

DRAFT Pedestrian Engineering Strategies

2015 Alexandria Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Update

06/08/2015

1. Apply the Complete Streets Design Guidelines for all new development and future capital improvement projects.

The Complete Streets Design Guidelines are being developed in parallel with the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Update, and will provide City staff and developers with direction regarding sidewalk width and materials, sidewalk buffers, lighting, street trees and other green features, wayfinding, street furnishings, methods for activating the pedestrian experience and other topics related to the pedestrian environment.

2. Close sidewalk gaps and improve sidewalks where needed.

The Plan Update will include a prioritized list of recommended new sidewalks and associated new funding required to implement the sidewalks. It will also include guidance on improvements such as sidewalk width, buffers and maintenance of sidewalks, including maintenance of vegetation that can impede pedestrian travel on sidewalks.

3. Prioritize and standardize curb ramp upgrades and other ADA improvements.

The Plan Update recommends ADA accessible curb ramps that align with crosswalks at every intersection, and will provide guidance on other ADA issues such as accessible pedestrian pushbuttons and signals.

4. Improve safety and access through and across major barriers including freeways, waterways and rail corridors.

Areas near major barriers require enhanced design treatments to ensure pedestrian comfort, safety and visibility. The Plan Update will include information on engineering strategies appropriate for these areas, such as wider sidewalks, buffers, and geometric changes to intersections.

5. Improve crossing conditions, especially in areas with high pedestrian demand, for all new development and future capital improvement projects.

The Plan Update will give guidance on crosswalk placement and design, removal of slip ramps, as well as other strategies that increase pedestrian safety, comfort and visibility at intersection and mid-block crossings.

6. Improve access and safety for all users on trails; particularly at entrance/exit points.

This strategy addresses the need to remove obstacles, improve design and provide wayfinding on trails, particularly at potential conflict points or areas with high pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

7. Reduce conflicts between bikes and pedestrians on sidewalks.

This issue is particularly problematic in some areas of Old Town where there are crowded sidewalks and limited on-street bicycle facilities. A combination of engineering, education and enforcement strategies (in areas where sidewalk riding is prohibited) will be required to address this challenge.

8. Improve walkability, connectivity and ADA access to transit.

This strategy addresses access to transit stops and stations through the City (i.e. bus, Metroway and Metrorail). The Plan Update will discuss ADA accessibility and reducing circuitous pedestrian travel to make more direct connections in these locations, as well as a phased strategy for making improvements.

9. Improve walkability, connectivity and ADA access near schools.

The Plan Update will recommend continued partnerships with Alexandria City Public Schools and the Alexandria Police Department to determine locations near schools that need pedestrian improvements such as new/widened sidewalks, curb ramp upgrades, lighting, sidewalk buffers, high-visibility crosswalks and traffic calming.