

Context Sensitive Solutions

Andrew Howard

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Context sensitive solutions (CSS) is a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach that involves all stakeholders to develop a transportation facility that fits its physical setting and preserves scenic, aesthetic, historic and environmental resources, while maintaining safety and mobility. CSS is an approach that considers the total context within which a sportation improvement project will exist."

-- Federal Highway Administration

Town

Regional Center District

Center Commercial Corridor

Neighborhood

Main Street

Commercial Street Mixed Use Street Industrial St

Residential Street



Foundation for CSS

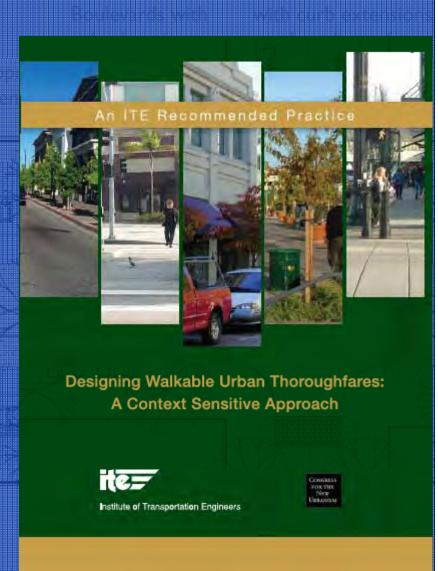
- National recommended practice that sets the standard.
- New TxDOT project development process that enables.
- Local policy in Houston and other cities implements.





Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares: A Context Sensitive Approach

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Placemaking

- Community-based approach to the development and revitalization of cities and neighborhoods
- Placemaking:
 - Unique places with lasting value
 - Compact, mixed-use
 - Pedestrian and transit oriented
 - Strong civic character
 - Contributes to economic development







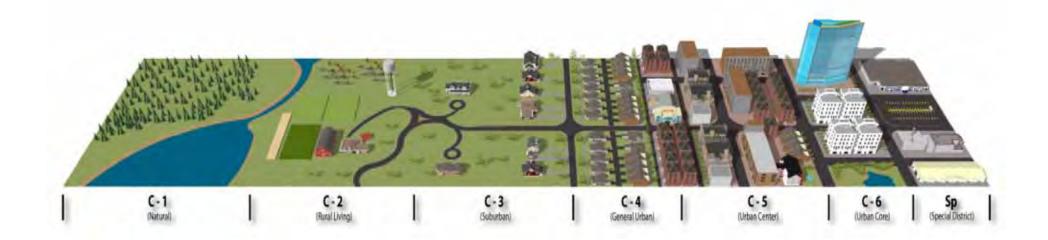
CSS vs. Conventional Thoroughtare Design Approach

Conventional	CSS Approach
Context:	Context:
Urban _	Suburban
Rural	General urban
	Urban center
	─ Urban core
Design criteria primarily based	Design criteria primarily based
on:	on:
Functional class	Community objectives
Design speed	Functional class
Forecast travel demand	Thoroughfare type
Level of service	Adjacent land use

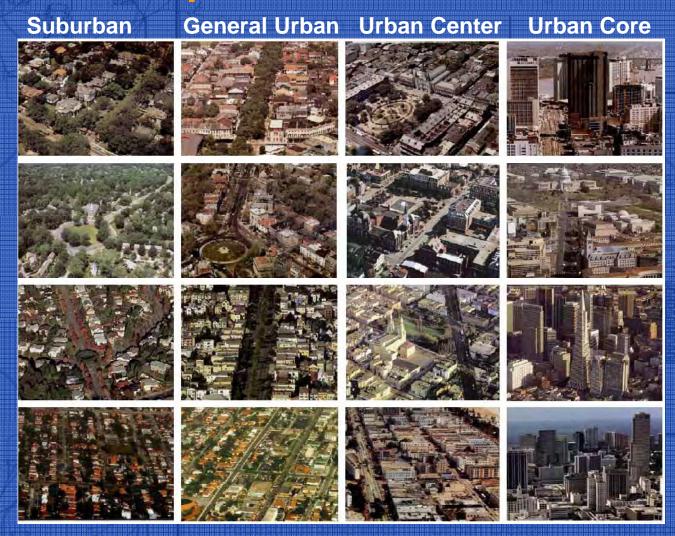


CSS Design Framework

- Context zones:
 - Natural Downtowns



The Concept of Context Zones



Source: Duany Plater-Zyberk and Company



Context Zone Descriptions

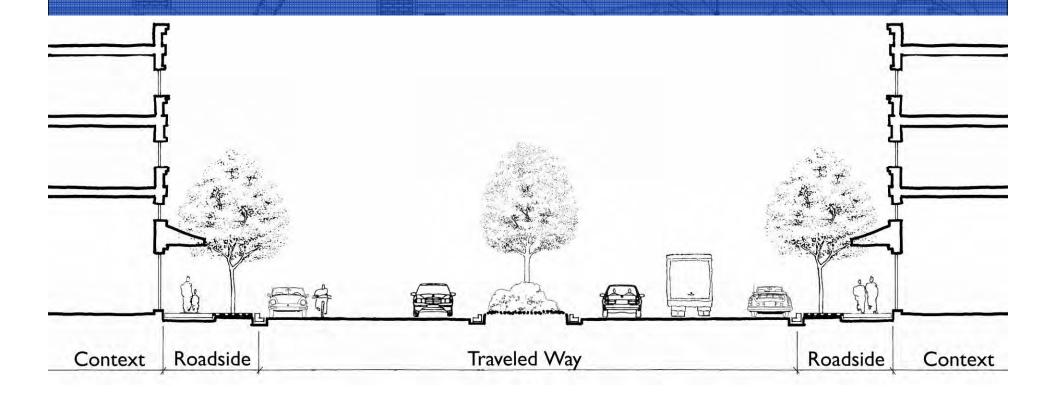
Context Zone	Distinguishing Characteristics	General Character	Building Placement	Frontage Types	Typical Building Height	Average Target Residential Density	Type of Public Open Space	Examples of Commercial Corridors
	Mix of housing types including attached units,	Predominantly detached Shallow t			2-3 story with some	8-12 units/acre (single-family)		- ArkansasAve.
C-4 General Urban	with a range of commercial and civic activity at the neighborhood and community scale	buildings, balance between landscape and buildings, presence of pedestrians	medium front and side yard setbacks	Porches, fences	variation and few taller workplac e buildings	16-32 units/acre (multi-family)	Parks, greenbelts	- Interstate 20 - Green Oaks - Collins St. - S.H. 303 - Park Row Rd.

