Streetscaping

Presented by the Institute for Public Administration
University of Delaware
Streetscaping Provides:

- **Aesthetic Design** of urban roadways that provide visual appeal and safely accommodate diverse users and activities.

- **Vibrant Centers of Activity** for interaction and sense of community.

- **Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Transit-Friendly Features** such as street furniture, pedestrian lighting and landscape buffers.

- **Complete Streets Improvements** and practices that safely accommodate travelers of all ages and abilities.
Why is Streetscaping Important?

○ Good transportation infrastructure design positively influences:
  • Accessibility
  • Safety
  • Comfort

○ Design standards can be adapted to:
  • Ensure accessibility for all modes
  • Improve quality and safety of roadways
  • Calm traffic
  • Create opportunities for environmental protection and conservation
Important Features of Streetscaping

1. Recognizes streets as public places with diverse activities
2. Supports Flexibility of Local Codes
3. Complements Mixed-Use and Infill Development
4. Increases Sustainability and Economic Development
Streets as Public Spaces

Important Factors:
- Inclusive, accessible
- Boundaries
- Traffic Calming
- Physical Comfort
Streets as Public Places

**Access** to multimodal routes of transportation is crucial.
Streets as Public Spaces

Boundaries must be created to prevent conflict between transportation users to ensure safe travel.
Boundary Examples:

- Lane Striping
- Signs
- Curbs
- Landscaping
- Walls
- Paving
- Fences
- Architectural Design Features

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Streets as Public Places

Physical Comfort of streets will encourage pedestrian use.
Features Encouraging Physical Comfort:

- Crosswalks
- Outdoor Dining
- Pedestrian Plazas
- Street Beautification
- Attractive Pedestrian Lighting
- Clean Streets
Streets as Public Places

Traffic Calming involves physical measures to reduce traffic speeds and volume.

Can positively impact:

- Safety
- Neighborhood livability
- Crime prevention
- Urban redevelopment
Methods of Traffic Calming

- Center Island
- Speed Bump
- Textured Pavement
- Traffic Circle
- Chicane
- Diagonal Diverter
Flexible Local Codes

Enhancements to local codes should be considered when pursuing a streetscaping project.

Reduce or eliminate parking requirements to allow for streetscaping and multimodal planning.
Mixed-Use and Infill Development

- Streetscape designs benefit from a mixture of commercial, retail, and residential land uses.
- Streetscaping can also support redevelopment of vacant, bypassed or underutilized land.
Sustainability and Economic Development

- Conserves Energy
- Reduces Carbon Emission
- Promotes Economic Development
Sustainability

- **Conserves Energy**
  - Streetscaping allows for transportation efficiencies where people are not dependent on automobiles.
Sustainability

○ Reduce Carbon Emissions
  - Reduce in use of transportation modes using fossil fuels.
  - Integrate trees and natural features into a streetscape design.
Economic Development...

- Streetscaping stimulates local economic activity by:
  - Attracting residents and visitors.
  - Reconfiguring the layout of streets to better diverse activities and users.
  - Providing visual appeal of a transportation system to provide better mobility, a sense of place, community identity, economic opportunity, health benefits, and social cohesion.
How is Streetscaping Achieved in Delaware?

- With input from all stakeholders.
- In context with the Complete Streets policy and context-sensitive transportation design.
- In compatibility with state and local regulations, comprehensive plans, facility-maintenance practices and community-design principles.
- In consultation with DelDOT.
Rehoboth Beach Streetscape

credit: Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc.
Rehoboth Avenue, Rehoboth Beach

Collaborative planning process resulted in:

• Aesthetic improvements: removal of above-ground wires and poles and creation of new public spaces.
• Traffic-calming roundabout and beautified gateway.
• Improvements to parking, sidewalks, and crosswalks.
South Main Street, Newark, Del.

- Improves pedestrian, bicycle, and transit facilities.
- Provides investment opportunities to stimulate local business.
- Enhances gateway and beautification of the corridor.
- Planned in collaboration between DelDOT, City of Newark officials, University of Delaware, business leaders, and residents.
Conclusion

Streetscaping:
- Recognizes that streets are public places
- Supports revitalization initiatives, sustainability, and mix of land uses
- Must be consistent with local plans, conducted in consultation with DelDOT, and in collaboration with local stakeholders.
Thank you!

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