Stadt Bern

Direktion für Tiefbau,
Verkehr und Stadtgrün

Streets as Experimental Spaces and Bern's Active Travel Policies

Designing active mobility, meeting zone, public participation, and temporary pilot phases

8th Conference Sustainable Mobility and Intelligent Transport Systems

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The car-friendly city also existed and still exists in Bern

Bundesplatz in Bern as a car park until 2003



Quelle: Stadt Bern

„Bern baut“: planning principles of the city of Bern

Document how to deal with public space in Bern - compulsory for all city departments



Quelle: Stadt Bern

What is fundamentally required?

It's all about traffic calming

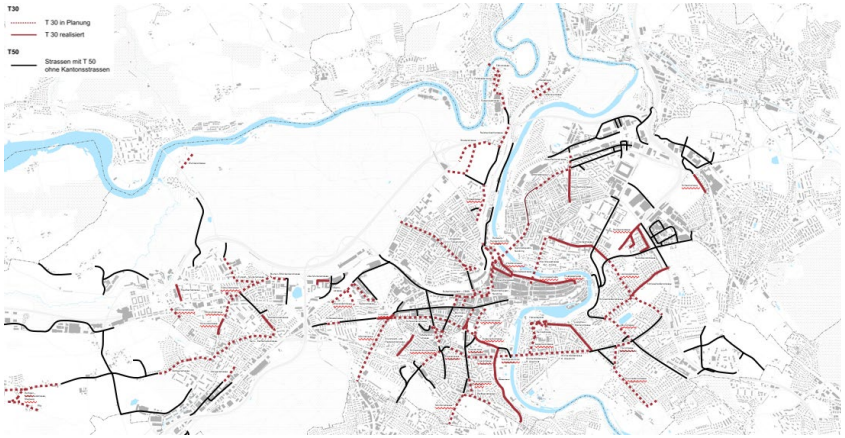
Create space for meeting



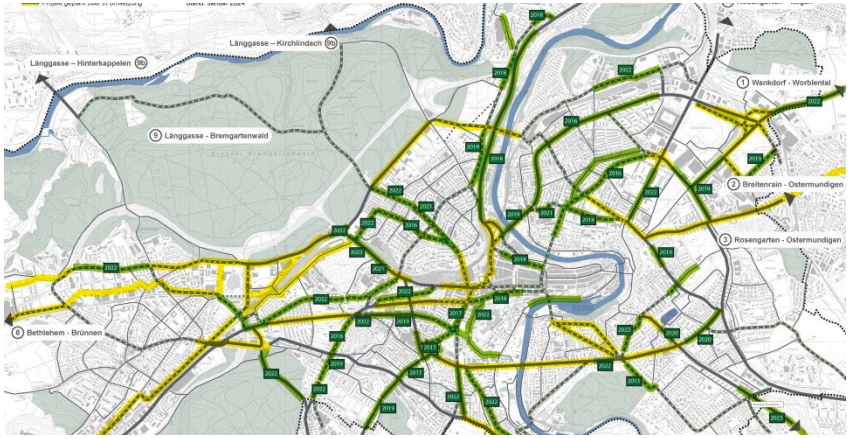
Quelle: Stadt Bern

Four strategic elements of the mobility transition

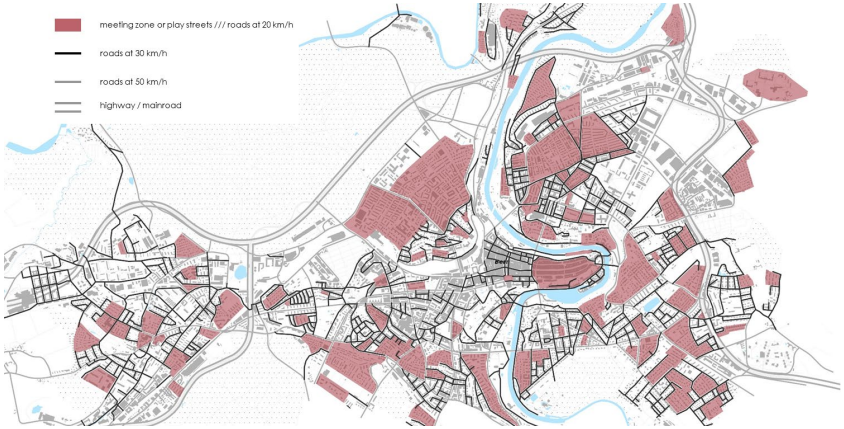
Many projects are being planned and realized



