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# **Glossary of Terms**

#### A

Accessible/Accessibility: A pedestrian facility or element in the public right-of-way that complies with ADA guidelines.

ADT (Average Daily Traffic): The number of vehicles to pass a given point on a roadway during a 24-hour period on an average day of a given year. Existing volumes may be measured with a recording device (machine counter) placed on the roadway. Existing volumes may also be estimated, or future volumes forecast, with the aid of computerized travel models representing existing or future land use and transportation networks.

**Artwork:** May be permanent, temporary, fixed, or portable; may be an integral part of a building, facility, or structure; and may be integrated with the work of other design professionals.

## В

**Buffer:** See Furnishings Zone.

#### (

**Commercial:** A land use classification that permits facilities for employment, shopping, services, recreation, and lodging.

Complete Streets: Streets designed and operated to enable mobility for all users. Users include people of all ages and abilities, regardless of whether they are traveling as pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, or motorists.

Concrete/P.C.C./A.C.: Terms and abbreviations used to describe the materials used in the construction of roadways, bridges, and sidewalks. *Concrete* and *P.C.C.* refer to Portland

cement concrete, a material consisting of Portland cement, coarse and fine aggregates, and water. A.C. refers to asphaltic concrete, a material consisting of asphalt cement, coarse aggregates, and fine aggregates.

**Continuous Lighting:** Fixed overhead lighting system designed to provide a specific level of illuminance, luminance and uniformity of light on the roadway throughout a highway complex.

Community Plan Implementation Overlay Zone (CPIOZ): Specific sites within community plan areas of the City with tailored supplemental development regulations. The intent of these regulations is to ensure that development proposals are reviewed for consistency with the use and development criteria that have been adopted for specific sites as part of the community plan update process.

Crosswalk: (a) That portion of a roadway included within the prolongation or connection of the boundary lines of sidewalks at intersections where the intersecting roadways meet at approximately right angles, except the prolongation of such lines from an alley across a street.

(b) Any portion of a roadway distinctly indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines or other markings on the surface.

**Curb:** A raised feature along the side of a *street* that delineates the edge of the *roadway* or *pedestrian circulation path.* 

**Curb Ramp:** A sloped connection that is cut through or built up to a *curb. Curb ramps* may be perpendicular or parallel to the *curb* or to the *street* they serve or be a combination thereof.

## D

**Daylighting:** Intersection daylighting is a safety improvement that restricts parking near intersections. This makes it easier for road users to see and respond to each other.

**Design Speed:** A selected speed used to determine the various geometric design features of the roadway.

Detectable warning surfaces: Detectable warning surfaces are a distinctive surface pattern of domes detectable by cane or underfoot that alert people with vision impairments of their approach to street crossings and hazardous drop-offs.

Development: The act, process, or result of dividing a parcel of land into two or more parcels; of erecting, placing, constructing, reconstructing, converting, establishing, altering, maintaining, relocating, demolishing, using, or enlarging any building, structure, improvement, lot, or premises. The act of clearing, grubbing, excavating, embanking, filling, managing brush, or agricultural clearing on public or private property including the construction of slopes and facilities incidental to such work; or of disturbing any existing vegetation.

## E

**Easement:** an interest in land owned by another that entitles its holder to a specified limited use or enjoyment.

Edge Zone: Commonly referred to as the "Curb", it is the interface between the roadway and the sidewalk. This area can be wider at transit stops and bus shelters.

**Encroachment:** An encroachment is any privately owned and maintained improvement located

within the public right of way or a public easement.

**Esplanade:** v integrates an off-street bicycle path (typically two-way), a pedestrian walkway, trees, and landscaping into a travel corridor alongside a vehicular roadway.

#### F

Flex Zone: The area of the Roadway Zone that encompasses between the Parkway Zone and the Vehicle Zone.

Flexible (Flex) Lane: Re-purposed lanes for transit and/or other congestion-reducing mobility forms. Flex Lanes provide dedicated space for moving people more efficiently through a corridor.

Frontage Zone: The area within the Parkway Zone that is adjacent to the property line that may be defined by a building façade, surface material change, landscaping, or a fence.

Furnishings Zone: The area located on the curb side of the Parkway Zone and can include seating, lighting, signage and wayfinding, public art, transit amenities, and bicycle amenities.

#### G

Green Streets: Streets designed to incorporate best practices for stormwater management and other components beneficial to the environment. Features of green streets include use of drought tolerant, native plants; permeable pavements; bioswales and other stormwater facilities.

Greenways: See Linear Parks.

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**Gutter/Gutter Pan:** A portion of the roadway structure used to intercept pavement runoff and carry it along the roadway shoulder.

#### Н

Horizontal Curve: A geometric design feature of a roadway that provides a smooth change in direction to the left or right.

#### I

**Industrial:** A land use classification to accommodate a range of industrial and manufacturing activities.

Intersection Sight Distance: The distance a motorist can see approaching vehicles before their line of sight is blocked by an obstruction near the intersection.

