

City of Los Angeles

STREET DESIGN MODERNIZATION PROJECT



The City of Los Angeles is currently developing a Complete Street Design Manual to incorporate updated design standards and guidance for public realm improvements through an effort called the Street Design Modernization Project (Project). This Project aims to create a Manual with clear, well-organized guidelines and standards that help clarify design requirements. The Project involves updating the City's technical references for sidewalk, street, and public realm design to promote incorporation of design values drawn from adopted plans and policies, and reflect current laws, regulations, and obligations. The Complete Street Design Manual will guide both City-led capital projects and street improvement requirements for new development projects.

Project Status

In the current phase of the Project, the City is validating its street design values and preparing to update design standards and guidelines for pedestrian facilities and other elements within the sidewalk area. By focusing on a portion of the public realm most affected by new development, the City aims to improve the processes for street dedication and improvements involving architects, developers, the public, and the City's decision makers. Simultaneously, the City is examining its development regulations and review processes to better align land dedication and public right-of-way improvement requirements with new development in a way that improves the public realm without creating an undue burden on new housing and especially affordable housing development. Process improvements and clear standards will create greater certainty for housing developers, reduce permit review time and costs, and support housing production while also reducing vehicle miles traveled.

Project Funding

This project is made possible through grant funding provided by the Southern California Association of Governments. The Regional Early Action Planning Grants (REAP) 2.0 program seeks to accelerate infill housing development, reduce vehicle miles traveled, increase housing supply at all affordability levels, affirmatively further fair housing, and implement adopted regional and local plans to achieve these goals.



Working Street Design Values

Street design values deliberately describe the City’s vision for its streets and public realm to guide the City’s approach to street design choices across project types. The Project’s Management Committee, consisting of representatives from various City departments, collaboratively drafted the following working value statements. These statements are scheduled for further refinement based on input from the Community Project Advisory Committee:



Accessible: Streets must provide safe and efficient usability for all users, including those with disabilities. Street design features should be easy to understand and use, regardless of the user’s experience, knowledge, or language skills.



Sustainable: Streets should be energy efficient, be easy to properly maintain, and serve as ecological infrastructure to address environmental pollution and climate change. Street design features should promote public health and maintainable use of Los Angeles’ street network.



Safe: Streets should accommodate the needs and prioritize the safety of its users. Street design features should allow the public right-of-way to be shared comfortably by all users while protecting people from harm, including adverse consequences of unintended user behaviors.



Adaptable: Streets should suit their total context and be built to preserve their usability and service capacity over time. Street designs should be flexible in their nature to accommodate a diversity of uses and adapt to future needs.



Comfortable: Streets should serve as settings of social, cultural, and commercial activity that is vital to the health of its users and neighborhood. Street design features may enhance user comfort, inspire ease and delight, and please people’s senses, especially sight.

Project Schedule

Street Typology
Development
Start

August
2025

CPAC Members
Selected

October
2025

CPAC Meetings
Start

November
2025

Initial Street Type
Mapping and
Improvements Matrix

December
2025

Draft Outline of
Pedestrian Facilities
Design Guidance

January
2026

Updated Pedestrian
Design Guidance
Published

Summer
2026

Presentation to City
Decision-Makers

June
2026

Draft Street Dedication
and Improvements
Study Report

May
2026

CPAC Meetings
End

April
2026

Draft Pedestrian
Facilities Design
Guidance

March
2026

Contact Us



Email: cpac-support@lacity.org

We Want Your Feedback



To learn more about the project and share your thoughts, please visit us at virtualeventroom.com/cpac.