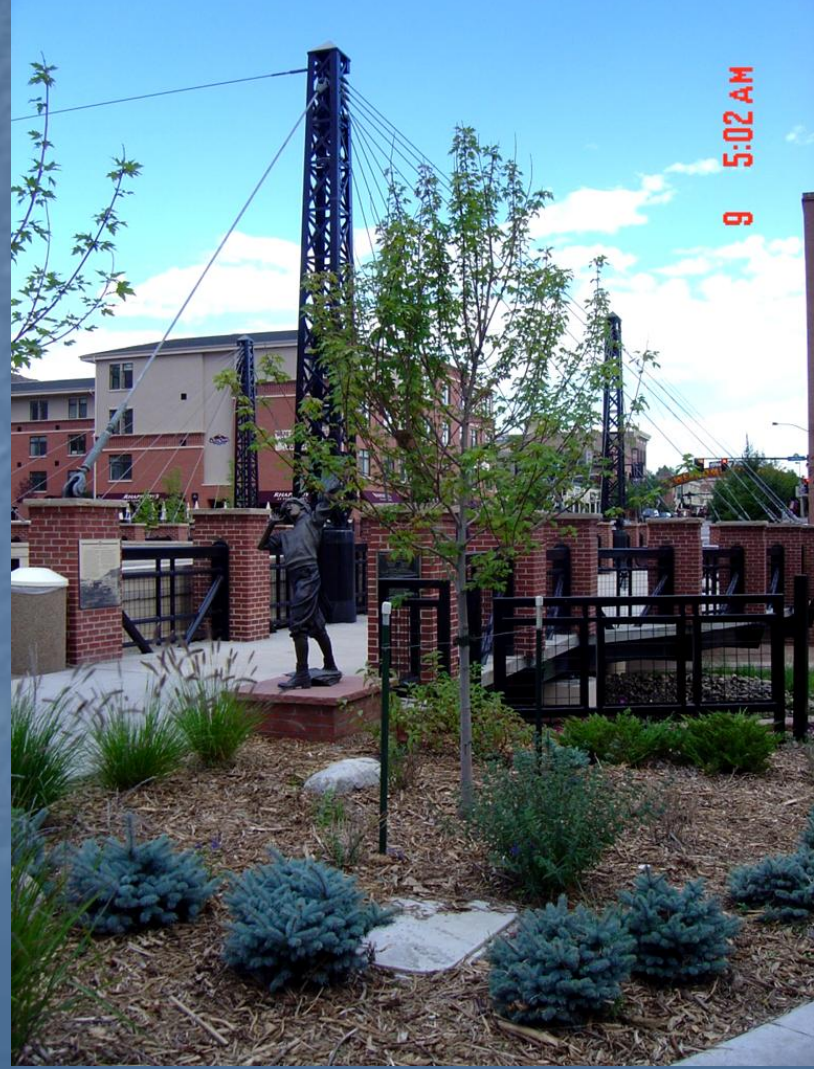
6th Avenue



“Designable Moments”



9 5:04 AM







Creating Livable Communities Through Safe Traffic Management

***Dan Hartman
Golden, Colorado***

**For Copies by e-mail, or CD
request at**

dhartman@cityofgolden.net

9 5:04 AM