

RDA Streetscape Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Sept 21, 2018

Reno City Hall, 7th Floor Caucus Room

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Stamped concrete - Strong consensus to remove the existing standard. Reasons: High cost, non-ADA compliant, excessive sealant requirements, hard to match/repair, inconsistent application, excessive cleaning, “nobody goes home saying, ‘I’m coming back to Reno because they had stamped concrete in their downtown’” (we should invest our money in other things).

Colored concrete - No consensus; discussion on the colored panel pattern in the RTC Midtown plan.

Decorative saw cut/joint patterns - General consensus that this was a desirable and cost effective new design standard.

Rolled curbs - substantial discussion:

Multiple issues raised/discussed. 1. Some streets are used for festivals, parades, and other events, and a rolled curb allows the vendors to expand horizontally and make more space down the middle of the road for emergency vehicle access. 2. In areas where there is existing rolled curb, the first few feet of sidewalk are failing because vehicles are driving up on the sidewalk and it isn’t rated for their weight. 3. Square back curb helps protect trees, lights, and pedestrians on the sidewalk.

Options: Rolled curb and sidewalk only along certain streets (Virginia and intersecting streets 1 block east/west?) constructed to higher standard (6” concrete? Only first 4’ of sidewalk adjacent to TBC higher standard?).

Boundary Transitions - Consensus that the Manual must incorporate a design that complements the work being done by RTC on Virginia St through Midtown and UNR.

Vegetation/Trees - Discussion on the staff proposal for multiple tree and plant species to: avoid wholesale loss due to disease, address different growing/sun locations, provide variety/design alternatives, and accommodate varying right-of-way widths. General consensus that this was a good proposal.

Street Furniture - General discussion on what should and shouldn’t be located on the sidewalk from property line to TBC (top back of curb). Observation that “fixed” street furniture reduces the flexibility of the space for events/vendors/parades.

Public benches - No

Private furniture that is removed each day - Yes

Big Bellies - Yes

Bike racks - It depends on location and design

Lime Bikes/Scooters - Mixed reaction; no consensus on how to address/too new of topic

Banner/Light fixture arms - Need a better process for utilizing them

Prioritization - Staff led discussion on pedestrian access vs street elements. General consensus that the standards should always emphasize a balance between pedestrian access and street elements and that the manual administrators should always look for win-win outcomes, but that pedestrian access should be the priority when deciding between alternatives.

Lighting - General consensus to continue with the existing Sternberg lighting fixtures, and to remove the victorian globe fixture that had been spec'd in certain areas but rarely installed. The globe design was determined to be inferior and non-darkskies compliant.

Variance Process - General consensus supporting staff proposed language

Implementation Process - Substantial discussion regarding timing, matching new with existing, and related issues. General consensus in support of the staff proposed language; however, it was also suggested that there might be situations when it would be desirable to replace earlier.