Speed limit of 30 km/h also on main roads



Masterplan Cycle routes as a strategic element of mobility transition



Meeting zones as a strategic element of traffic calming

Quelle: Stadt Bern



participate, pilot and test

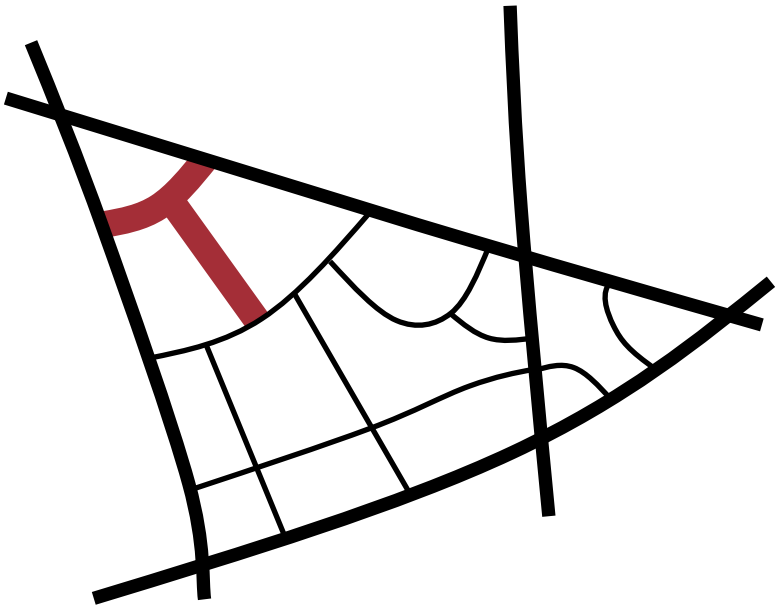
It`s all about participation

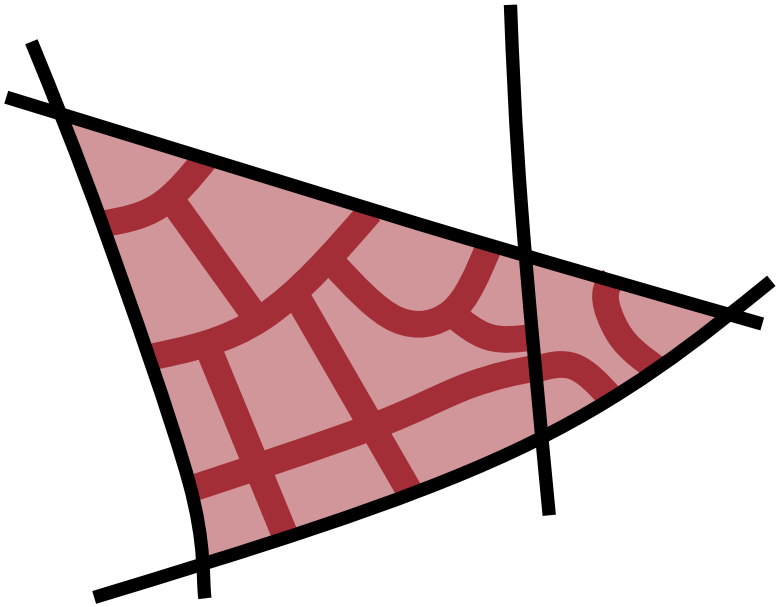
Participatory planning and testing with the residents for better appropriation and identification



Quelle: Begegnungszone Muesmatt - Kilian Bühmann und Petra Stocker

But how do we get there?





Process for creating meeting zone

What is a meeting zone?

... and what is actually allowed there?!



- Cars are allowed to drive at a maximum speed of 20
- Pedestrians always have the right of way.
- Cars and bicycles must stop and wait

Quelle: Stadt Bern

Development of the large meeting zone

Implementation was technical – little sense of ownership = little traffic reduction – pedestrian right-of-way not understood



Quelle: Stadt Bern

Process for creating meeting zone

From proposal to realization – participation as a key component



Proposal & start



Envisioning ideas



2. Participation
Collaborative planning



Inauguration & enjoyment

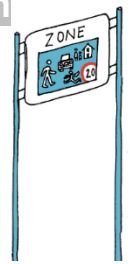
1. Participation
Information, needs, concerns



