

Glossary

Bollard – Any small vertical element such as a decorative steel or iron pole or a short concrete column intended to allow pedestrian traffic but restrict vehicular traffic. Bollards are normally used in groups to indicate an edge between pedestrian and vehicular areas.

Bulb-outs – Bulb-outs extend the sidewalk or curb line out into the parking lane of a street to effectively reduce the street width. These measures greatly improve pedestrian crossings by reducing the crossing distance and improving the ability for pedestrians and motorists to see each other. Curb extensions also can help reduce turning speeds at an intersection and provide additional space for curb ramps and/or level sidewalk landings where space is limited. Bulb-outs are only appropriate where on-street parking exists; curb extensions should never reach into travel lanes, bicycle lanes, or shoulders.

Design guidelines – These minimum guidelines or recommendations are intended to guide the design of streets. Where conditions are not specifically addressed in the guidelines, it is the responsibility of the proponent to show that the proposed design solution meets the intent of the most closely related guidelines.

Gateway – An opening or a structure framing an opening; something that serves as an entrance or a means of access.

Median island – The area of raised paving or planting running down the center of a street, separating the directions of traffic. A traffic island is a special type of median.

Mid-block crossing – A pedestrian crosswalk located between intersections. Mid-block crossings must be carefully designed so motorists drive safely and stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk.

Paver-grate suspension system – Metal support structure designed to allow for the placements of pavers. These structures are typically located directly over the tree planting area.

Pedestrian refuge – Pedestrian refuges are raised islands with minimum dimensions of 4-6 feet wide and 8-12 feet long, which are placed in the center of the roadway separating opposing lanes of traffic. Pedestrian refuge islands are particularly suitable for wide two-way streets with four or more lanes of moving traffic traveling at higher speeds. They are particularly useful to persons with mobility disabilities, very old or very young pedestrians who walk at slower speeds, and persons who are in wheelchairs.

Pedestrian-oriented – A general term encompassing all the design concepts in this report. Pedestrian-oriented is a term specific to a location or a district indicating a walking environment where pedestrians feel safe and comfortable walking along and across the streets. Because pedestrian malls are rarely built anymore, the term pedestrian-oriented is nearly always reflective of an environment accommodating a mix of pedestrians, cars, trucks, buses, and bicycles.

Pin-up session – A pin-up or poster session advertises research combining text and graphics to create a visually-pleasing presentation. Typically, a poster is used to illustrate work, quickly and efficiently communicating research. The graphics at these sessions present general information and invite viewers to ask more detailed questions.

Right-of-way – The boundary of public ownership of the street. The area between private property lines is generally referred to as the public right-of-way.

Roundabout (modern) – A roundabout is a one-way circular intersection without traffic signal equipment in which traffic flows around a center island. It operates with yield control at the entry points, and gives priority to vehicles within the roundabout.

Signs, directory – Many cities post directory-type signs at street corners as a service to pedestrians who may use the sign to find a destination. The directory typically has a building number and an arrow indicating the direction a pedestrian should walk to reach the destination.

Signs, way-finding – Wayfinding is a term used to encompass a group of signs located throughout a district. The group of signs have similar design styles, but each sign has the name of a popular destination in the district with an arrow indicating the direction of travel to reach the destination, either by vehicle, bicycle, or foot.

Streetscape – A generic term referring to pedestrian and landscape improvement in the right-of-way generally between the curb and right-of-way line. A streetscape is often associated with improved sidewalks, street trees, lighting, furnishings, and landscaped median.

Traffic calming – Features that drivers must navigate over to proceed on their desired travel path and may include treatments such as speed humps, speed tables, raised crosswalks, and raised intersections.

Travelway – The area located between curbs, including vehicle and bicycle travel lanes, on-street parking areas, and a median.

Tree grates – A metal grille that is installed at the base of a tree otherwise surrounded by hard pavement. This grate allows the free passage of air, water, and nutrients to tree roots, but does not interfere with foot traffic.

Tree guard – An upright series of metal bars arranged around a tree and held together by metal bands. Often used with street trees, tree guards deter vandalism and help to prevent involuntary damage by passing wagons, strollers, wheelbarrows, and similar vehicles. They are often used with tree grates in heavily urbanized areas. Alternatively, tree guards can take the form of an upright cone secured around a tree trunk to prevent animals from climbing the tree.

