



DATE: December 13, 2016

TO: Mayor Tarter and Members of City Council

FROM: Chairs Novotny and Thurston and Members of the Streetscape Taskforce

SUBJECT: Streetscape Standards Update

Background

On May 9, 2016, the City Council chartered the Streetscape Taskforce to recommend updates to the City's Streetscape standards and guidelines. The charter directed the Taskforce to explore three specific elements:

1. Street cross sections;
2. Street furniture – benches, street cans, bike racks, bus shelters, street lights; and
3. Tree pits and plantings.

The Charter also stated that after reviewing these elements, additional elements identified by the Taskforce as needing review and update could be scheduled for later work.

Work of the Taskforce

The Taskforce draws representation from the following groups: City Council, Planning Commission, Economic Development Authority (EDA), Citizens Advisory Committee on Transportation (CACT), Tree Commission, Village Preservation and Improvement Society (VPIS), Chamber of Commerce, Environmental Sustainability Council (ESC), Arts and Humanities Council, Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC), and the Architectural Advisory Board (AAB).

Through nine meetings, the Taskforce worked to develop recommendations that advance the streetscape goals established by Council in the Taskforce's Charter and address the concerns of all group members.

Recommendation

The Streetscape Taskforce recommends the following:

1. That the City's streetscape standards be consolidated into the attached draft standards.

2. That zoning requirements for building setbacks in commercial areas be updated to ensure setback areas are free of building projections.
3. That zoning requirements for building setbacks in commercial areas be updated to require building articulation of the first floor.
4. That zoning requirements for building setbacks be updated to provide cross section widths along civic great streets as depicted in the map in the streetscape standards.
5. That the City develop and implement sidewalk dining guidelines.
6. That additional pedestrian crossings be added along Broad Street and Washington Street.

Comment [CA1]: The proposed widths shown for Maple and Park Avenues would require code amendments.

Comment [PS2]: Note that additional crossings for W Broad Street are already included in the CIP. Some are funded. Others are seeking grant funding.

Comment [PS3]: This is a placeholder for a minority report in case the taskforce cannot come to consensus on particular items

Remaining Concerns

List of Attachments

1. Streetscape Taskforce Charter
2. Draft Streetscape Standards v(latest version)
3. Draft zoning language for building setbacks and building articulation
4. Comments from Boards and Commissions and the staff Development Review Committee