

Urban Design Initiative

March 2018 update



Overview

Since June of 2016, an ODOT Planning and Design leadership team has been developing a comprehensive and balanced approach to urban design standards and guidance with intent to allow more flexibility. This effort also emphasizes improving alignment between the planning and design disciplines.

In support of the agency's intermodal objectives of integrated decision making, efficiency and customer service, the scope of the **Urban Design Initiative** includes all modes: pedestrian, public transportation, bicycle, motor vehicle, and rail. The intended outcome is to provide more direction and clarity in designing ODOT facilities in various urban and suburban state highway contexts in Oregon.

The Urban Design Initiative includes the design manual updates outlined in the 2016 Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, the results of the stakeholder survey in 2017 and upcoming outreach to ODOT designers, planners and local agencies.

Goals of this initiative

1. Develop new urban design guidance that can be used early in both planning and scoping processes that provides clarity for agency staff, stakeholders and customers.
2. Develop user-friendly guidance to achieve high customer acceptance.
3. Develop easily maintainable guidance that can be efficiently updated to address emerging issues and best practices.
4. Build understanding and acceptance of urban design contexts, appropriate design treatments, and flexibility limits of engineering design through outreach and training to staff, stakeholder and customer groups.
5. Ensure urban design guidance easily relates, connects, informs and aligns with appropriate manuals and standards.

Why are we talking to you now?

ODOT's commitment to improve its products and services related to urban design begins with you, our customers and stakeholders. During Phase 1 of the Urban Design Initiative, the project team engaged ODOT's internal staff of designers and planners, including ODOT certified and non-certified local agencies, to gather input for the final Bridging Document. The Bridging Document will be completed in the next eight-to-ten months. During this final phase (Phase 2), we will engage once again with planners and designers to ensure the Bridging Document incorporates the wide range of considerations for creating a holistic transportation system for all users.

What we need from you

- Respond to outreach communications.
- Participate when asked to review proposed urban design approaches and solutions.
- Your support when implementing the solutions.

Next steps

- Develop a bridging document that will serve as an update to the Highway Design Manual.
- Develop guiding principles to allow for flexibility in the design process.
- Integrate the bridging document into Technical Services to meet goals and objectives.

Questions?

Feel free to contact Adam Argo, co-team lead at ARGO.Adam@odot.state.or.us.

