

Chapter aims

- Advise how the requirements of different users can be accommodated in street design.
- Summarise research which shows that increased visibility encourages higher vehicle speeds.
- Describe how street space can be allocated based on pedestrian need, using swept path analysis to ensure that minimum access requirements for vehicles are met.
- Describe the rationale behind using shorter vehicle stopping distances to determine visibility requirements on links and at junctions.
- Recommend that the design of streets should determine vehicle speed.
- Recommend a maximum design speed of 20 mph for residential streets.

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Several issues need to be considered in order to satisfy the various user requirements detailed in Chapter 6, namely:

- street widths and components;
- junctions;
- features for controlling vehicle speeds;
- forward visibility on links; and
- visibility splays at junctions.

7.2 Street dimensions

7.2.1 The design of new streets or the improvement of existing ones should take into account the functions of the street, and the type, density and character of the development.

7.2.2 Carriageway widths should be appropriate for the particular context and uses of the street. Key factors to take into account include:

- the volume of vehicular traffic and pedestrian activity;
- the traffic composition;
- the demarcation, if any, between carriageway and footway (e.g. kerb, street furniture or trees and planting);
- whether parking is to take place in the carriageway and, if so, its distribution, arrangement, the frequency of occupation, and the likely level of parking enforcement (if any);
- the design speed (recommended to be 20 mph or less in residential areas);
- the curvature of the street (bends require greater width to accommodate the swept path of larger vehicles); and
- any intention to include one-way streets, or short stretches of single lane working in two-way streets.

7.2.3 In lightly-trafficked streets, carriageways may be narrowed over short lengths to a single lane as a traffic-calming feature. In such single lane working sections of

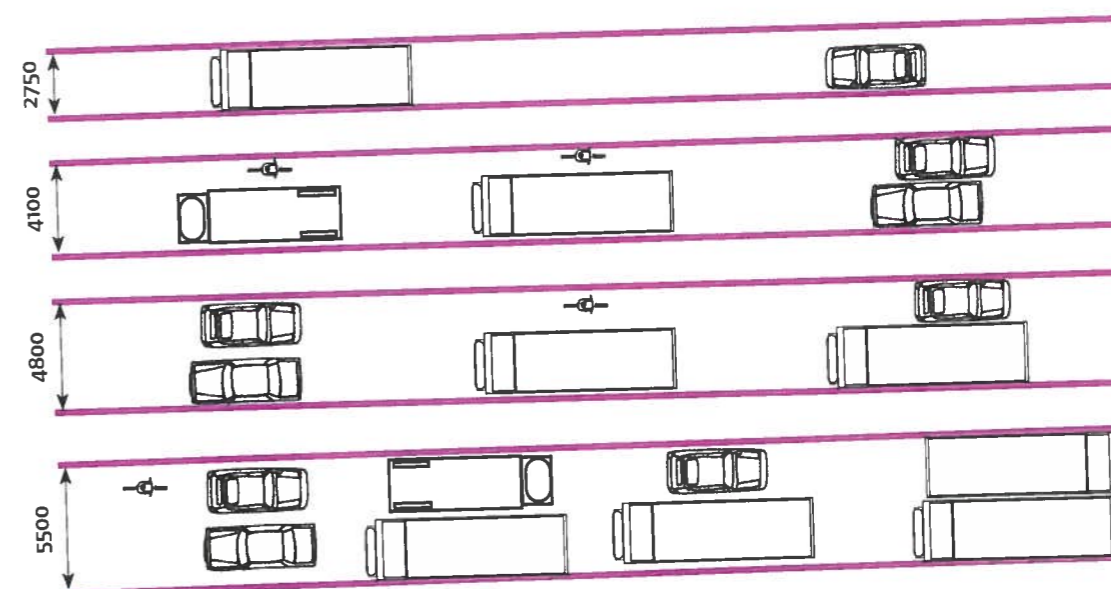


Figure 7.1 Illustrates what various carriageway widths can accommodate. They are not necessarily recommendations.