



WHAT ARE COMPLETE STREETS?

"Streets and roadways in the City of Portsmouth will be convenient, safe and accessible for all transportation users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit vehicles and riders, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities."

- City of Portsmouth Complete Streets Policy (2013)

Introduction

"Complete Streets" means streets that are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, so that pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and public transportation users of all ages and abilities are able to safely move along and across all public streets.

These guidelines are intended for use by the City of Portsmouth, private developers and residents as a reference for how to accommodate all users on existing and future city streets. Each street in the city is categorized along a spectrum of complete street classes, each with it's own user priorities, specifications, and design options.

The application of complete streets won't happen on all streets immediately. Complete streets principles will be applied on all new City projects and privately funded developments, and incrementally on existing streets through a series of small improvements and activities over time.

POLICY BACKGROUND

A **City of Portsmouth 2005 Master Plan** objective is to "ensure that all transportation projects in Portsmouth provide for full consideration of all modes (automobile, truck, bicycle, pedestrian, transit) in their design, as appropriate."

In 2013, the City of Portsmouth advanced this objective, by adopting a **Complete Streets Policy** (Resolution 2013-01), with the bold vision: "Streets and roadways in the City of Portsmouth will be convenient, safe and accessible for all transportation users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit vehicles and riders, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities."

The **2014 Portsmouth Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan** built upon this vision, mapping pedestrian and bicycle priority network connections, and included a toolkit of design solutions to provide accommodations for all users.

These **2017 Complete Streets Guidelines** take the vision further, formalizing a classification scheme, identification of design options, and articulation of user needs for every street in the City of Portsmouth.

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH COMPLETE STREET DESIGN GUIDELINES

How to Use This Guide

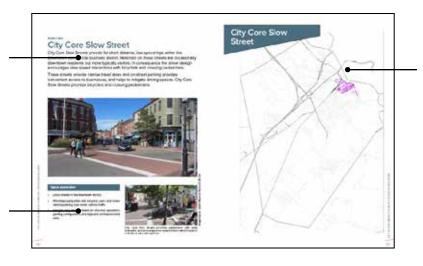
The City of Portsmouth Complete Street Guidelines present the fundamental design elements and dimensions for creating a complete street. Each street classification is presented in a standard layout, for easy access to critical information. Refer to the annotated pages below to understand what details are provided.

Street Classification and Description

A photo and description of how the street fits into the City of Portsmouth transportation and land use context.

Typical Application

Key attributes of where the street classification is most appropriate



Street Classification Map

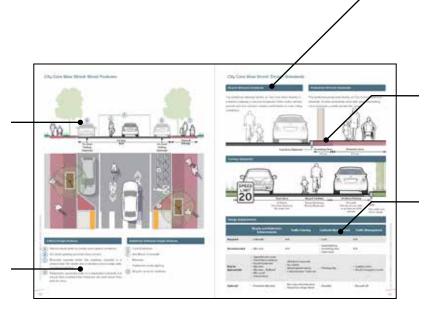
A mapped identification of which streets in the city fit the classification.

Typical Cross Section

A graphic representation of a potential version of the street type. Even within classifications, street layouts may vary.

Design Features

A list of design features applied on this street class, some of which are identified on the illustration above.



Pedestrian/Bicycle Network

Standards related to meeting bicycle and pedestrian travel needs.

Cartway Standards

Standards related to the paved cartway, including recommended operating speed.

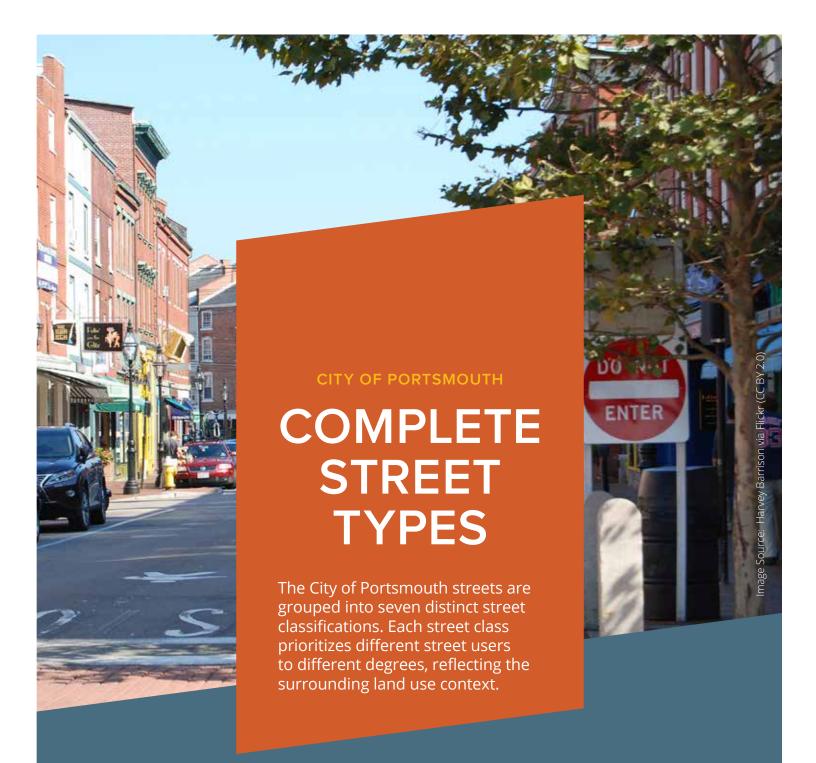
Street Features

Specific street features which may be required for a certain street type, a high priority, appropriate in limited circumstances, not required, or not at all appropriate for each street classification/typology.

