McLean UDG Advisory Group Meeting #9

Lighting
Wayfinding
Art
Parking

December 2022

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

COUNTY OF FAIRFAX · 1742 · VIRGINIA

Will be replacing Non-cutoff Street Lighting (long-term project)

Acorn (not full cutoff)
Current McLean Standard

Design Considerations
Dark Sky – Minimize Light Trespass

Non-cutoff   Semi-cutoff   Cutoff   Full-cutoff
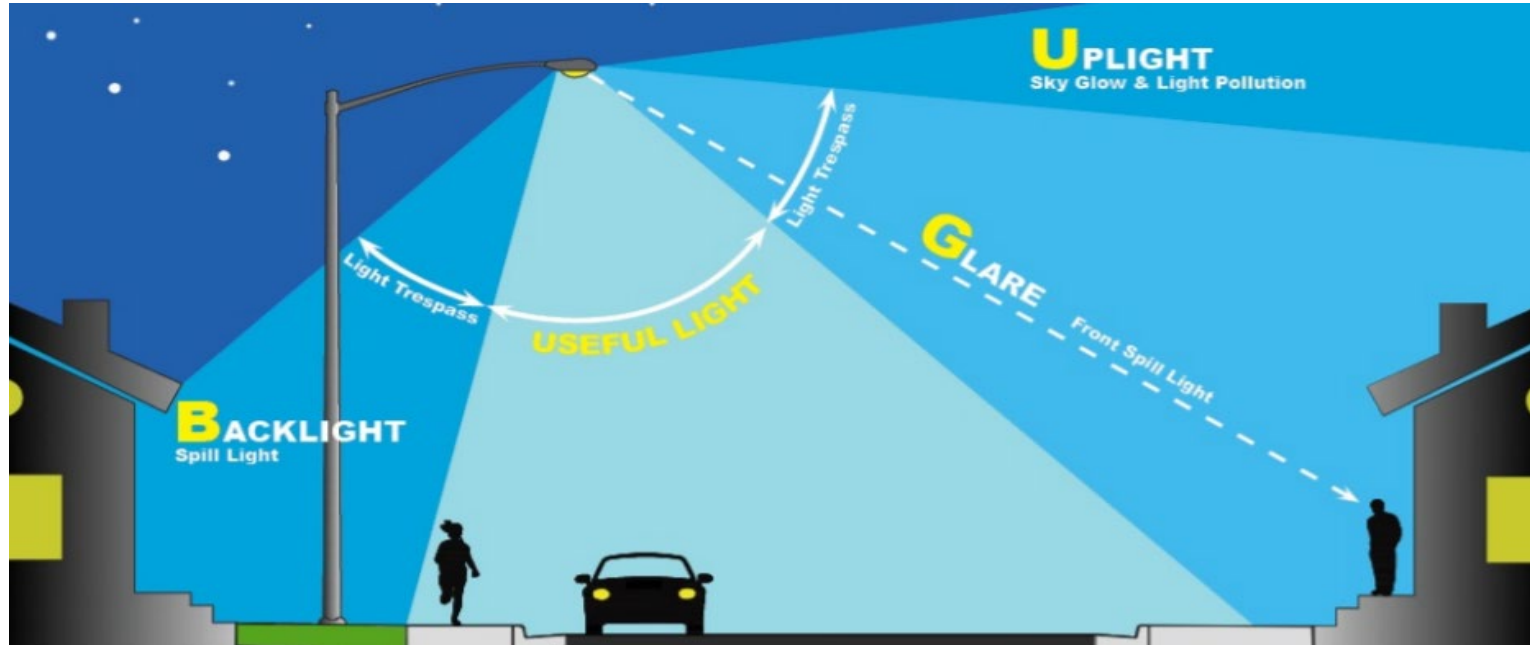
Technology - Fixtures Designed For LED

Designed for LED

Adapted for LED

Technology - Glare And Adaptive Street Lighting (Ex. Comfort Optics)

Example "Comfort Optics"

- Eliminate glare to increase visual comfort for an enhanced user experience
- Provide flexibility of optical distributions while focusing on the capabilities needed for pedestrian applications
- Ideal for urban pedestrian applications at lower mounting heights