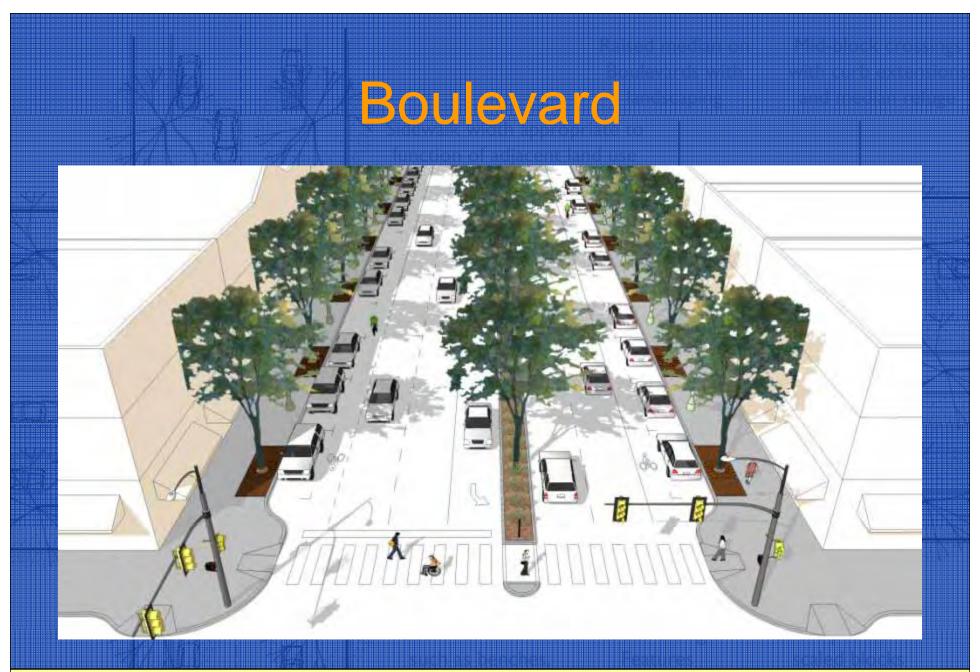


CSS Design Framework

- Street classification:
 - Functional class
 - Arterial
 - Collector

Thoroughfare type
Boulevard
Avenue
Street





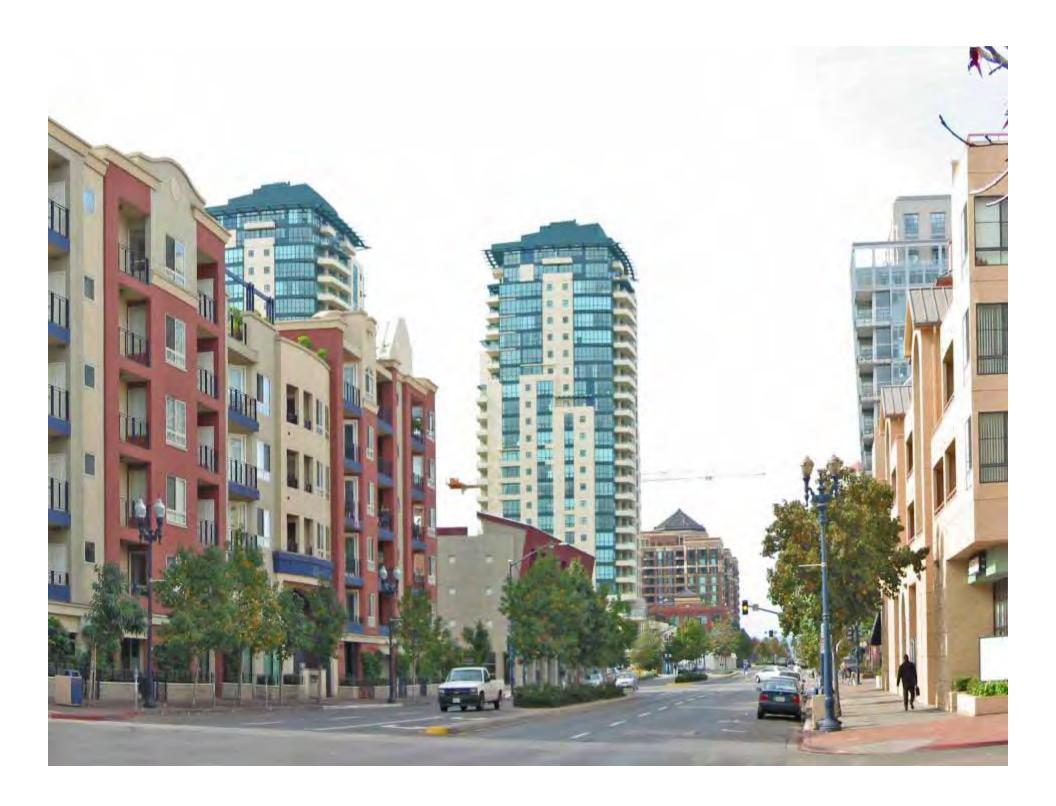


Boulevard

- Divided arterial (4+ lanes)
- Target speed (35 mph or less)
- Through and local traffic
- Serve longer trips
- Access management
- Major transit corridor
- Primary freight route
- Emergency response route
- May or may not have curb parking











Multi-way Bouleward

Walkable high capacity street

- Central roadway for through traffic
- Parallel access lanes
- Access lanes for parking, and pedestrian and bicycle facilities
- Require significant right-ofway
- Special treatment of intersections

















Avenue

- Arterial or collector (4 lanes max)
- Target speed (30 to 35 mph)
- Land access
- Primary ped and bike route
- Local transit route
- Freight local deliveries
- Optional raised landscaped median
- Curb parking