Terminology and Street Elements

The City of Portsmouth Complete Street Guidelines are built on local and national guidelines, and apply standard traffic engineering tools and designs. Key street features recommended in these guidelines are described below. For more specific details about the tools, facilities and design elements referred within, refer to the 2014 Portsmouth Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, the 2012 AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, the 2004 AASHTO Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities, and the 2012 NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide.

Design Element	Description
Bicycle Boulevard	A low-speed, low volume roadway intended for use by bicyclists. These streets may include traffic calming and access restrictions to maintain a bicycle compatible environment.
Bicycle Corral	An array of bicycle racks, located within an on-street parking space.
Bicycle Rack	A durable, secured fixture, used to lock bicycles to for short-term parking
Bike Lane	A painted travel lane for the exclusive use of bicyclists.
Buffered Bike Lane	A bike lane with an adjacent painted buffer, providing additional space between bicyclists and motor vehicles.
Bus pull-off	A bus stop located to allow transit vehicles to fully exit moving travel lanes when loading and unloading passengers.
Cartway	The paved roadway surface, from roadway edge or curb to the opposite roadway edge or curb.
Chicanes	A series of curb extensions which creates horizontal deflection of motor vehicles to encourage motorists to maintain a desired slow speed.
Curb extension / bulb out	An extension of the sidewalk into an on-street parking lane, intended to expand pedestrian space, reduce crossing distances, and improve visibility of pedestrians.
Mid-Block Crosswalk	A marked crosswalk located away from an intersection.
Pedestrian Refuge Island	A median island in the center of the roadway to offer pedestrians a place to stop. These reduce crossing distances for pedestrians by allowing them to cross each travel direction independently.
Raised speed reducer	A device that creates vertical deflection of motor vehicles to encourage motorists to maintain a desired slow speed.
Separated Bike Lane	A wide bike lane, physically separated from motor vehicles with a vertical element such as a curb.
Shared Lane Markings	A roadway marking used on roads without bike lanes to indicate the presence and desired use by bicyclists.
Shared Street	A low-speed, low volume street where bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists all operate within the cartway, with no separate bike lanes or sidewalks.
Sidepath	A shared use path traveling adjacent to a roadway for use by bicyclists and pedestrians.
Sidewalk Furnishing Zone	The space between the cartway and where pedestrians walk. Signs, utilities and mailboxes are placed in the furnishing zone. The furnishing zone may be landscaped with plantings or paved in areas with increased pedestrian activity.
Yield Street	A low-speed, low-volume street where the cartway is too narrow for approaching motor vehicles to pass each other without slowing or yielding.



Portsmouth's Seven Complete Streets Classifications:

Neighborhood Slow Street

City Core Slow Street

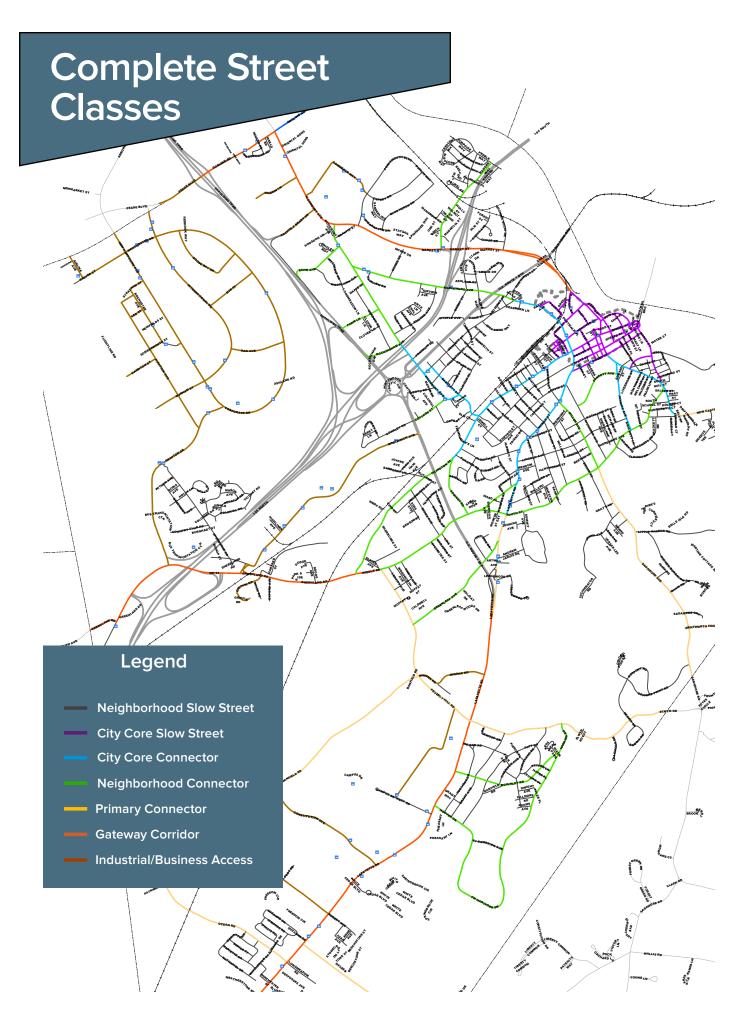
Neighborhood Connector

City Core Connector

Primary Connector

Gateway Corridor

Industrial/Business Access



Neighborhood Slow Street

Neighborhood Slow Streets provide access to residential houses. They are used for short distance, low speed trips in and out of neighborhoods. Motorists on these streets tend to be residents or visitors, and the street design encourages slow speed interactions with bicyclists and crossing pedestrians. On-street parking provides convenient access, and further slows driving speeds.