Furniture Palette: Streetlights Options

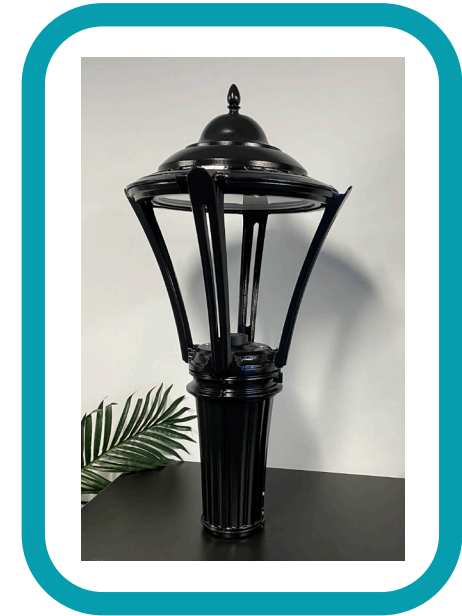**Approved by Dominion Energy**

Round Lantern

Full Cut-off Acorn

Under Review (may be approved in the future)

Trika
Options with an arm for wide streets and post top for narrow streets

Metroscape
Superior Performance using Comfort Optics

Wayfinding, Interpretive, and Gateway Signs

AGENDA

   1. Types of signs

   2. Example: City of Alexandria

   3. 'Neighborhood Village' concept

   4. Design Principles

   5. Design Strategies by sign type

Signs: Types

Wayfinding signage

Includes ways in which people orient themselves and navigate. Depending on the context, wayfinding should be adapted to be viewed by people traveling via multiple modes.
For example: Signs oriented towards pedestrians can increase confidence in walking, reduce walking times, help with route planning, and make transit connections easier.

Interpretive signage

Highlights important points of interest, provides educational material, or depicts historical features of the community.

Gateway signage

Should convey a sense of arrival and impart a memorable visual impression of the McLean CBC, at both the human (pedestrian) and vehicular scales.

Case Study: City of Alexandria

Wayfinding is an experience: that of an individual attempting to make their way through an unfamiliar environment. When the information needed to access that environment is provided in a thoughtful, structured fashion, the unfamiliar quickly becomes comfortable, friendly, welcoming.

A successful wayfinding system manages this experience, using signage as a communication tool to not only facilitate access, but also to reflect the civic culture and complement the environment of its setting.

Case Study: City of Alexandria

Aesthetic

Reduces visual clutter with a family of signs; allows historic fabric of the city to shine through

Environment and safety

Directs cars to garages; Promotes walking, biking, mass transit

Economic development

Improves pedestrian/vehicular wayfinding to amenities such as shops, hotels, restaurants

Signs: Neighborhood Village

- **"Small-town feel"**
- **"Unifying Elements.** *Use defined public realm features that embody the McLean character. This may include public art, wayfinding, low walls comprised of brick/stone, arcades between the street and the building, and a distinctive sidewalk paving design."*

How do wayfinding, gateway, and other signs contribute to the neighborhood village?

- Tell the story of McLean

- Highlight historic sites, parks, public buildings, and other neighborhood assets

- Consistent and attractive family of signs

- Multimodal types of signs

- Traditional-transitional design that coordinates with the other furnishings

Signs: Design Principles

1. ***Consistency:*** provide predictability for users and establish a consistent brand identity while reducing visual clutter.
   - Utilize a consistent family of graphics and materials.

2. ***Inclusivity:*** cater to the needs of all user types, especially those with special needs.
   - Ensure that publicly accessible spaces and walkways are clearly marked.
   - Collaborate with local organizations when developing signs to ensure that the desired community information is provided.

3. ***Adaptability:*** consider modification and lifecycle costs with any design.

4. ***Connectivity:*** provide safe and efficient directions that connect important points, particularly for those walking and biking between destinations.