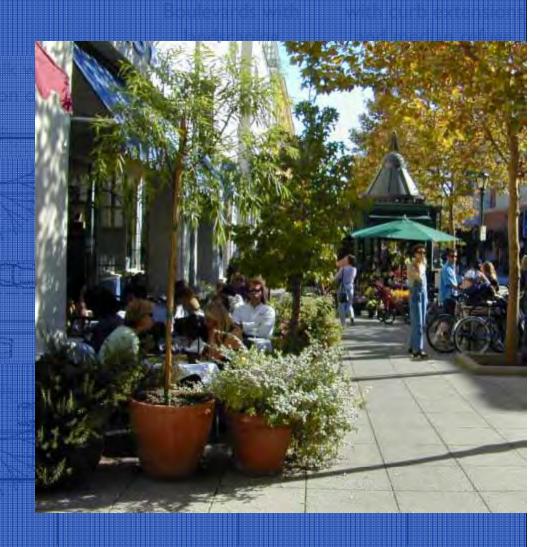






Street

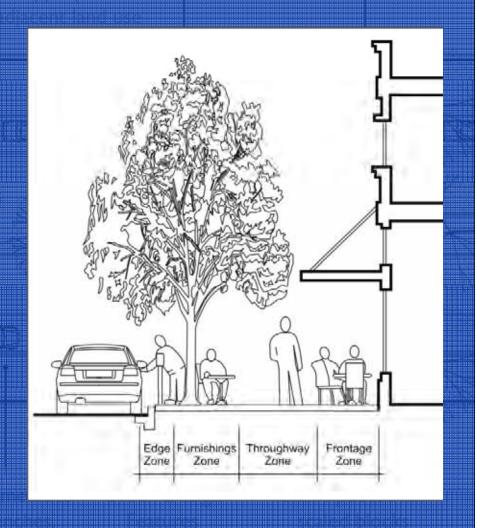
- Collector or local
- 2 lanes maximum
- Target speed (25mph)
- Land access
- Designed to connect
- May be commercial main street
- Emphasizes curb parking
- Freight restricted to local deliveries





Roadside Zones

- Zones:
 - Edge
 - Furnishings
 - Throughway (ADA)
 - Frontage
- Function and dimensions vary by context zone and adjacent land use