These streets provide one or two travel lanes, depending on width. Streets with one travel lane can facilitate either one-way traffic or be designated as a two-way "yield street" where opposite direction vehicles share the same lane and negotiate space while crossing opposing vehicle paths. Neighborhood slow streets are not intended for through-traffic, and may make use of traffic calming measures to discourage through motor vehicle traffic and reduce speeds to create a comfortable environment for walking and bicycling.



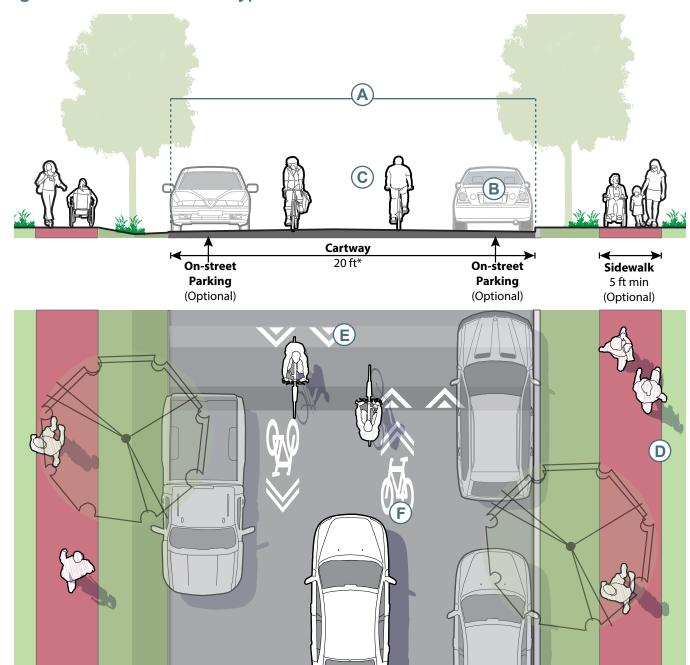
- Local streets in residential neighborhoods.
- Prioritizes pedestrian and bicyclist users.
- Sensitive to historic, or unique local characteristics.



When neighborhood slow streets are a part of a connected walking or bicycling network, street crossings must be enhanced for comfort and safety.



Neighborhood Slow Street: Typical Street Features



Critical Design Features

- A Intentionally constrained travel area width, potentially narrower than two lanes, to create slow-speed conditions.
- B) On-street parking provides easy access.
- Bicyclists operate within the roadway. No center line is marked to encourage safe, courteous passing.

- Pedestrians generally walk on a separated sidewalk, but should feel confident that motorists will yield when they wish to cross.
- (E) Raised speed reducer if needed to manage speeds.
- F Shared lane markings can provide additional guidance for users.
- * Some Neighborhood Slow Streets may have an additional 2 ft of flexible space in their cross-section R.O.W's.

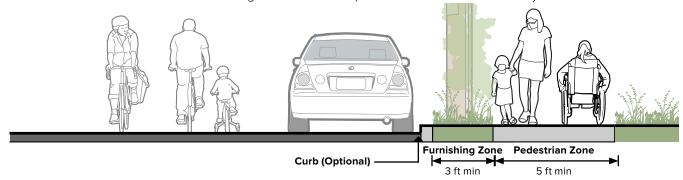
Neighborhood Slow Street: Design Guidelines

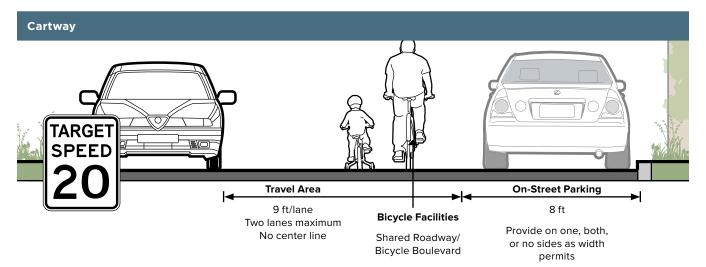
Bicycle Network

The recommended bikeway on Neighborhood Slow Streets is a **bicycle boulevard**, **shared street**, or **signed bike route**. Slow motor vehicle speeds and low volumes create comfortable on-road riding conditions.

Pedestrian Network

The preferred pedestrian facility on Neighborhood Slow Streets is a **sidewalk**. In some cases, streets may lack sidewalks, creating a **shared street** where pedestrians walk in the cartway.





Neighborhood Slow Street: Street Features Overview

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	Bicycle and Pedestrian Enhancements	Traffic Calming	Curbside Management	Traffic Management
Required	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
High Priority	N/A	• Yield street	On-street parkingStreet lightingStreet trees	N/A
Appropriate in Limited Circumstances	Signed bicycle routeShared lane markingsBicycle boulevardShared streetSidewalks	Curb extension / bulb outRaised speed reducerChicanes	CurbPlanting stripFurnishing zone	N/A
Not Required	SidepathBuffered bike laneSeparated bike laneBike racksBike corral	Mid-block crosswalkBus pull-offBus shelterPedestrian refuge island	• Shoulder	• Loading zones
Not Appropriate	N/A	N/A	Median Planting Strip	Priority Emergency RouteTruck RouteCenter line striping (double yellow)

City Core Slow Street

City Core Slow Streets provide for short distance, low speed trips within the Downtown commercial business district. Motorists on these streets are occasionally downtown residents but more typically visitors. In consequence the street design encourages slow speed interactions with bicyclists and crossing pedestrians.