5. ***Local Identity:*** Celebrate distinct features of the McLean CBC to promote a sense of community using the Neighborhood Village concept.
   - Sign designs should have a traditional/transitional style using similar finishes as other streetscape furnishings.
   - Use signage to educate the community about McLean's assets.
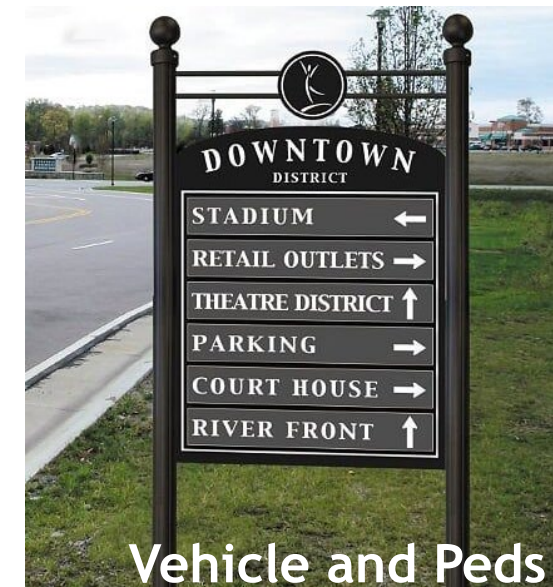
Design Strategies: Wayfinding

- Avenues: signs should be oriented for both vehicles and pedestrians

- Local Streets: primarily pedestrian-oriented

- Content

    - Include both maps and text where possible

    - directions to certain streets, public parks, public facilities such as the post office

- Important information should be located between 34 and 56 inches above ground level for ease of reading and accessibility for most users.

- Durable materials such as bronze powder-coated metal and tempered glass that will withstand the rigors of the public realm are recommended.

Bronze

Pedestrian Wayfinding
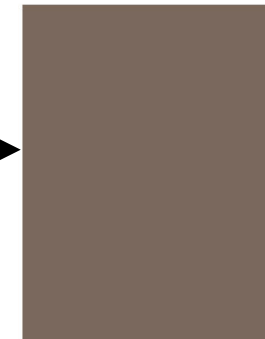
Vehicle and Peds

Design Strategies: Interpretive/other signs

- Should educate the public about the history and environmental features of the area and surrounding communities.

  - Notable historic sites should be acknowledged and celebrated through signs.

  - Signage installed within green stormwater infrastructure should educate the public on the benefits of these systems to promote public health and a healthy environment.

- All privately owned but publicly accessible parks, trails, and open spaces should include signs in accordance with Fairfax County's POPS standards.

Design Strategies: Gateway

- Where possible, locate gateway signs within medians and include lighting as well as trees and landscaping around the signs. Or line the ground with brick pavers.

- Consider including brick planter base to tie the design to the ground.

- Landmark plazas, architecture, and other green spaces can function as gateway elements.

- Locations:
    1. Dolley Madison and Old Dominion
    2. Dolley Madison and Elm
    3. Dolley Madison and Old Chain Bridge
    4. Old Dominion and Chain Bridge
    5. Old Dominion and Holmes
    6. Chain Bridge and Westmoreland
    7. Chain Bridge and Ingleside

Questions

1. Should we consider other types of signs: light pole banners, special street name signs?

2. Should most/all new developments be expected to include wayfinding signage?

3. Where should signs be located in the CBC?

4. What types of content should be included on signs? What places should the signs direct people to?

   A. Parks and trails
   B. Certain streets
   C. Historic sites
   D. Public facilities
   E. Shopping centers?
   F. Others?

Public Art: Community Preferences

110 votes

66 votes

63 votes

92 votes

65 votes

52 votes

Public Art: Community Preferences

Desirable

- Art that is directly linked to McLean's history and assets (e.g. Dolly Madison, Mars Candy, CIA)
- Functional/usable art. Examples: stormwater designs, play sculptures, kinetic designs.
- Water, water, water
- Natural and organic sculptures
- Murals about McLean and its history

Avoid

- The twisted aluminum sculpture at the Hunter Mill District Government Center. Cold, hard, not welcoming.
- Colorful street furnishings. Creates too much inconsistency between developments.

Questions:

How much should we suggest in terms of public art strategies? Goals? Locations? Types of art that should be encouraged or discouraged?

Parking

Center Zone: Structured parking, except teaser

General Zone: structured and surface

Edge Zone: mostly surface

Structured Parking

Volume I

- Preference for underground

- stand alone garages discouraged.

- Include landscaping and green building features.