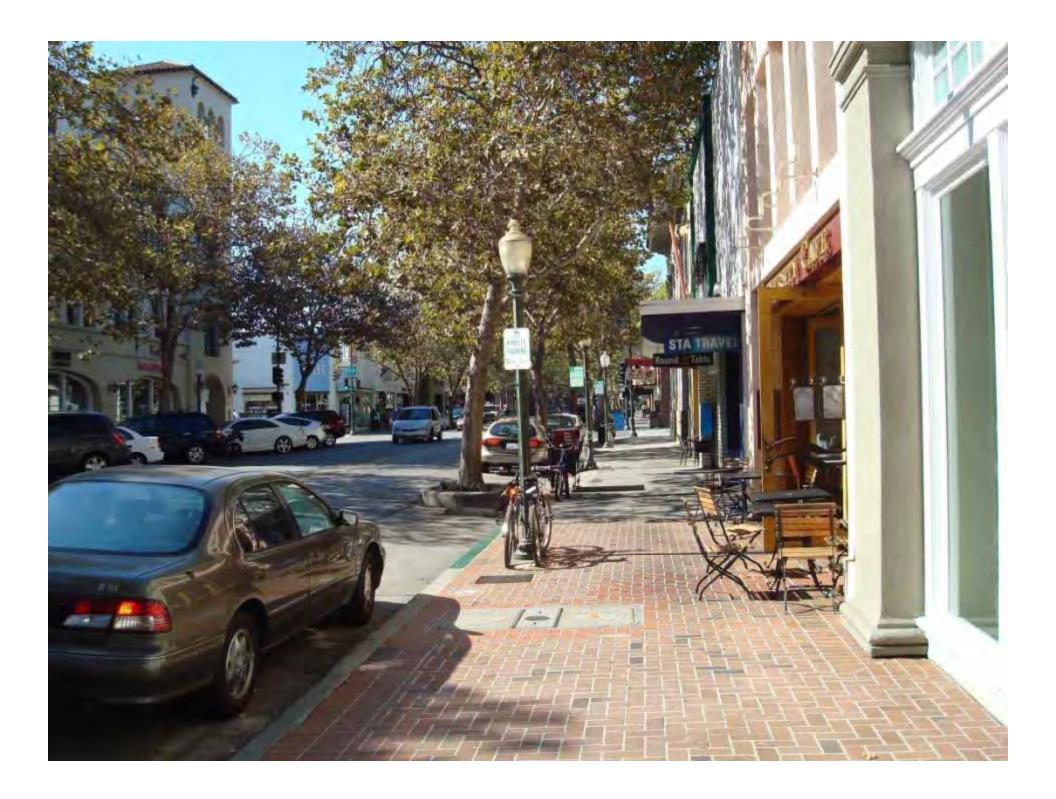




Table 6.2 General Parameters for Arterial Thoroughfares

	Suburban (C-3)					General U	Irban (C-4)	Urban Center/Core (C-5/6)					
	Resid		Comm	ercial	Reside		Comm	ercial	Reside		Commercial		
	Boulevard	Avenue	Boulevard	Avenue	Boulevard	Avenue	Boulevard	Avenue	Boulevard	Avenue	Boulevard	Avenue	
Context Building Orientation (entrance orientation)	front, side	front, side	front, side	front, side	front	front	front	front	front	front	front	front	
Maximum Setback [1]	20 ft.	20 ft.	5 ft.	5 ft.	15 ft.	15 ft.	U ft.	0 ft.	10 ft.	10 ft.	U ft.	υft.	
Off-Street Parking Access/Location	rear, side	rear, side	rear, side	rear, side	rear, side	rear, side	rear, side	rear, side	rear	rear	rear	rear	
Roadside													
Recommended Roadsi de Width [2]	14.5 ft.	12.5 ft.	16 ft.	15 ft.	16.5 ft.	12.5 ft.	19 ft.	16 ft.	21.5 ft.	19.5 ft.	21.5 ft.	19.5 ft.	
Pedestrian Buffers (planting strip exclusive of travel way width) [2]	8 ft. planting strip	6-8 ft. planting strip	7 ft. tree well	6 ft. tree well	8 ft. planting strip	6-8 ft. planting strip	7 ft. tree well	6 ft. tree well	7 ft. tree well	6 ft. tree well	7 ft. tree well	6 ft. tree well	
Street Lighting	For all art	erial thorough	nfares in all con				treet lighting and 10 (Intersection C		caled lighting is recommended. See Chapter 8 (Roadside nes).				
Traveled Way													
Target Speed (mph)	35	25-30	35	35	35	25-30	35	25-30 [3]	35	25-30	30	25-30 [3]	
Design Speed	Design spe	ed should be	a maximum of 9	mph over the			d is used as a con vertical curvature		geometric desi	gn elements i	ncluding sight o	listance and	
Number of Through Lanes [4]	4-6	2-4	4-6	2-4	4-6	2-4	4-6	2-4	4-6	2-4	4-6	2-4	
Lane Width [5]	10-11 ft.	10- 1 1 ft.	10-12 ft.	10-11 ft.	10-11 ft.	10-11 ft.	10-12 ft.	10-11 ft.	10-11 ft.	10-11 ft.	10-11 ft.	10-11 ft.	
Parallel On-Street Parking Width [G]	7 ft.	7 ft.	8 ft.	8 ft.	7 ft.	7 ft.	8 ft.	8 ft.	7 ft.	7 ft.	8 ft.	8 ft.	
Min. Combined Parking/Bike Lane Width	13 ft.	13 ft.	13 ft.	13 ft.	13 ft.	13 ft.	13 ft.	13 ft.	13 ft.	13 ft.	13 ft.	13 ft.	
Horizontal Radius (per AASHTO) [7]	762 ft.	510 ft.	762 ft.	762 ft.	762 ft.	510 ft.	762 ft.	510 ft.	762 ft.	510 ft.	510 ft.	510 ft.	
Vertical Alignment			Use AASH1	O minimums	as a target, but c	onsider combir	nations of horizor	ntal and vertica	l per AASHTO G	reen Book.			
Medians (which will accommodate single left-turn lanes at intersections) [8]	14-16 ft.	Optional 14 ft.	14-16 ft.	Optional 14 ft.	14-16 ft.	Optional 14 ft.	14-16 ft.	Optional 14 ft.	14-16 ft.	Optional 14 ft.	14-16 ft.	Optional 14 ft.	
Bike Lanes (min./preferred width)	5 ft/6 ft.	5 ft./6 ft.	5 ft./6 ft.	5 ft/6 ft.	5 ft /6 ft.	5 ft./6 ft.	5 ft./6 ft.	5 ft./6 ft.	5 ft./6 ft.	5 ft /6 ft.	5 ft/6 ft.	5 ft./6 ft.	
Access Management [9]	Moderate	Low	High	Moderate	Moderate	Low	High	Low	Moderate	Low	High	Low	
Typical Traffic Volume Range (vpd)	20,000- 35,000	15,000- 25,000	20,000- 50,000	10,000- 35,000	10,000- 30,000	10,000- 20,000	15,000- 40,000	5,000- 30,000	15,000- 30,000	10,000- 20,000	15,000- 40,000	5,000- 30,000	
Intersections													
Roundabout	Consid	er urban sing	le-lane roundab				less than 20,000 ith less than 40.0			d urban doub	le-lane roundab	outs at	
Curb Return Radii				miter sections			on Design Guide						





Context Sensitive Solutions in Designing Major Urban Thoroughfares for Walkable Communities



or or or or other Capitales



Urban Thoroughfares Committee

New Partnership/Process

Components

Economic

Development

& Value

Capture

Local Land-Use

Planning &

Sustainable

Design

CSS &

Design

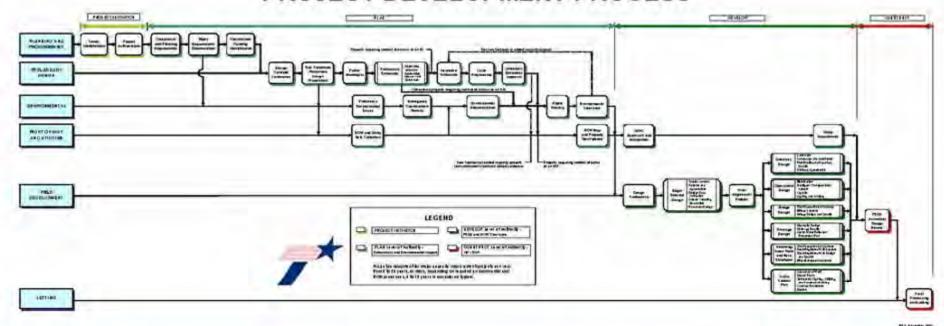
Flexibility

Engineering & Transportation Infrastructure

Courtesy of HNTB Gateway

Project Development Process

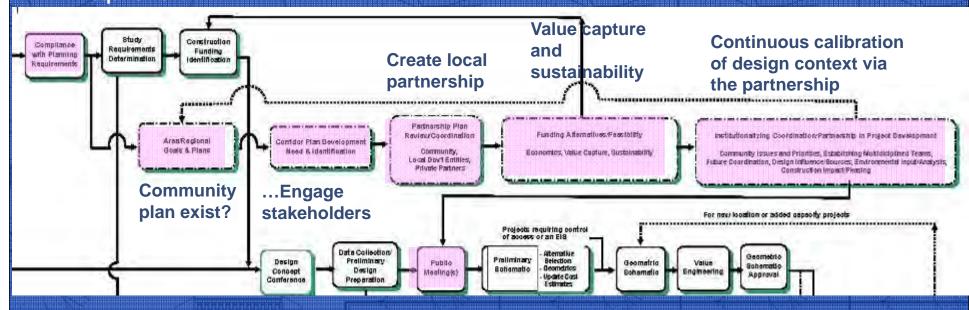
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS





