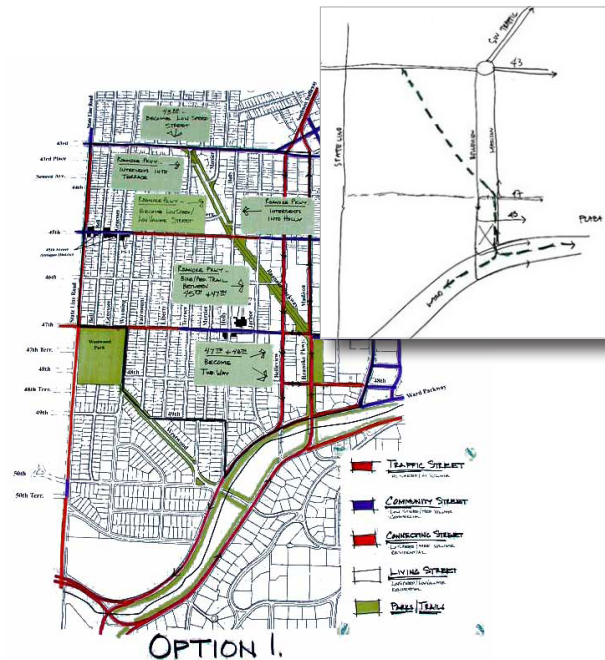


## West Plaza Traffic Calming

New developments in the West Plaza neighborhood in Kansas City raised concerns regarding excessive through traffic, overflow parking, safety, and the pedestrian experience. Our team was hired to conduct a traffic calming study to protect the neighborhood's pedestrian-friendly character in light of proposed developments. Nelson\Nygaard specifically helped in designing traffic calming features, a multi-way intersection, corridor treatments and overall network planning.

Nelson\Nygaard participated in a three-day charrette focusing on design alternatives and traffic calming techniques. We outlined three various street classification diagrams and discussed areas to designate as pedestrian/bicycle only. At the charrette we also presented traffic calming ideas for various streets. Our alternatives ranged from turning streets into pedestrian-only thoroughfares to converting two lanes of a four-lane road into diagonal parking. Charrette participants emphasized their desire for slower traffic, an improved pedestrian experience, less cut-through traffic, and better parking management.

As a result, the team focused on intersection design, pedestrian streets, and explored residential parking permits to handle parking problems. Taking into account data collected and public input, we classified streets in the study area based on use, and developed corresponding characteristics reflecting these uses. These descriptions went beyond typical arterial/collector/local labels and instead emphasized the street's context. "Living streets," for example, contain residential uses and should be low speed and quiet. "Traffic streets," on the other hand, have high capacity and move large volumes of cars and pedestrians.



**Project Duration:** 2005

**Total Budget:** \$50,000

**Nelson\Nygaard Budget:** \$50,000

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