

## **Conducting a successful charrette**

### **An American model for creating bicycle friendly communities**

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### **Description**

A “Charrette” is a tool for finding common ground in order to build ongoing community support and ownership for creating livable (bikable & walkable) communities. It is a powerful consensus building exercise that brings citizens, elected officials and professionals together to resolve technical and political issues. In recent years, the charrette has become a popular, successful tool for creating community plans and “streets that work” in the United States. Its success is based upon an approach which focuses rather on those ideas and visions that participant have in common than on existing differences of opinion.

'Typical' considerations when organising a charette are:

- Stakeholders – who should participate
- Five day agenda for a comprehensive charrette
- How to run successful focus groups
- How to organize a community design session
- Work products to be delivered at the end of a charrette
- List of services, facilities and products to be delivered by the community
- How to create a successful charrette team – skills etc.

This presentation is made with the acknowledgement that there are many ways to conduct a successful charrette. This is “an” approach, not “the” approach. Participants will be encouraged to adapt the charrette process to fit their own local situations. The charette is a tool, not an end in itself. It is the art of understanding and implementing change through a community process, which brings people together.

### **Reference**

<http://www.walkable.org/services/charrette.htm>