The Committee's Proposed Revised Process

"Compliance with planning" requirement



A meaningful formal publicmeeting process and consequent design in the community context

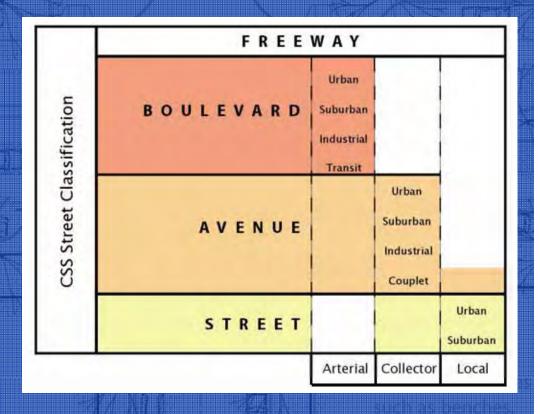




- SH 26 Colleyville
- SP 100 South Padre Island
- 30-80-20 Terrell
- SH 6 Houston



Houston Example



Urban Boulevard



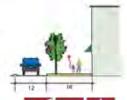
Trievelienty (Lames/Lane Wedth)	E Lanes/IT voch
Median	34
Sidewalk	- 30
Build to Line	0.5





30' LIRBAN ROM/BYAND CORONA	C0500 B
61 im/17 meh	63 ann/12 man
ME	-241
1.0	.17
9.5	0.5
	Cotton A E1 imm/17 much 1E 10

	Ogdon A	Gasso 8
Travelway (Lanes/Lane Width)	+sanst/12 and	+ lam/lif mely
Median	20'	315
Sidewalk	TE:	160
Build militer	0.8"	0.87





Houston Example





Bus Rapid Transit			_	V	~	V					_	
Signature Bus	~	5	1		1	1						37
Local, Special Bus	✓					1						63
Park and Ride	V			1		1			3			100
HOV/Managed Lanes	√		1	1	1	1	=					
Street Diet		21	134								1	+0
Raised Medians				1		- 1			1		1	114
Intersection Design/Improvement			1	1	1	1			1			2.0
					P	anni	ng '	Tools	5			
Sidewalks	V	1				5	1	1		1	1	1
Mid-block Crossings	100	100		10			1			3.0	1	1
Crosswalks							1			1	1	1
Bike Building	-							1		1	1	1
Paved Shoulder		~				1		1		1	1	
Bike Lane	~	1				1		1	3.1	1	1	-
Multi-use Path	✓	31				1		1		1	1	1
Bike Racks		H	100			- 04		1		1	1	1
Cross Access		1	1	1	1	1			1		1	
Bulti-outs							1			1	4	1
Acceleration/Deceleration Lunes	- 1		1	1	1		123		1	Jan Jan	133	101
Pedestrian Islands							1			~	1	1

Transit signal priority
Advanced Parking Signs
Emirgency vehicle presention
Advanced skonal systems
Variable speed limis
Dynamic message signs
Speed enforcement
Evacuation and re-entry management
Production Phase.











