

4.4

STREETScape TERMINOLOGY

Amenity Zone

Technical definition

Bio-retention

The collection of rain or stormwater in a planting bed, swale or greenspace and the process of slowly filtering and processing the water back into the underlying soil.

Bio-filtration

The process of removing contaminants and sedimentation from stormwater runoff. A bio-filtration soil treatment section often includes native and adaptive plants, specialty soil mix, pea gravel and gravel layer.

Bike Box (Advanced Stop Box)

Mark zones at signalized intersections giving cyclists a head start safety zone ahead of traffic at a green light.

Bike Facilities

The term denoting any improvements by municipalities or transportation agencies to promote or accommodate bicycle use, including bike racks, storage facilities or sharrow.

Bike Lane or Bicycle Lane

A portion of a lane or a designated lane that is striped and marked to be designated for bicycle use.

Bike Plan or Bike Route System

A network of bikeways designated by a municipality, department of transportation or jurisdiction with appropriate markings, and signage both directional and informational.

Bike Share / Bike Sharing System

A system where bicycles are made available for individuals to use for a short term period.

Bikeway

A road, street or thoroughfare designated for bicycle travel.

Bulb-Out

A location where the sidewalk is extended from the parking curb line into the roadway to increase pedestrian or planting area. Sometimes called a Curb-Extension.

Combined Sewer Outflow (CSO)

A combined sewer is a type of sewer system that collects both sanitary sewage and storm water in a single pipe. This type of system can cause serious water quality issues due to the combined sewer overflows from peak flow variations caused by wet conditions or rain events. During such events water can overflow into lakes, rivers or clean water bodies.

Complete Streets

Complete streets are designed to accommodate safe and easy access for all users including pedestrians, bicyclists, vehicles and people of all abilities. Many cities and transportation agencies are adopting Complete Streets policies to improve their street networks and enhance communities.

Conveyance

The means of moving surface water from one location to another.

Crosswalk

A location typically at intersection corners or mid-blocks designed and designated for pedestrians to cross a roadway. Crosswalks often include elements of accessibility, signage and roadway demarcation.

Curb Radius

The radius defining the curve of the curb or accessible ramp edge of the sidewalk at intersection corners.

Curb Ramp

The depressed area of a curb that is designated typically as an accessible crossing. A transition point between the sidewalk level and the roadway or intersection.

Design Vehicle

The type of vehicle used to determine the appropriate roadway design characteristics,

such as lane width or curb radius.

Detectable Warning

A paver or mat surface with patterns of truncated domes applied to walking surfaces that help the visually impaired detect a change from pedestrian to vehicular traffic, like at curb ramps or transit platforms.

Detention

Rain or stormwater runoff that is collected and stored for a slower release into the system.

Driveway

A private road for local access to a public roadway. A driveway typically crosses a sidewalk with a depressed curb apron to the roadway.

Highway

A term used to describe a public roadway for the use of vehicular traffic.

Level of Service

Also known as LOS, it is the qualitative measure used to rate the quality of traffic service. LOS rates wait time, traffic flow, speed and vehicle density. LOS is measured from ‘Level A’ free flowing traffic to ‘Level F’ forced flow.

Median

The dividing portion of the roadway that separates opposing lanes of traffic. Medians are typically continuous from intersection to

intersection and may be striped, paved or planted.

Mid-Block Crossing

A marked pedestrian crossing at a non-intersection location often at the middle of a larger street block.

Multi-Use Path

A path that may be used by walkers, runners and cyclists. Sometimes called a Shared Use Path.

Pedestrian Signal

A traffic signal specific to pedestrian travel at intersections of mid-block crossings. Pedestrian signals typically include symbols indicating when to walk and not walk, along with an audible sound to assist the visually impaired.

Retention

The capture and management of stormwater runoff which temporarily stores water and slowly releases it back into the groundwater or utility system.

Reverse Angle Parking

Instead of pulling into the parking spot, drivers, back into their spot. This allows drivers to make eye contact with oncoming traffic when exiting the parking spot.

Right-of-Way

A path or roadway of a given dimension for the right to access a travel route.

Right on Red / Right Turn on Red

A law permitting vehicles at a signalized intersection to turn right after a complete stop at a red light.

Roadway

The portion of the street, including the shoulder, for vehicular traffic use.

Sharrow

A Sharrow or shared-lane is a street lane marked to signify that bicyclists or vehicles may use the full lane. The lane is designated and marked with a chevron arrow combined with a bike symbol placed in the center of the travel path.

Shoulder

The portion of the roadway that is parallel to the traveled way, typically reserved to accommodate stopped vehicles or for emergency use.

Shy Zone

Defined as the area of sidewalk adjacent to a building face where pedestrians maintain a certain distance from the structure. A dimension of 18" is often used to help establish an effective width of a sidewalk.

Sidewalk

A path along the side of the roadway. Typically located between the building face and the amenity zone.

Site Furnishings

Elements typically located within the amenity zone, including parking meters, bike racks, benches, litter receptacles and other streetscape components.

Streetscape

The street environment comprised of the travel way, bike facilities, parking, amenity zone, pedestrian zone and associated amenities.

Structural Soil

A designed soil medium comprised of angular stone and top-soils with aerated voids to allow for tree root growth beneath paving sections.

Travel Way

The portion of the street used for vehicular traffic, not including the shoulder.

Traffic Calming

Any number of design strategies incorporated into the roadway to encourage vehicles to drive at slower speeds. Typical applications include narrower lane widths, speed tables, changes in materials and a strengthening of vertical elements along the roadway.

Tree Basin

An opening in the sidewalk where trees are placed with understory planting, mulch or gravel that allows for a healthier root zone.

Tree Guard

A vertical structure surrounding a tree's trunk that protects it from damage.

Tree Grate

A covering for street trees the is typically flush and accessible with the adjacent sidewalk.

Walkability

Walkability is the measure of how comfortable and friendly an area is to walking.

Wayfinding signage

Informational and directional signage located on the sidewalk or amenity zone. Wayfinding signage identifies key pedestrian routes and helps with general orientation.



