

Quick-Build Project Resources for Rural Transportation

NADO Research Foundation

July 2025

Quick-build projects, also referred to as demonstration projects are temporary installations designed to pilot street design improvements that enhance safety, accessibility, and overall functionality. These initiatives emphasize cost-effective, rapid, and adaptable solutions to address safety and accessibility. By implementing quick-build strategies, municipalities and community organizations can demonstrate the feasibility and impact of proposed changes, helping to build public support and establish a foundation for long-term infrastructure investments. These projects vary widely in scale and materials—from lightweight, low-cost installations to more robust configurations—allowing for flexibility in design and implementation based on context and available resources.

Project Tools and Guides

Montana Pop-Up Traffic Calming Guide (Western Transportation Institute, 2018)

This guide is intended to help residents, community groups and agency staff through the process of implementing quick build traffic calming projects.

<https://www.bikewalkmontana.org/news-1/pop-up-traffic-calming-guide-available-online>

Pop-up Traffic Calming & Placemaking Primer (Western Transportation Institute, 2022)

This guide provides an overview of different types of traffic calming with materials and cost estimates. <https://rosap.ntl.bts.gov/view/dot/78447>

Big Sky/Rural Communities Traffic Calming Toolkit (Western Transportation Institute, 2023)

This toolkit provides a menu of pop-up traffic calming treatments with materials and cost estimates for application in rural or small metro communities like Big Sky, MT. It also contains an appendix with nine case studies that highlight how other resort communities are working to become more walkable, bikeable, and transit friendly.

<https://westerntransportationinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/PopUpTrafficCalmingToolkitFinal.pdf>

Demonstration Project Implementation Guide (Minnesota DOT, 2019)

This is a resource for the development of short term, low cost, temporary roadway projects to promote and advance walking and bicycling.

<https://www.dot.state.mn.us/saferoutes/demonstration-projects.html>

Burlington Public Works Quick-Build Design and Materials Standards Guide (Burlington Vermont Public Works and partners, undated)

This initiative of the City of Burlington Department of Public Works aims to deliver a phased approach to bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure projects that improve safety and connectivity. This document provides design and materials guidance for the delivery of Quick-Build street redesign projects in Burlington, Vermont.

<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/331/Quick-Build-Projects>

About this Resource Sheet

This resource does not provide an exhaustive list of potential sources. Any mention of a specific company, product, service, or website in this publication does not constitute or imply an endorsement by the research team. This resource was authored by Research Engineer Rebecca Gleason from Western Transportation Institute at Montana State University and Senior Program Manager Krishna Kunapareddy and published by the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation with support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development through a contract to provide technical assistance to rural communities. USDA is an equal opportunity provider. Any opinions, findings and conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the funding agency.

Founded in 1988, the NADO Research Foundation is the nonprofit research affiliate of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) that identifies, studies, and promotes regional solutions and approaches to improving local prosperity and services through the nationwide network of regional development organizations. The NADO Research Foundation shares best practices, offers professional development training, analyzes the impact of federal policies and programs on regional development organizations, and examines the latest trends in small metropolitan and rural America. In addition, the Research Foundation helps bridge the communications gap among practitioners, researchers, and policymakers. Learn more at www.NADO.org and www.RuralTransportation.org.

