

Here in Pocatello, Idaho (population 5,500) we barely have enough funding to maintain our streets. The City has a number of older grid street layout areas with uncontrolled intersections. It just never has made sense to me, as City Traffic Engineer, to expend precious funds on streetscape items that will most likely alienate as many people as they please.

When the political pressure gets too intense, we try to put a two-way stop control at each intersection. Typically, as a driver, you stop and can then proceed two blocks before stopping again. We do give preference to certain master planned streets to encourage their use. This method of traffic calming had been used successfully in Riverside, California (where I worked) and it seems to work here in Pocatello, Idaho today.

This is a university town (Idaho State University) and the residents take comfort in having the two-way stop controls in place. However, we still have many areas with uncontrolled intersections. The area initially targeted for traffic calming was the "College Neighborhood." Two adjoining neighborhoods have now been treated. So, we have only treated three neighborhoods in my 10-years as City Traffic Engineer.

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