- Openings should include ped walkways

- Opening should not occupy more than 20% of the street frontage.
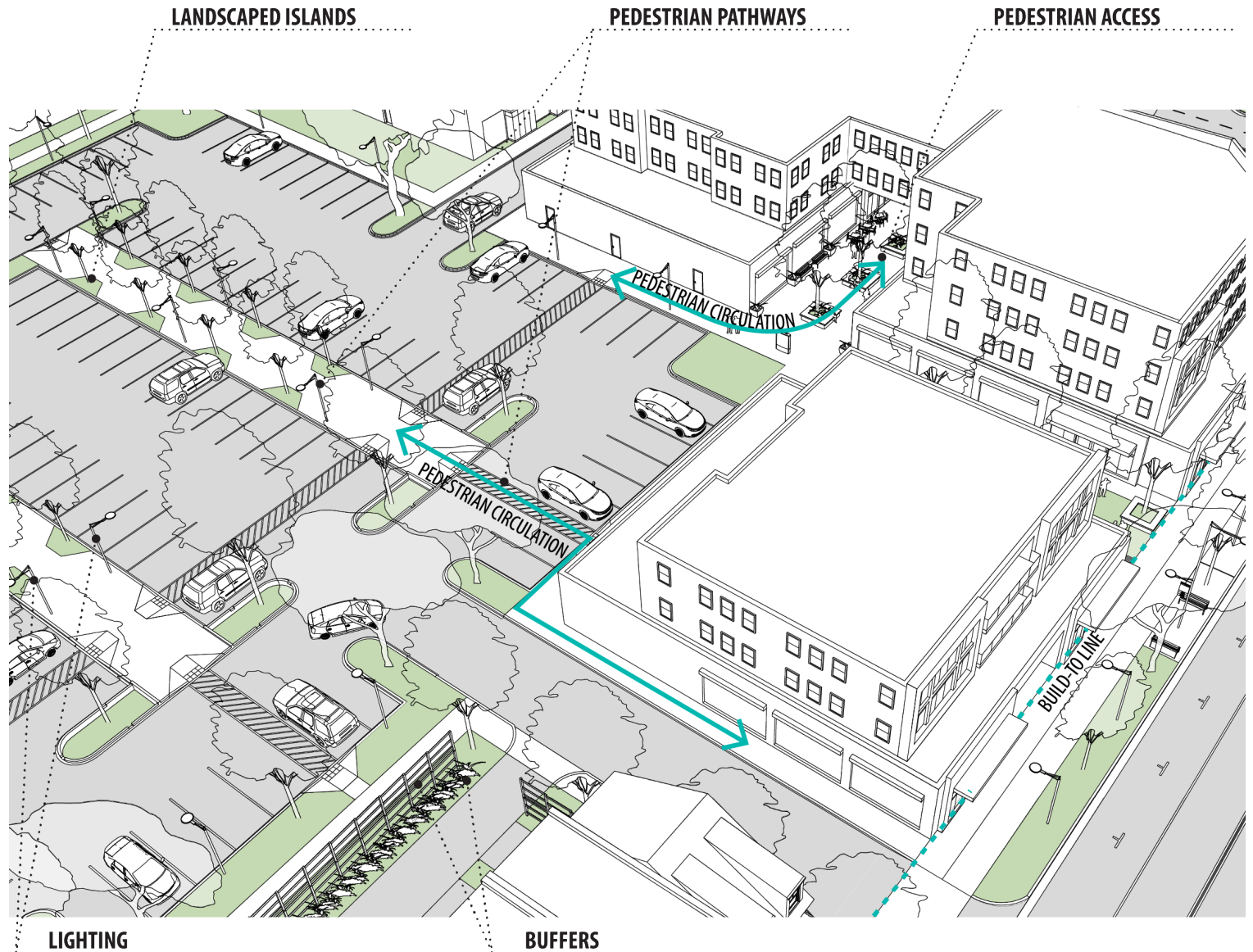
- EV charging and smart tech.

Suggested McLean Strategies

- Parking garages along Beverly and Elm Streets should be lined with occupiable space on the first floor.

- The architecture of the parking structure should be generally consistent with the architecture of the building with which it is associated.

Surface Parking: Rear parking

1. Maintain building continuity on the street and minimize the visual impact by locating surface parking behind or to the side of the building.

2. Include pedestrian connections through parking lots for safety and to create a pleasant experience. Include trees, landscaping, and sidewalks.

LANDSCAPED ISLANDS   PEDESTRIAN PATHWAYS   PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION

PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION

BUILD-TO LINE

LIGHTING   BUFFERS

Surface Parking: Side parking

3. If any parking is exposed to the street, it should be screened through a combination of low walls, landscaping and trees to avoid headlight glare.