Signatures from 50% of all residents



Publishing & implementation

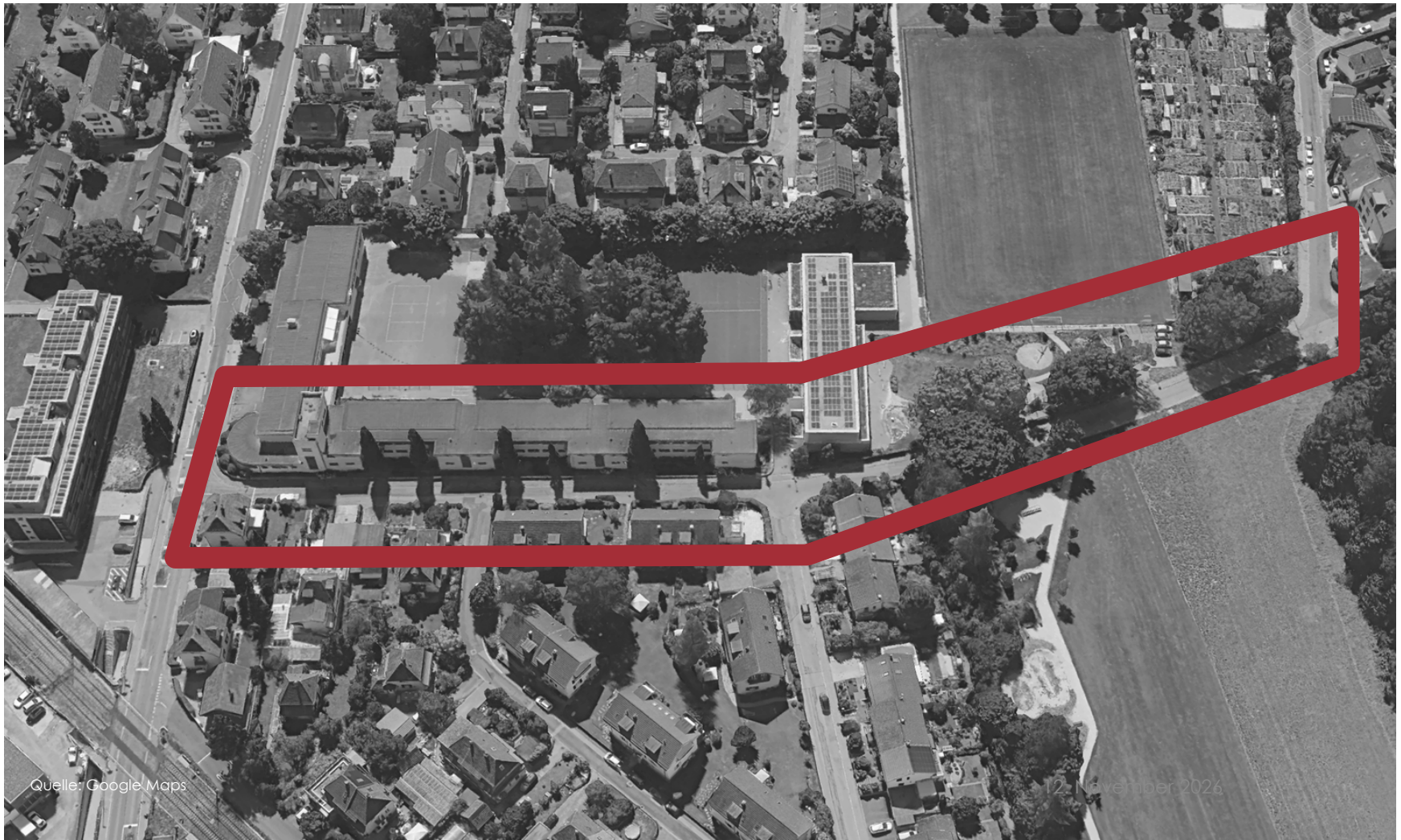


Evaluation



Schoolstreet Winterfeldweg – Street painting with the school

Iterative approach via participation and temporary action



Quelle: Google Maps

Schoolstreet Winterfeldweg – Street painting with the school

Iterative approach via participation and temporary action



Quelle: Denkstatt und Samuel Bradley

Schoolstreet Winterfeldweg – Street painting with the school

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Iterative approach via participation and temporary action



Quelle: Denkstatt und Samuel Bradley

The Bundesplatz today invites you to play and relax

Transformation of streets and squares is on its way



Quelle: Stadt Bern

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