Lanscaping Curb Ramps Pedestrian Bridge Vanpool Para Transit

Traffic Calming Devices

Toolbox Roadway Widenin New Roadways Network Spacing

Grade separations Commuter Rail Light Rail





CITY OF HOUSTON

DESIGN MANUAL

Department of Public Works & Engineering

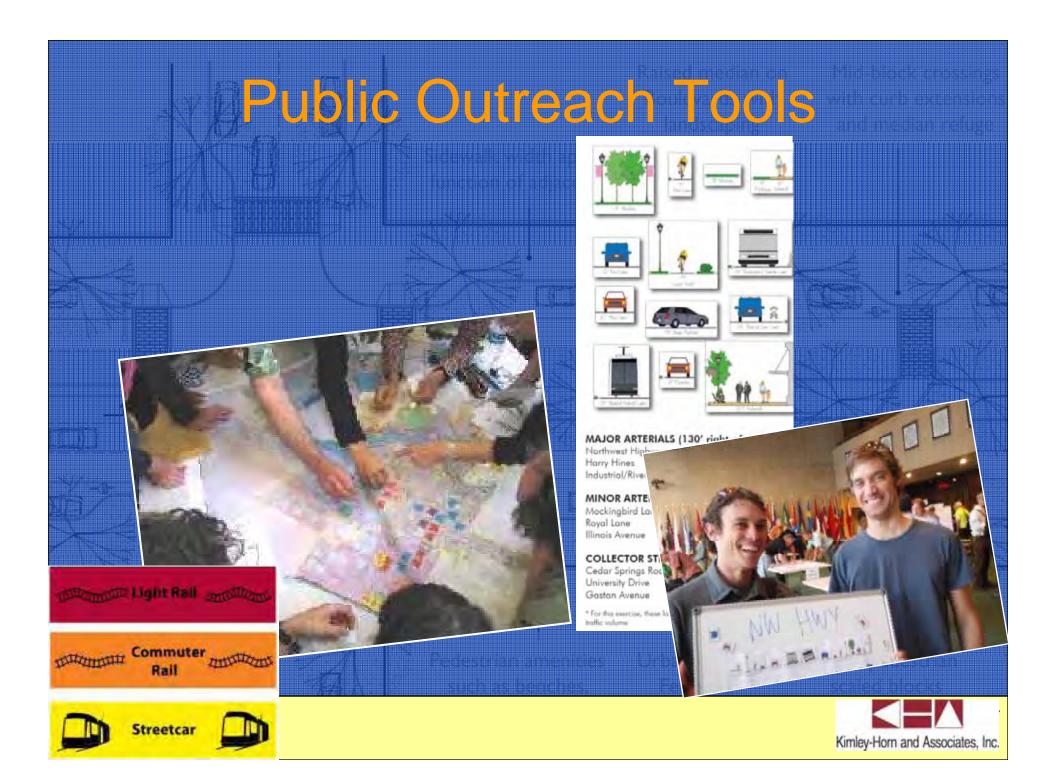
Street Paving Design Requirements



URBAN AVENUE DESIGNATION							
	PEDESTRIAN REALM		TRAVELWAY REALM				
Minimum R.O.W. (feet)	Sidewalk (feet)	Tree Well or Swale (feet)	On-Street Parking (feet)	Bike Lane (feet)	Median Width (feet)	Lane Widths (feet)	ADT (vpd)
80	20 x 2 = 40	TW	8 x 2 = 16	N/A	N/A		1,500-15,000
	10 x 2 = 20	TW	18 x 2 = 36 *	N/A	N/A		
	15 x 2 = 30	TW	8 x 2 = 16	5 x 2 = 10	N/A	2 x 12 = 24	
	10 x 2 = 20	TW	18 x 2 = 36 *	N/A	N/A	1	
	22 x 2 = 44	TW	N/A	6 x 2 = 12	N/A	1	
	21 x 2 = 42	TW	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.42.4	5,000-20,000
	13 x 2 = 26	TW	8 x 2 = 16	N/A	N/A	2 x12 +	
	8 x 2 = 16	TW	8 x 2 = 16	5 x 2 = 10	N/A	1 x14 (CLTL*)*	
	15 x 2 = 30	TW	N/A	6 x 2 = 12	N/A	= 38	
	16 x 2 = 32	TW	N/A	N/A	N/A		10,000-30,000
	8 x 2 = 16	TW	8 x 2 = 16	N/A	N/A	4 x 12 = 48	
	10 x 2 = 20	TW	N/A	6 x 2 = 12	N/A		
100	13 x 2 = 26	TW	8 x 2 = 16	5 x 2 = 10	N/A	4 x 12 = 48	10,000-30,000
	20 x 2 = 40	TW	N/A	6 x 2 = 12	N/A	4 x 12 = 48	

^{*} Angle Parking





On every street? And NOW?

Copenhagen, Denmark, considered a model for pedestrian-friendly streets, realized its multi-modal vision over a 30-year period.





Main Street Duncanville

















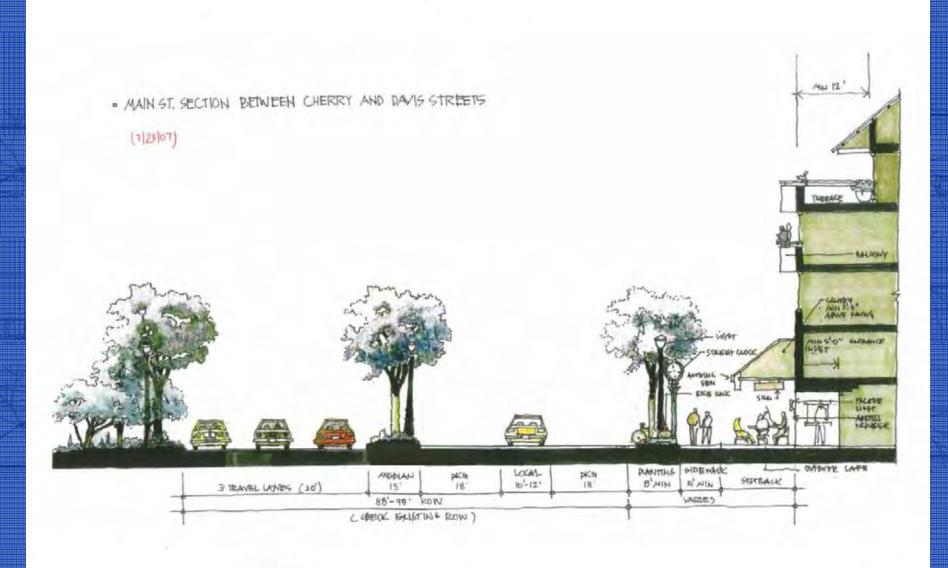


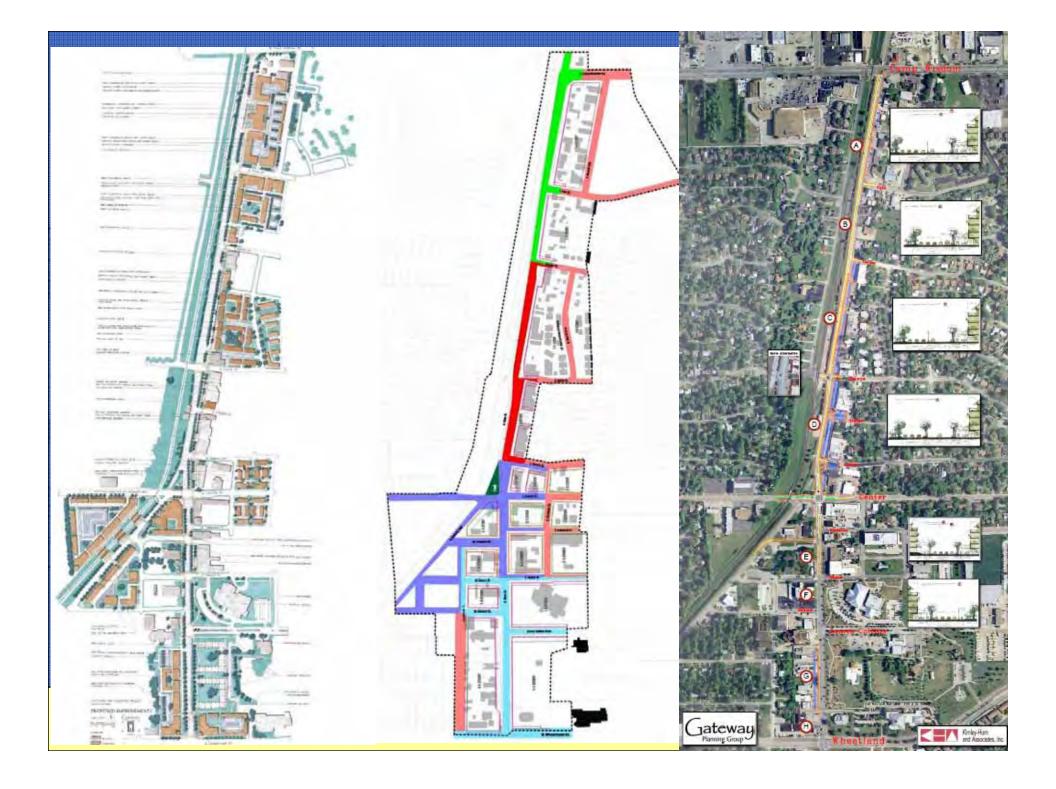
The Main Street Committee met numerous times, providing input... the consultant team also met with stakeholders at over a dozen local businesses.