#### Т

Land Use Plans: The General Plan and adopted community plans, specific plans, precise plans, and sub-area plans.

Landscaped Buffer: A piece of land located between the rear of a curb [Edge Zone] and the front of a sidewalk [Throughway Zone], usually used for planting low ground cover and/or street trees, also known as a "planter strip." See Furnishings Zone.

Linear Park: Passive or active recreation uses in urban areas, arranged parallel to the public right-of-way or a geographical feature; can be continuous or a sequence of recreational spaces, linked by a pedestrian and/or multi-use path.

Local Access Lanes: also "Side access lanes" or "Side lanes". Vehicle and bicycle lanes on a multiway boulevard that serve parking, loading, and

adjacent land uses, separated by a median from through traffic.

Low Profile Landscaping: Landscaping that contains plantings with a mature height of no more than 36 inches. Refer to \$142.0409 (b) (2).

## M

Major Street/Minor Street: Descriptive terms of the relative traffic volumes on two streets at an intersection. The major street carries the higher volume of traffic and is usually wider than the minor street. At a T-intersection, the major street is the through street and the minor street forms the stem of the "T."

Median: The part of the roadway, wider than a double yellow line, that separates opposing directions of traffic. It is usually raised and delineated by curbs and may be landscaped. It may also be depressed or level with the traffic lanes.

**Median Zone:** The region of the right of way (ROW) that is often in the center of the roadway between two vehicle zones.

Micromobility: Mobility devices that consist of electric scooters, electric skateboards, bicycles, electric pedal assisted bicycles, pedelec ("pedal electric cycle") bicycles, and neighborhood electric vehicles (NEV). While micromobility devices are available for individual purchase, they are more commonly rented/shared through on-demand or subscription-based services.

**Mode:** A means of travel used during a trip, including, but not limited to walking, biking, transit, or driving.

**Multimodal:** Having or involving multiple travel options (modes) within a corridor or facility; also connections between modes.

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Multi-Use Path: Also referred to as a shared-use path, they provide a completely separated right-of-way designated for the exclusive use of active transportation users, such as pedestrians and bicyclists, with minimal crossings by motorists.

## Ν

Non-residential: A type of land use that does not accommodate residential development. Typically non-residential refers to commercial or industrial uses.

## 0

**Open Space:** A land use designation to protect land for outdoor recreation, education, and scenic and visual enjoyment.

## P

Park: Park means any public property, whether developed or undeveloped, held out by the City or used by the public for active or passive park and recreation uses, including adjacent buffer lands and natural areas and any adjacent parking lots and perimeter sidewalks. The definition of park includes open space and all public beaches, beach areas, bays, and wetlands within the City.

Parkway/Parkway Zone: The region of the public right-of-way between the property line and the curb of a street. The Parkway Zone is composed of four distinct zones: the Edge Zone, Furnishings Zone, Throughway Zone, and Frontage Zone.

Passing Sight Distance: The distance required for a vehicle to safely overtake a slower vehicle on a two-lane roadway by maneuvering into the lane of opposing traffic and then back into the right lane when past the slower vehicle. It is rarely provided on urban streets, but it is common on rural roads in flat or rolling terrain.

**Pedestrian:** A person on foot, travelling by wheelchair or other mobility device, on skates, or on a skateboard.

**Pedestrian Access Route:** An accessible, continuous, and unobstructed path of travel for use by persons with disabilities within a pedestrian circulation path.

Pedestrian Circulation Path: A prepared exterior or interior surface provided for pedestrian travel in the public right-of-way.

Pedestrian-Scale Lighting: Adequate and aesthetically pleasing lighting should be provided for safety, security, and a greater sense of comfort for pedestrians of all abilities, allowing them to quickly and accurately recognize cues that will enable their safe navigation. The appropriate height for pedestrian lighting is between 12 and 20 feet. Light standards may also be combined on one post. Low, pedestrian-oriented lights can be affixed to a post and direct light onto sidewalks while the same post may also accommodate auto-oriented lights directed at roadways.

**Pedestrianways:** A facility that primarily provides for pedestrian circulation between two closely-spaced (250 feet or less) streets. It has a walkway surface and landscaping and may include pedestrian-scale lighting and an underground utility corridor.

Placemaking: The temporary use of public rightof-way and private property that activates streetscapes by enhancing the pedestrian experience and providing neighborhood-serving activities, experiences, or spaces and includes temporary, small-scale development specifically designed to support that temporary use.

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Planting Strip: Also referred as the Furnishings Zone, is the landscaped area between the Throughway Zone and Edge Zone. This area must be a minimum of 2 feet wide to accommodate trees, but ideally 6 feet wide to encourage tree growth of larger shade tree species.

Precise Plan: A detailed, long-term plan for the development of a sub-area of a community plan. Generally, a precise plan would include a residential neighborhood, commercial area, industrial area, or some geographical area sharing common facilities or problems. Usually a precise plan proposes specific land uses for each parcel and is often based on a detailed grading plan. In some instances, very specific proposals relative to the layout of buildings, parking, and landscaping are included within the precise plan. A precise plan is adopted by City Council resolution.