These streets provide on-street parking to allow for convenient access to businesses, and to help mitigate driving speeds. City Core Slow Streets prioritize bicyclists and crossing pedestrians.



Image Source: David Wilson via FLickr (CC BY 2.0)

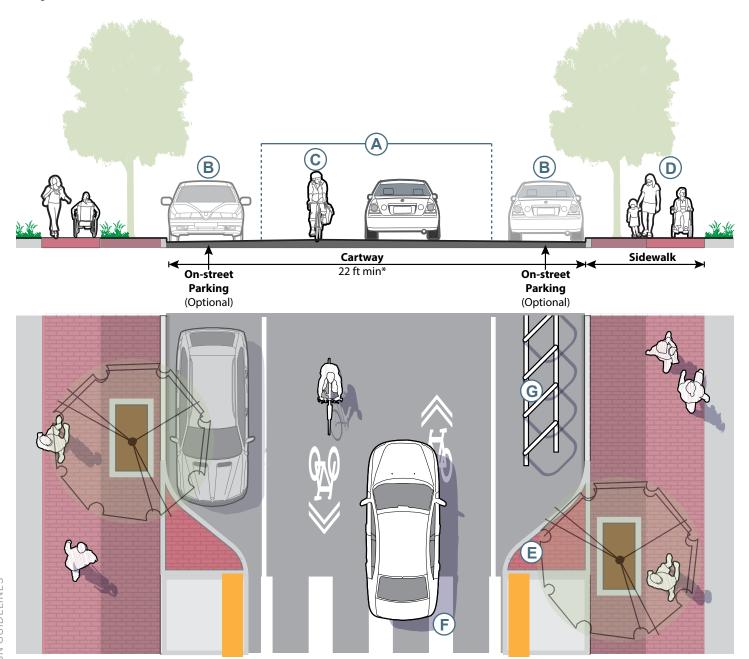
- Local streets in the downtown district.
- Prioritizes pedestrian and bicyclist users and motor vehicle parking over motor vehicle traffic.
- Designs vary widely, based on one-way operation, parking configuration, and adjacent commercial land uses.



A bike corral provides a large number of bicycle parking spaces without impacting usable sidewalk space.



City Core Slow Street: Common Street Features



Critical Design Features

- Narrow travel lanes to create slow-speed conditions.
 - On-street parking provides easy access.
 -) Bicyclists operate within the roadway, typically in a shared lane. No center line is marked to encourage safe, courteous passing.
 - Pedestrians generally walk on a separated sidewalk, but should feel confident that motorists will yield when they wish to cross.

- (E) Curb Extension
- F) Mid-Block Crosswalk
- Benches
- Pedestrian scale lighting
- **G** Bike corral on roadway
- * Some City Core Slow Streets may have an additional 2 ft of flexible space in their cross-section R.O.W's.

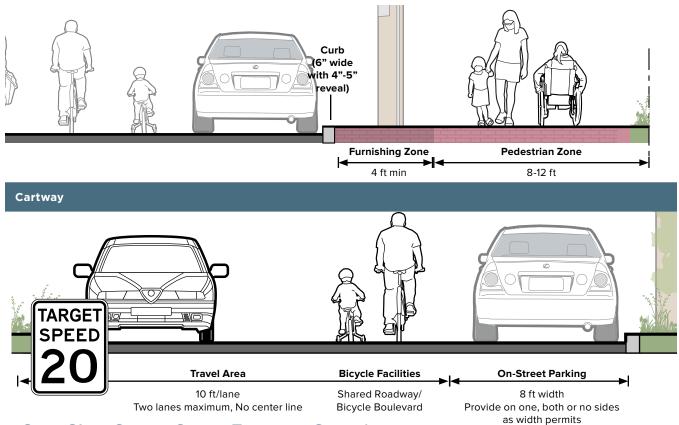
City Core Slow Street: Design Guidelines

Bicycle Network

The recommended bikeway on City Core Slow Streets include **shared lane markings** or a **bicycle boulevard**. Slow motor vehicle speeds and low volumes create comfortable on-road riding conditions. In rare contexts, **buffered** or regular **bike lanes** may be appropriate.

Pedestrian Network

Sidewalks are required on City Core Slow Streets. A wide pedestrian zone with paved furnishing zone maximizes usable pedestrian space. In some cases, where streets may lack sidewalks, create a **shared street** where pedestrians walk in the cartway.



City Core Slow Street: Street Features Overview

Management
zones mergency route
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City Core Connector

City Core Connector streets provide a transition from higher speed streets into the slower downtown and neighborhood context. Two travel lanes and on-street parking send subtle cues to road users of a change in character, and naturally result in slower speed operation. Traffic speeds and volumes create the need for striped bicycle lanes to accommodate cyclists. Where space is limited, shared lane markings may be necessary.



- Collector streets, leading people in and out of the downtown.
- Emphasizes connections from neighborhoods to downtown, and prioritizes user movement over user access.
- Should balance motor vehicle use with bicycle and pedestrian access.

