

## What is a Slow Street?

A Slow Street is one where traffic has been slowed down using signs or physical barriers like traffic islands, bumps, or plantings. Slow Streets are designed to reduce traffic problems and accidents.



Residents who are concerned about the speed or volume of traffic in their area can apply for installation of devices which slow traffic and make the street safer.

## Aim of the Slow Street Policy

To lower speed and maintain a consistent slow traffic flow to:

- Improve safety and promote pedestrian and cyclist use, while maintaining traffic flows;
- Enable community initiation of Slow Streets;
- Raise awareness of speeding problems.

## Ways to make streets safer

Ways to slow down traffic include:

- Signs, e.g. stop and give way;
- Streetscaping e.g. tree planting;
- Physical devices on the road, e.g. traffic islands, road closures and bumps;
- Neighbourhood speed watch and enforcement

Details of these methods are included.

## Advantages and disadvantages with these methods

### Advantages

- Fewer crashes, safer feel to the street;
- Lower vehicle speeds lower traffic volumes (particularly through traffic);
- Exclusion of undesirable traffic (e.g. heavy vehicles and speedsters);
- Better looking streetscape;
- Reduced requirement for traffic enforcement

### Disadvantages

- Restricted access to properties adjacent to physical devices and loss of parking;
- Reduced mobility of local traffic;
- Reduced emergency and service vehicle access;
- Increased response time diversion of traffic to other streets, creating problems in these streets;
- Increased noise due to braking and acceleration



## Community support

Because traffic slowing devices have advantages and disadvantages for local residents and they impact on household in different ways, it is important that all residents in a street are involved. Therefore, 75% of residents and ratepayers in the nominated street must sign the "Slow Street Community Support Form" for it to be considered as a priority.

## Criteria for safe streets

Streets will be considered for slow street “treatment” according to the following criteria (some of this data can be supplied by a Traffic Engineer).



The street:

- Has a known speeding problem (i.e. 15% of vehicles travelling over 65km/hr in a 50km/hr zone);
- Has a known crash or safety problem (i.e. at least two reported injury crashes in the last five years);
- Is designated as a “local street” in the District Plan;
- Is not a cul de sac (unless it accesses high volume facilities, such as a park);
- Has no adverse characteristics such as a steep grade (approximately 1 in 12), severe curves, etc;
- Is generally not a bus route; and
- Has suitable alternative routes to absorb any diverted traffic

## Council evaluation

Streets that meet the above criteria will be evaluated by a Traffic Engineer. Options for slowing traffic will be considered.

This assessment will be presented to the Community Board and the residents of the street to get their feedback.

The assessment will consider the following points:

- Type of road and impact on diverting traffic/ overall permeability;

- Traffic speeds;
- Traffic volumes;
- Crashes (number and type);
- Other road users (pedestrians, cyclists, heavy vehicles, etc);
- Estimated cost and funding source; and
- Legal impacts.

## Action

On acceptance by the Community Board the work will be programmed for action as funding allows.



## Monitoring

Once the slow street devices have been installed an assessment of its effectiveness will be made by measuring traffic speeds and volumes within three months and reported crashes within two years.

