



Intersection Repair: Building Community Over Automobile Throughput

Posted by [Glenn](#) on June 19, 2007 - 9:00pm in [The Oil Drum: Local](#)

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Here in NYC, over the last month, we have seen a radical transformation in the upper levels of the city's department of transportation. Much of this has been because of the persistence of a few dozen transportation advocates who have successfully won favor within the Bloomberg Administration for their ideas of streets as public places requiring safe routes for pedestrians and cyclists and more access for mass transportation by taking back street space from personal automobiles. What we call: Livable Streets. [Streetsblog](#) (which I also write for) received some well deserved credit today by the [NY Times' City Room](#).

In looking at what is going on around the country with the livable streets movement, I came across this excellent video of something called "Intersection Repair"

[Intersection Repair](#)

["City Repair"](#) in Portland, Oregon hosts an annual Village Building Convergence where hundreds of people come together to build diverse projects for the benefit of their communities and to take back their streets via a process known as Intersection Repair.

From Streetsblog's vlog sibling, Streetfilm is this description of what "Intersection Repair" means:

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This involves painting streets with a high-visibility mural that creates a public square for residents to gather and one which gently encourages drivers to slow down when approaching these spaces. Over time the neighbors further enhance the transformation by adding amenities like benches, community bulletin boards, and introducing gardens & art. As you'll see, the possibilities are endless.

This is the type of alternative universe that I like to imagine happening all over the place as we gently ride down the hydrocarbon peak. These are people finding ways to make themselves happy with those around them instead of driving far and wide to seek out others. It's not complicated, it's just a group of people that live near each other getting together to do something they all benefit from: Re-imagining an intersection as a community square.



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