Roadway Capacity

	Predicted Level of Service				
	Existing	Santa Fe Through	Santa Fe Begins at Center	Santa Fe Curves into Main	
Main/Center/Santa Fe	C	C	6	C	
Davis/Main	A	A	A	A	



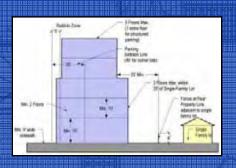


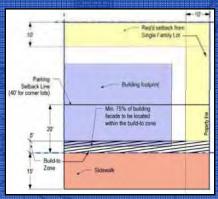


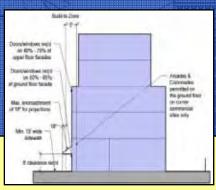


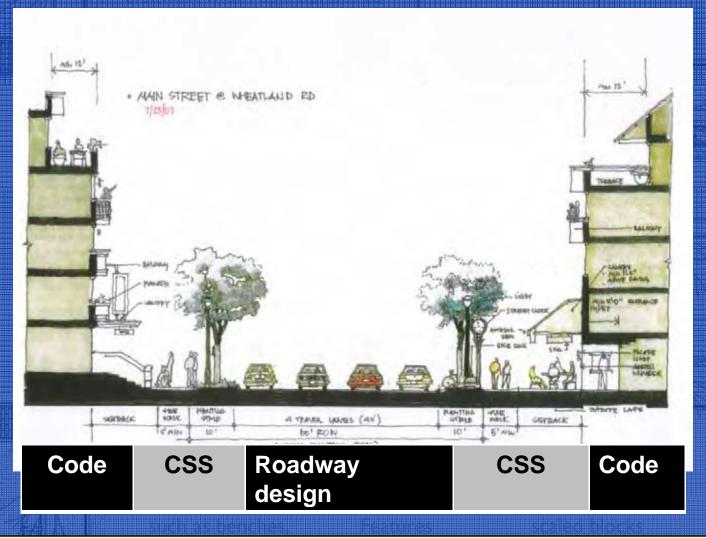


Land Development Code and CSS







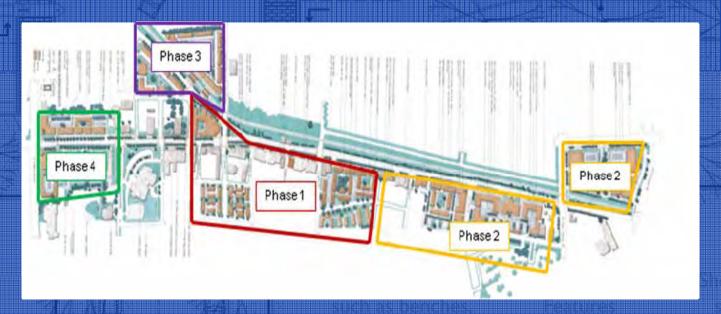






Fiscal Analysis 5-Year Phasing

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
New retail in mixed use (sqf)	36,000	51,250	230,250	46,500
New retail in live/work (sqf)	23,400	14,400	0	0
Town homes (units)	109	0	0	0
Live/work (units)	39	20	0	0
Office (sqf)	28,625	25,625	111,875	15,125
New lofts (units)	115	96	132	65







Fiscal Analysis

Fiscal Impact

Existing Value:	Property	Property Tax	Retail	Sales Tax	Total Tax
\$48,206,147	Value	Revenue	Sales	Revenue	Revenue
Existing + Phase 1	\$101,484,897	\$370,820	\$11,880,000	\$237,600	\$608,420
Existing + Phase 1-2	\$132,156,147	\$584,292	\$25,010,000	\$500,200	\$1,084,492
Existing + Phase 1-3	\$200,634,897	\$1,060,904	\$71,060,000	\$1,421,200	\$2,482,104
					- 10 mm
Existing + Phase 1-4	\$218,328,647	\$1,184,053	\$80,360,000	\$1,607,200	\$2,791,253

The initiative offers the potential of four times current property tax base, with total additional revenue impact approaching \$3 million per year at buildout

















• For two days only, on April 10th and 11th, the 400 Block of North Tyler Street will change from a car-centric thoroughfare, to a people friendly environment, complete with temporary businesses like a cafe, flower market, and kid's art studio. We'll also bring out historic lighting, cafe seating, and more to create Dallas' first complete street.



The Better Block Project



Existing Form

- Pre-War Building stock inside neighborhoods
- Former streetcar stop
- Lack of parking creates limited business potential
- Wide street heightens ped crossing risk
- Low perception of safety due to lack of viable use



"Better Block" Form

- Converted street to multimodal use w/Bike lane, wide sidewalk, single car lane
- Increased business potential for area
- Heightened pedestrian safety by slower vehicle access
- Heightened perceived safety of area due to heavier neighborhood use

















On every street? And NOW?

Copenhagen, Denmark, considered a model for pedestrian-friendly streets, realized its multi-modal vision over a 30-year period.