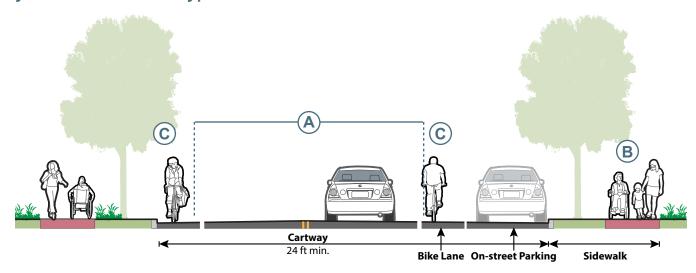


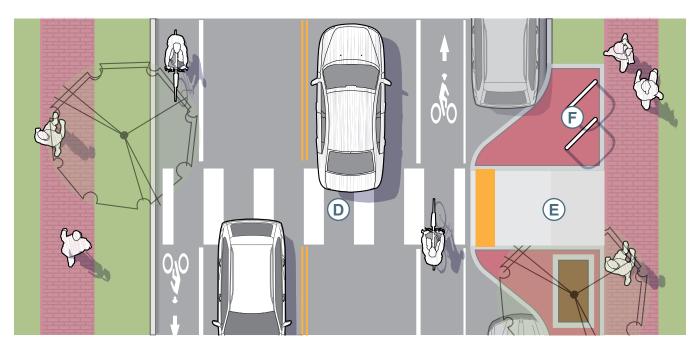
Complete Streets improvements will be coming to Middle Street in the near future.



CITY OF PORTSMOUTH COMPLETE STREET DESIGN GUIDELINES

City Core Connector: Typical Street Features





Critical Design Features

- A maximum of two travel lanes.
- B Pedestrians walk on a separated sidewalk.
- Striped bicycle lanes are a high priority.
- On-street parking is a high priority.

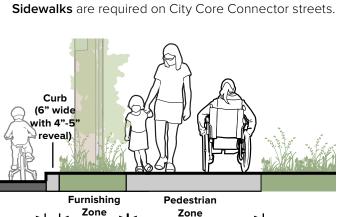
- Mid-block crosswalks allow pedestrians to reach destinations on both sides of the street.
- (E) Curb extensions may enhance pedestrian crossings.
- Bike racks are beneficial in front of businesses.

City Core Connector: Design Guidelines

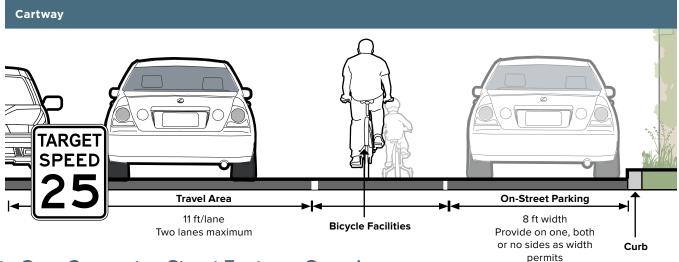
Bicycle Network

Pedestrian Network

The recommended bikeway on City Core Connector streets is a **bike lane.** In constrained segments, **shared lane markings** may be necessary. Where additional comfort is desired, consider a **buffered or separated bike lane**.



Buffer Bike Lane Furnishing Pedestrian Zone 2 ft min. 5 ft min (against curb) 6 ft min (against parking) 3 ft min 5 ft min



City Core Connector: Street Features Overview

	Bicycle and Pedestrian Enhancements	Traffic Calming	Curbside Management	Traffic Management
Required	• Sidewalks	N/A	• Curb	Center line striping (double yellow)
High Priority	• Bike lanes	N/A	On-street parkingPlanting stripStreet lightingStreet trees	N/A
Appropriate in Limited Circumstances	Shared lane markingsBicycle boulevardBuffered bike laneSeparated bike laneBike racks	Mid-block crosswalkBus shelterPedestrian refuge IslandCurb extension / bulb out	ShoulderFurnishing zone	Loading zonesPriority emergency routeTruck route
Not Required	• Sidepath	Bus pull-off	N/A	N/A
Not Appropriate	Signed bicycle routeBike corralShared street	Raised speed reducerChicanesYield street	Median planting strip	N/A

Neighborhood Connector

Neighborhood Connectors bring residents to and from their Neighborhood Slow Street to other parts of the city or region. They provide an opportunity for road users to transition between the higher-speed Primary Connector and Gateway Corridors to the low-speed character of the neighborhood.

The street design emphasizes smooth traffic flow and dedicated space for bicyclists.



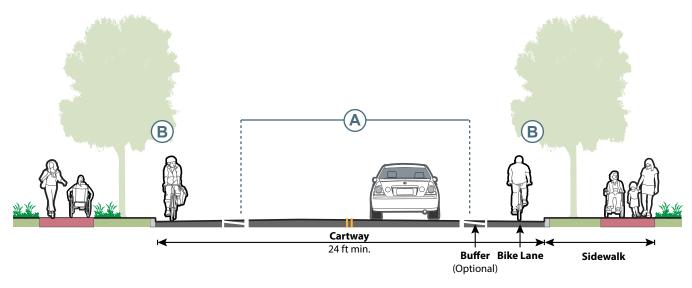
- Collector streets which link neighborhoods to each other and to arterial streets.
- Emphasizes motor vehicle movement, but may serve important bicycle and pedestrian connections where demand exists.

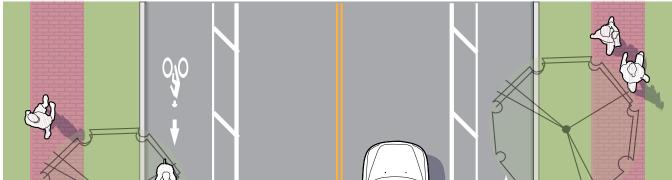


On street parking may be appropriate in areas with adjacent land uses.