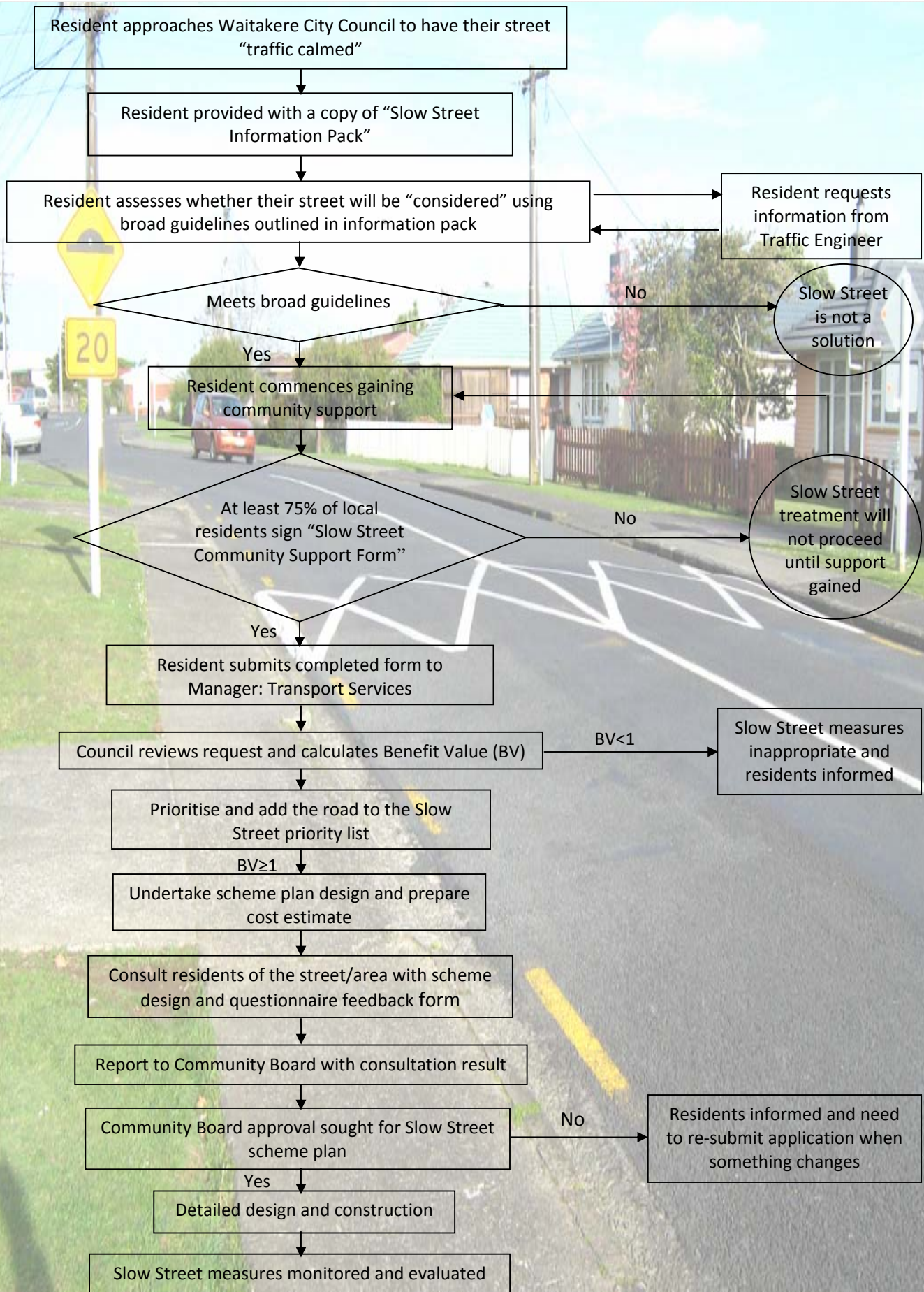
## On file

Resources allocated for this project enable only a few streets a year to be completed. A list of potential Slow Streets that have been requested by the public will be maintained.

This list will include streets that could be converted to Slow Streets within a five year period only. The list will be reviewed from time to time, but at least annually as part of the Annual Plan process.

For more information, please visit [www.waitakere.govt.nz](http://www.waitakere.govt.nz) and use search key engine “Slow Street”

# The Process for a Slow Street Application



# Application for a Slow Street

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

The local road in our area has the following characteristics:

Has a known speeding problem (i.e. 15% of vehicles travelling over 60km/hr in a 50km/hr zone).	Yes	No	Unsure
Has a known crash or safety problem (i.e. at least two reported injury crashes in the last five years).	Yes	No	Unsure
Has a known rat-run problem.	Yes	No	Unsure
Is designated as a "local street" in the District Plan.	Yes	No	Unsure
Is not a cul de sac (unless it accesses high volume facilities, such as a park).	Yes	No	Unsure
Has no adverse characteristics such as a steep grade (approximately 1 in 12) or severe curves, etc.	Yes	No	Unsure

Note: Council's Transport Assets team can help with information if you are unsure about some of these factors. Please contact us on 836 8000.

Please make any relevant comments on the above items:

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