Promenade: The partial or complete street closure to vehicular traffic to facilitate active transportation uses such as walking, biking, recreation, outdoor dining, and enjoyable public interaction.

**Property Line:** A line that defines the boundaries of a lot of premises for the purposes of applying development regulations.

**Public Service Easement:** An easement granted to the City of San Diego for public utilities of any kind and related facilities.

**Public Right-Of-Way (ROW):** A public easement or public property that is or may be used for streets, alleys, or other public purpose.

#### R

**Residential:** A type of land use that is designated for housing.

**Retrofit:** An upgrade, modification or addition to an existing street or facility to improve its operation, safety, or functionality.

**Roadway:** The portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel and parking lanes, but exclusive of the sidewalk, berm, or shoulder.

Roadway Zone: The region of the right-of way or street between curb faces that is composed of three distinct zones: the Flex Zone, Vehicle Zone, and Median Zone.

## S

Shared Use Path: A multi-use path designed primarily for use by bicyclists, pedestrians, and other authorized motorized and non-motorized users, for transportation purposes, and that may also be used for recreation. Shared use paths are physically separated from motor vehicle traffic by an open space or barrier and are either within the highway or other public right-of-way.

Shared Pedestrian/Bikeway Facilities: A facility that primarily provides for pedestrian and bicycle circulation between two closely-spaced (250 feet or less) streets. It has a walkway/riding surface and landscaping and may include pedestrian-scale lighting and an underground utility corridor.

Shared Street: A street or portion of a street where pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists share the road; however, pedestrians have priority over vehicles. The street is designed without barriers, which gives pedestrians freedom to roam and increases social interaction opportunities, but counter-intuitively, improves safety by forcing motorists to slow down, pay attention, and negotiate right-of-way with pedestrians and bicyclists.

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**Sidewalk:** That portion of a highway between the curb line, or the lateral line of a roadway, and the adjacent property line, or on easements of private property, that is paved or improved and intended for use by pedestrians. See Throughway Zone.

**Single Loaded Street:** a street serving property (front yard or side yard) on one side only, with no need for access (to a rear yard or to open space) or parking on the other side.

**Specific Plan:** A type of land use plan that contains detailed land use polices for a specific area. The minimum contents of a specific plan are stipulated by state law. Specific plans are adopted by a City Council ordinance.

Stopping Sight Distance: The distance required for a vehicle traveling at a particular speed to come to a safe stop to avoid colliding with an object in the roadway. It is measured with a driver's eye height of 3.50 feet (1070 mm) above the roadway and an object height of 6 inches (150 mm) above the roadway. The distance includes vehicular travel during the driver's perception of and reaction to the object and the vehicular travel during braking.

**Street:** See Roadway.

**Street Tree:** A tree adjacent to a street and located within the public ROW.

#### П

**Target Speed:** The operating speed that the designer intends for drivers to use.

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD): A mixed-used community within a typical 2,000-foot (600 m) walking distance of a transit stop and core commercial area. The design, configuration, and mix of uses emphasize a pedestrian-oriented

environment and reinforce the use of public transportation without ignoring the role of the automobile. TODs mix residential, retail, office, open space, and public uses within a comfortable walking distance, making it convenient for residents and employees to travel by transit, bicycle, by foot, or by car.

**Transit:** The carrying of passengers in a bus or trolley along a regularly scheduled route for a fixed, basic fare.]

Throughway Zone: The area intended for pedestrian travel only, such as a sidewalk, and should be entirely clear of obstacles, including driveway aprons, typically between the Furnishings Zone and the Frontage Zone.

**Traveled Way:** The lanes of a street or roadway in which the moving vehicles travel. Does not include shoulders or parking lanes.

**Tree Well:** The box housing that provides space around the trunk of a tree that allows for healthy growth of the tree.



Vehicle Zone: The portion of the public ROW between the Flex Zone and the Median Zone. Its primary function is to define the intended path of travel for vehicles, transit, and other road users along a corridor.

Vertical Curve: A geometric design feature of a roadway that provides a smooth transition between an ascending grade and a descending grade, or vice versa. A crest vertical curve begins with an ascending grade and ends with a descending grade. A sag vertical curve begins with a descending grade and ends with an ascending grade.

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Visibility Areas: Specified areas along intersection corners that should be clear of obstructions that might block a driver's view of pedestrians and potentially conflicting vehicles. The dimensions of visibility areas depend on the design speeds of the intersecting roadways and the types of traffic control used at the intersections.

Vulnerable Road User (VRU): Road users not in a car, bus or truck, generally considered to include pedestrians, motorcycle riders, cyclists, children 7-years and under, the elderly and users of mobility devices. In the event of a crash, VRUs have little to no protection from crash forces.

## W

**Walkway:** A general exterior route designed to provided pedestrian accessibility and includes plazas, courts, and sidewalks.

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