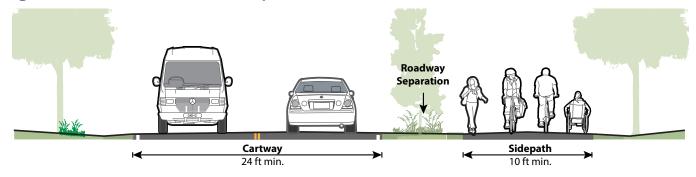


Neighborhood Connector: Typical Street Features





Neighborhood Connector: Sidepath Alternative



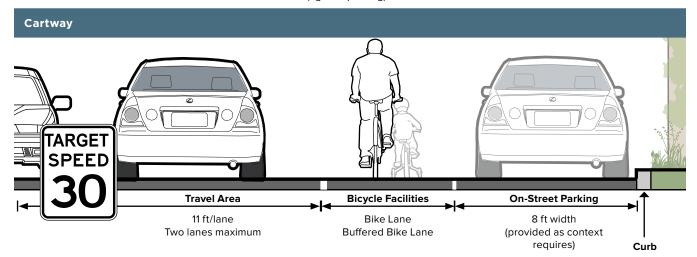
Critical Design Features

- A Two travel lanes, marked with a center line marking.
- Bicycle facilities are preferred.
- Pedestrians walk on a separated sidewalk.

- A sidepath may replace on-street facilities and sidewalks.
- A planting strip to support street trees and landscaping in the furnishing zone is a high priority.

Neighborhood Connector: Design Guidelines

Bicycle Network **Pedestrian Network** The recommended bikeway on a Neighborhood Sidewalks are required on Neighborhood Connector Connector street is a bike lane or buffered bike lane. streets. A sidepath may be provided in place of a In constrained conditions, shared lane markings may sidewalk. be necessary. Where additional comfort is desired, consider a separated bike lane or sidepath. Curb (6" wide with 4"-5" reveal) **Furnishing** Pedestrian Lane Zone Zone 5 ft min. (against curb) 3 ft min. 5 ft min. 6 ft min. (against parking)



Neighborhood Connector: Street Features Overview

	Bicycle and Pedestrian Enhancements	Traffic Calming	Curbside Management	Traffic Management
Required	• Sidewalks	N/A	• Curb	Center Line Striping (double yellow)
High Priority	Bike laneBuffered bike lane	N/A	 Planting strip Street lighting Street trees	N/A
Appropriate in Limited Circumstances	SidepathShared lane markingsSeparated bike lane	 Mid-block crosswalk Bus shelter Raised speed reducer Pedestrian Refuge Island Curb extension / bulb out 	On-street parkingShoulderFurnishing zone	• Priority Emergency Route
Not Required	Bike racksBike corral	• Bus pull-off	N/A	N/A
Not Appropriate	Signed bicycle routeBicycle boulevardShared street	ChicanesYield street	Median planting strip	Loading zonesTruck route

Primary Connector

Primary Connectors emphasize efficient travel between other connector and corridor streets. Turn lanes may be provided at intersections to keep traffic flowing smoothly. Dedicated bicycle facilities are considered a high priority.



Typical Application

 Motor vehicle movement is prioritized, but bicycle faciltiies may be useful for providing multimodal access to job centers and other commercial destinations.

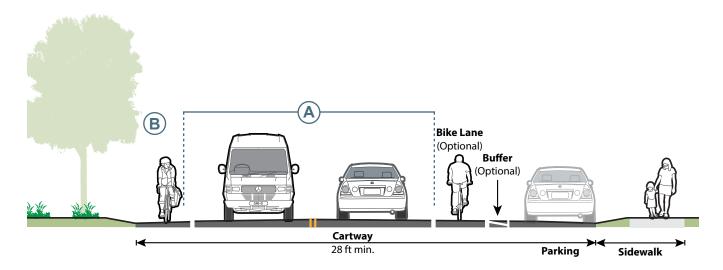


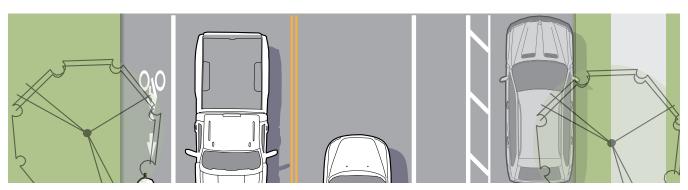
Despite higher speed and volumes, streets such as Elwyn Road can still accommodate a wide range of non-motorized users.



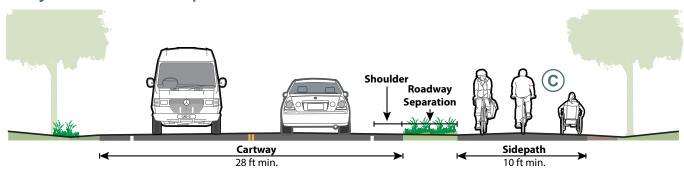
CITY OF PORTSMOUTH COMPLETE STREET DESIGN GUIDELINES

Primary Connector: Typical Street Features





Primary Connector: Sidepath Alternative



Critical Design Features

- A Two travel lanes.
- Bicycle facilities are preferred.

- A sidepath may replace on-street facilities and sidewalks.
 - Turn lanes at intersections promote traffic flow.

