

# LOCAL-MOTIVE TOUR

## FIX A DANGEROUS STREET IN 24 HOURS OR LESS

A crash took place—something tragic and wholly unnecessary—and now the community is ready to act to address the dangerous street where this crash happened.

How do we not get bogged down in months or years of meetings and studies? How do we do something helpful? How do we take immediate action?

1

### STATE YOUR OBJECTIVE

This might be an emotional time, but good public policy rests on sober and thoughtful analysis. Take a moment and publicly state the specific site conditions you are trying to address. Write them down. Put them in your meeting minutes.

#### FOR EXAMPLE:

Traffic is moving too fast and we need to slow it down. The pedestrian crossing distance is too great and we need to shrink it.

The goal isn't to do something; it is to do something *meaningful*. Give your efforts meaning by clearly stating what you are seeking to accomplish.



2

### USE STANDARDS FOR TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION

You are not going to reinvent your entire traffic planning and engineering teams overnight, so work with what you have.

There is a huge body of knowledge within traffic professions for deploying temporary traffic control approaches during construction and short-term events. Rely on this body of knowledge as the path of least resistance.

Cones, barrels, signs, and other temporary traffic control devices can be quickly deployed to achieve your stated objective. Check out *Tactical*

*Urbanism: Short-term Action for Long-term Change* by Mike Lydon and Anthony Garcia for helpful ideas.



## CONTINUED...

3

### MONITOR AND ASSESS

Commit to monitoring your temporary installation, especially for the first 24 hours, to identify any new conflicts or potential dangers it may have inadvertently created. Take quick action to address issues as they arise.

Take measurements to assess how the new design performs in relation to your stated objectives. Continue to iterate—tweak the temporary installation—until you get the results you are after.

4

### TRANSITION TO PERMANENT

In 24 hours, you can implement a new plan to fix a dangerous street, but that temporary plan is always an incremental step to a longer-term investment. Monitor your new design long enough to see how people react once they get used to it.

Once you are confident that things are stable and the new street design meets your objectives, create a plan to make the changes more permanent.



## BONUS

### ANSWERING THE LIABILITY QUESTION

So often, fear of liability can prevent a community from taking action to address a dangerous situation. Don't let it.

Taking steps to “fix” a prior action can feel like admitting a mistake, and that can feel like an admission of liability. However, there is far less liability in fixing past design mistakes than in allowing them to persist once they have been brought to everyone's attention.