Pilot Project Process

- Go to neighborhoods and business areas that request it.
- Community Design-Build
- Use retrofit public amenity providers like Fountain People and Street Print
- "Buy Board" contracting to reduce bidding procedures and improve project delivery



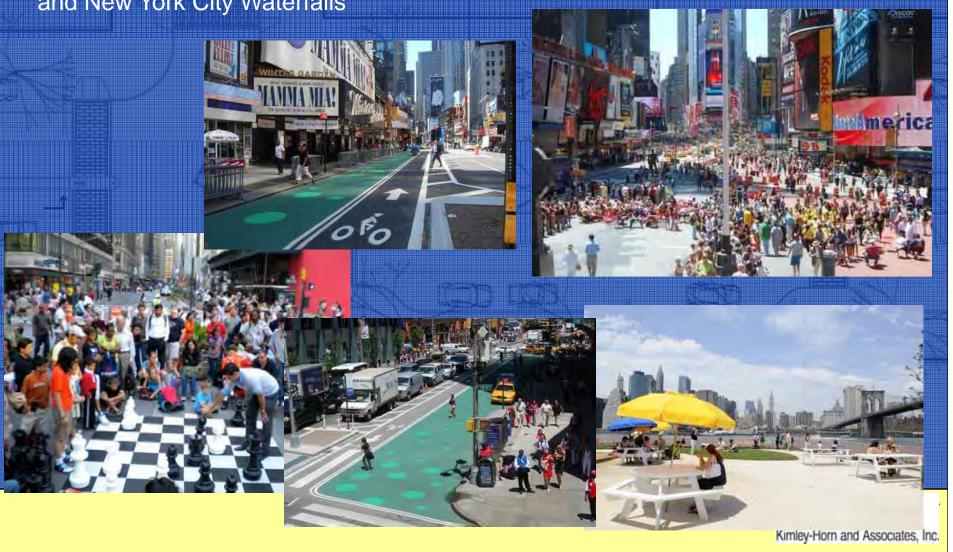
Pilot Project Criteria

- Use existing drainage and curb lines
- No utility movements
- Don't trigger ADA improvements to historic infrastructure, but provide greater access
- Find improvements that can be quickly implemented using paint, bollards and signage.





Cost effective way to re-purpose streets – examples from the NEW Times Square and New York City Waterfalls



Pilot Project Identification

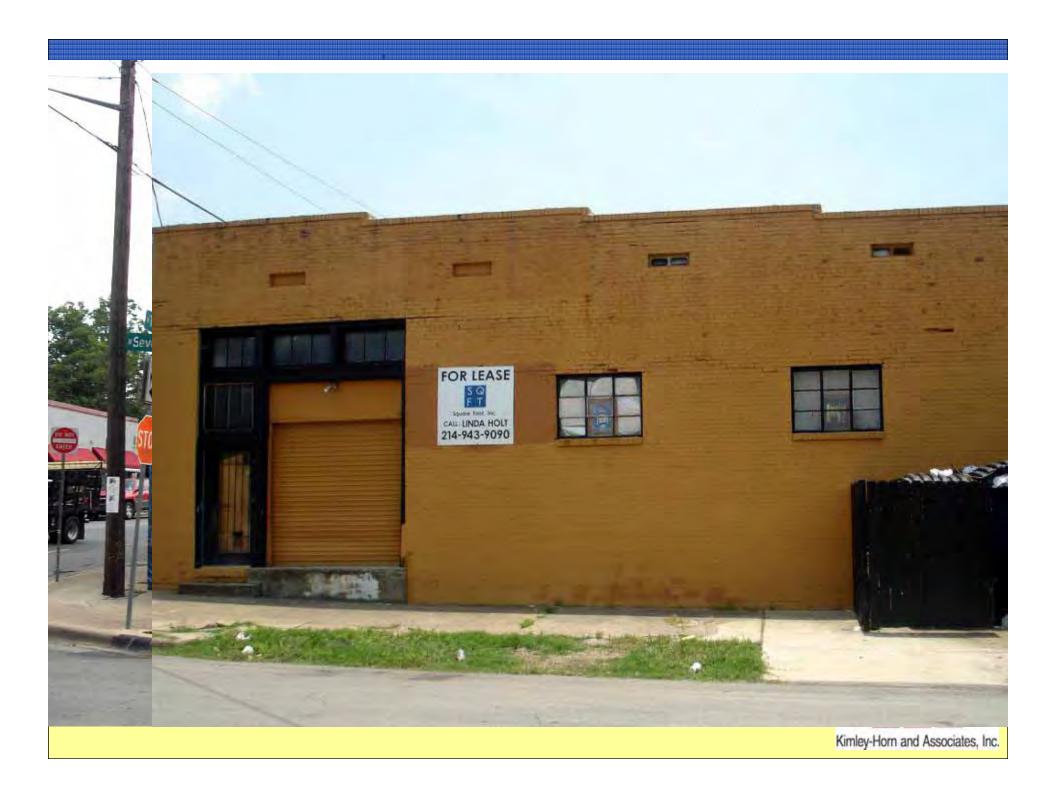
Begin with "pilot projects" to test how CSS and Complete Streets will work in Dallas.

Go to the parts of the community that are eager for change and will support you when hard decisions are to be made.

Update codes, ordinances and design standards to have a parallel emphasis on CSS/Complete streets with triggers that integrate land development (i.e. vertical mixed-use grants on-street parking a narrower lanes)

Consider providing a greater amount of information to bond committee to form strategic decisions about mobility investments (austin example).





Laine Width

- Recommended practice
 - Range of lane widths: 10–
 11 ft. on arterials and collectors
 - 12 ft. under special circumstances
 - Based on:
 - Design speed
 - Design vehicle
 - Right-of-way
 - Width of adjacent parking and bicycle lanes



Intersection Design Considerations

- Sight distance
- Pedestrian crossing time
- Bicycle clearance intervals
- Operations
- Curb return radii
- Accessibility
- Channelized right turns
- Crosswalks
- Curb extensions
- Bicycle lane treatment
- Bus stops at intersections
- Queue jump lanes
- Modern roundabouts



4.2. Sidewalk Zones

<u>Design Issue</u>: Among their functions, sidewalks provide a linear through-circulation route for pedestrians; "spillout" space for people entering and exiting frontage buildings and parked cars, and; area for boulevard amenities such as street trees, transit shelters, lighting, benches, outdoor cafes, and vendors.

<u>Recommendation</u>: Sidewalks should be configured to reflect the three basic sidewalk functions note above. As depicted below, guideline recommendations include a 4-foot spillout zone adjacent to frontage buildings, a minimum 8-foot through walking zone, and

a 6-foot amenity zone adjacent to the curb line for street trees, street lighting, and spillout area for curbside parking.

In Link areas with residential or office frontage land uses, the amenity zone could be used for a buffer landscape area. Variations in sidewalk paving patterns and/or materials should be considered to highlight the different sidewalk zones.

Caltrans Matrix Reference: Not applicable.