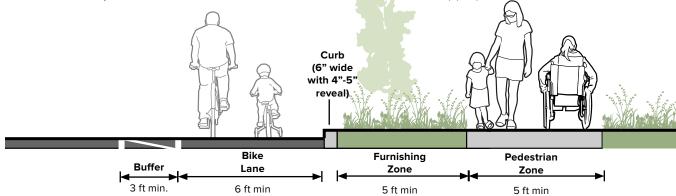
Primary Connector: Design Guidelines

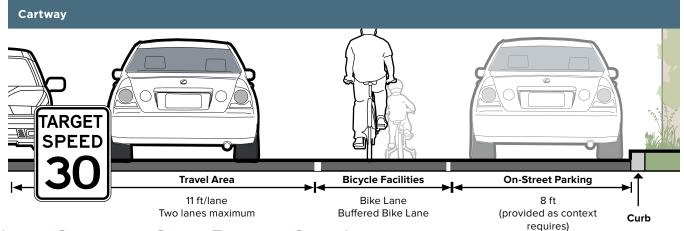
Bicycle Network

The recommended bikeway on a Primary Connector street is a **bike lane** or **buffered bike lane**. Where additional comfort is desired, consider a **separated bike lane** or **sidepath**.

Pedestrian Network

On Primary Connector streets, pedestrians will walk on **shoulders** in the absence of sidewalks. Provide **sidewalks** or a **sidepath** where pedestrian facilities are desired and/or appropriate,.





Primary Connector: Street Features Overview

Times, Commoder Carder				
	Bicycle and Pedestrian Enhancements	Traffic Calming	Curbside Management	Traffic Management
Required	N/A	N/A	• Shoulder	 Center Line Striping (double yellow)
High Priority	Bike laneBuffered bike lane	N/A	N/A	N/A
Appropriate in Limited Circumstances	SidepathSeparated bike laneSidewalks	 Mid-block crosswalk Raised speed reducer Pedestrian refuge island Curb extension / bulb out 	On-street parkingCurbPlanting stripStreet lightingFurnishing zoneStreet trees	Priority emergency routeTruck route
Not Required	Bike racks	Bus pull-offBus shelter	N/A	N/A
Not Appropriate	Signed bicycle routeShared lane markingsBicycle boulevardBike corralShared street	 Chicanes Yield street	• Median planting strip	• Loading zones

Gateway Corridor

Gateway Corridors are the higher-speed entrance/exit roadways to and from the City of Portsmouth. The street is configured with 2-4 lanes for traffic flow, as their primary function is the efficient movement of motor vehicles. Sufficient accommodations should be made for pedestrians, bicyclists and transit users along these routes where they are expected.



- To provide high speed and high volume connections to freeways.
- Serve as transitions between auto-only freeways, and multimodal connector streets.

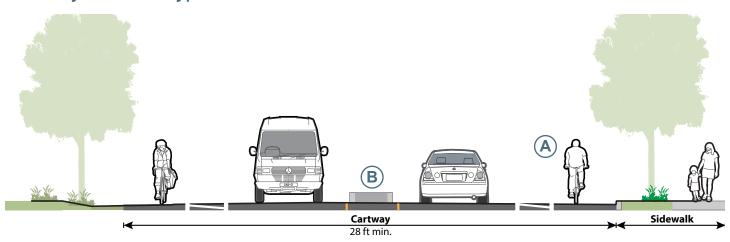


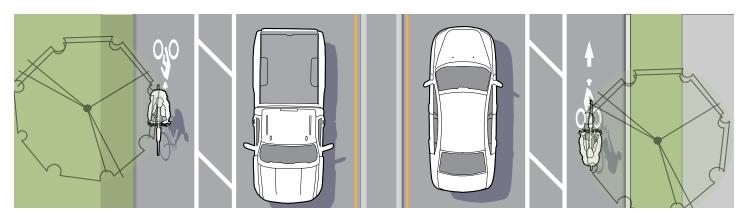
Medians can allow for enhanced pedestrian crossings.



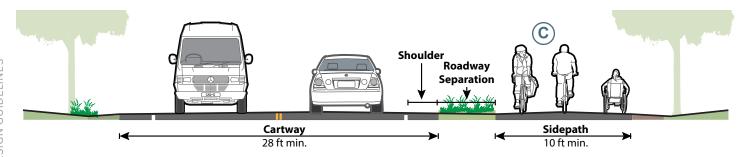
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Gateway Corridor: Typical Street Features





Gateway Corridor: Sidepath Alternative

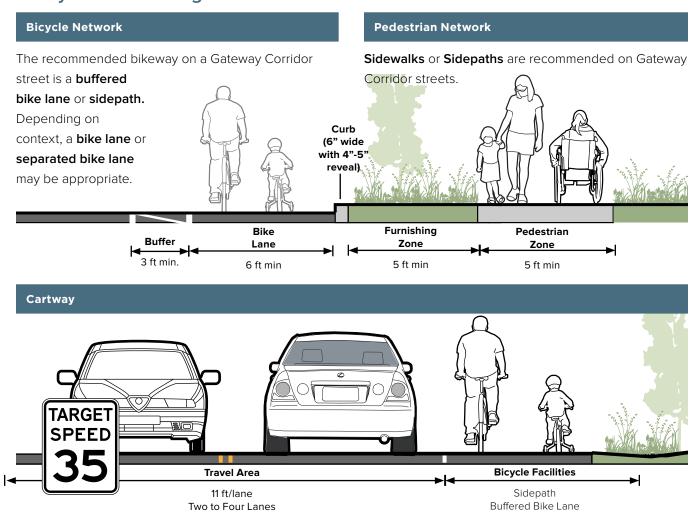


Critical Design Features

- A separated bike facility, such as buffered bike lanes or a sidepath, is preferred.
- Medians (with a median planting strip where space is available).
- No on-street parking.
- Bus pull-outs and shelters.

- A sidepath may replace on-street facilities and sidewalks.
 - A median can enhance safety and aesthetics.
 - Turn lanes at intersections promote traffic flow.

Gateway Corridor: Design Guidelines



(may overlap with shoulder)

Gateway Corridor: Street Features Overview

	Bicycle and Pedestrian Enhancements	Traffic Calming	Curbside Management	Traffic Management
Required	N/A	N/A	• Shoulder	 Center Line Striping (double yellow)
High Priority	SidepathBuffered bike laneSidewalks	Bus pull-offBus shelterPedestrian refuge island	Planting stripStreet lightingStreet treesMedian Planting Strip	Priority emergency routeTruck route
Appropriate in Limited Circumstances	Bike laneSeparated bike lane	N/A	CurbFurnishing zone	N/A
Not Required	Bike racks	 Curb extension / bulb out 	N/A	N/A
Not Appropriate	Signed bicycle routeShared lane markingsBicycle boulevardBike corralShared street	Mid-block crosswalkRaised speed reducerChicanesYield street	On-street parking	• Loading zones

Industry/Business Park Access

Industry/Business Park Corridors provide access to major employment centers. These streets have a significant transportation connectivity function and serve as a destination for commercial activity. Roadway priorities should be balanced among motor vehicles, transit, bicyclists and pedestrians. The accommodation of large trucks should be a design consideration in primarily industrial areas.

These streets tend to be auto-oriented, and separated bicycle and pedestrian facilities are necessary to create a comfortable walking and bicycling environment.



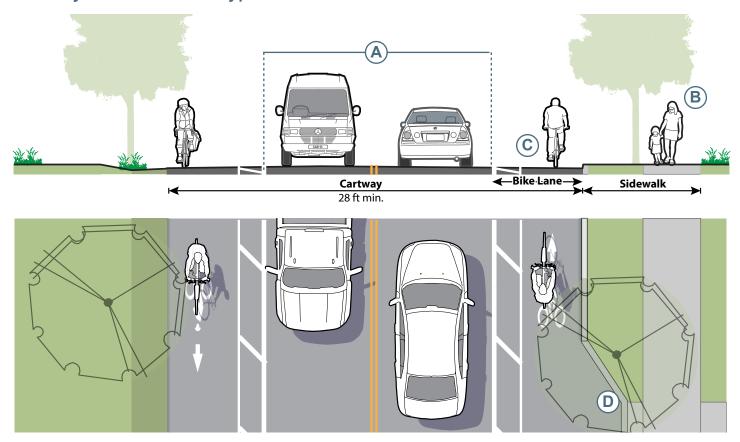
- Serves freight and commercial vehicle activity areas.
- May serve pedestrian and bicycle activity where businesses are in close proximity and adequate facilities are provided.



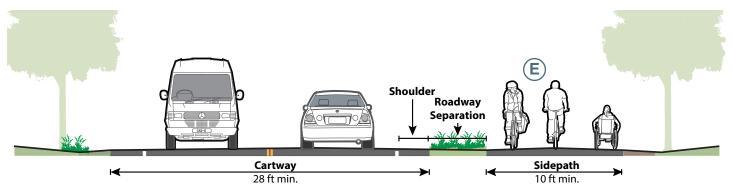
Heritage Ave is a typical example of this roadway typology in Portsmouth.



Industry/Business Park: Typical Street Features



Industry/Business Park: Sidepath Alternative

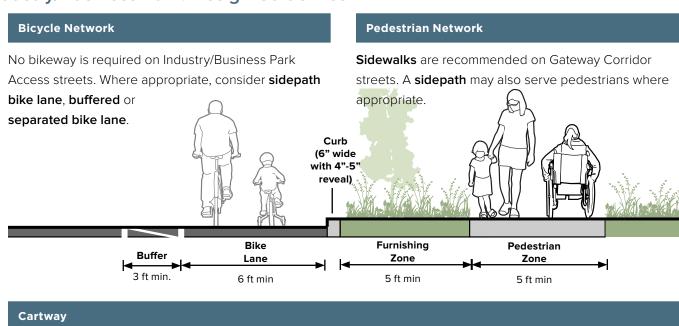


Critical Design Features

- Appropriate roadway design for designated truck routes.
- B Sidewalk should be provided in the vicinity of business park clusters to connect to transit and other businesses.
- **©** Buffered or separated bike lanes are preferred.
- **D** Bus pull-outs and shelter.

- A sidepath may replace on-street facilities and sidewalks.
- A median can enhance safety and aesthetics.
- Turn lanes at intersections promote traffic flow.

Industry/Business Park: Design Guidelines



TARGET SPEED 11 ft/lane Two Lanes Bicycle Facilities Sidepath Buffered Bike Lane Separated Bike Lane Separated Bike Lane

Bike Lane

Shoulder

Industry/Business Park: Street Features Overview

	Bicycle and Pedestrian Enhancements	Traffic Calming	Curbside Management	Traffic Management
Required	N/A	N/A	• Shoulder	Center Line Striping (double yellow)
High Priority	• Sidewalks	Bus pull-offBus shelter	N/A	 Priority emergency route Truck route
Appropriate in Limited Circumstances	SidepathBike laneBuffered bike laneSeparated bike lane	Mid-block crosswalkPedestrian refuge island	CurbPlanting stripStreet lightingFurnishing zoneStreet treesMedian planting strip	N/A
Not Required	Bike racks	• Curb extension / bulb out	N/A	N/A
Not Appropriate	Signed bicycle routeShared lane markingsBicycle boulevardBike corralShared street	Raised speed reducerChicanesYield street	On-street parking	• Loading zones