SCREENING   PEDESTRIAN PATHWAYS   LIGHTING
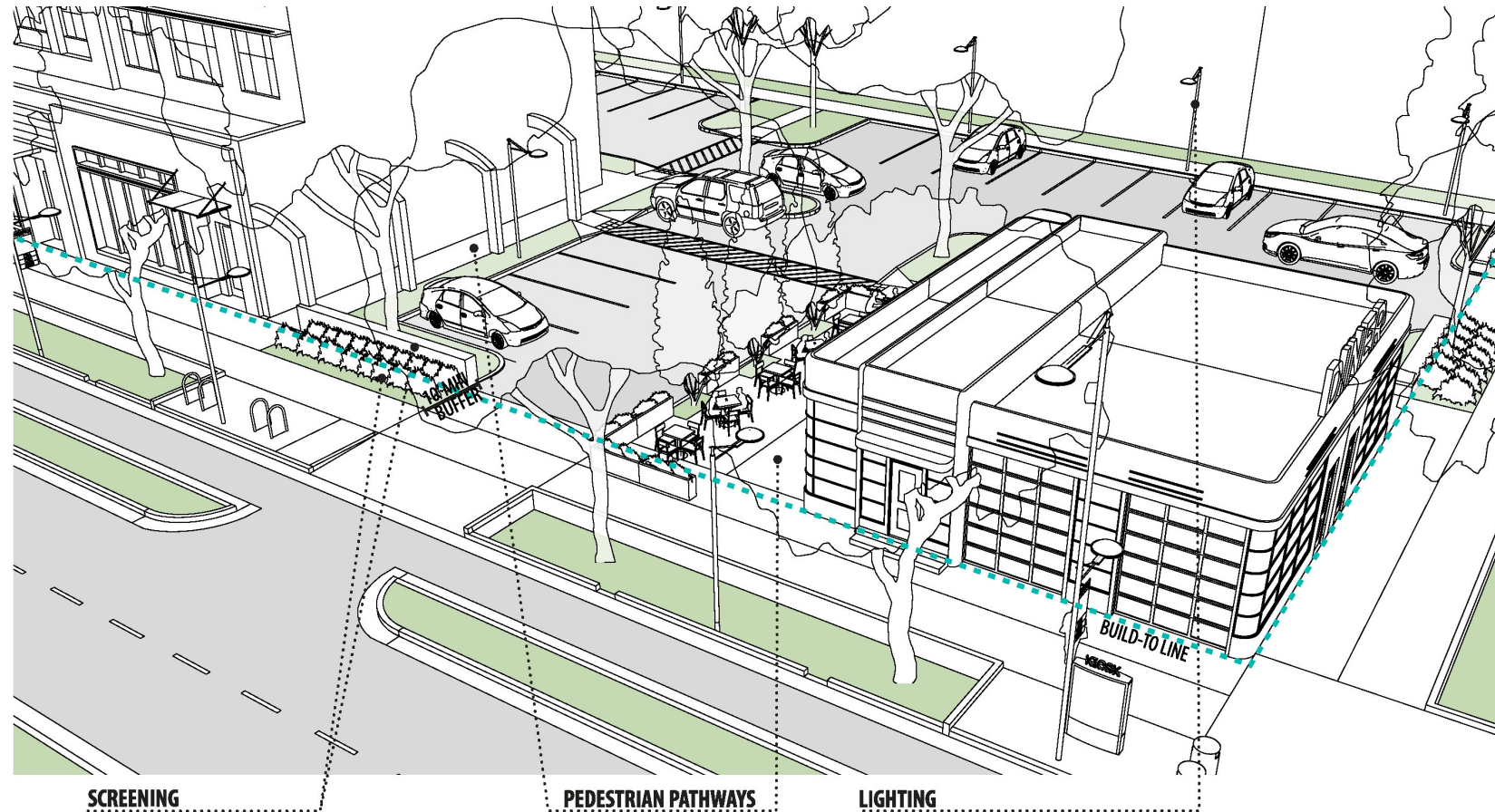
Questions:

What should the guidelines be focused on with regard to parking? What are your concerns about parking garage and parking lot design?

Questions & Comments?

Technology - Light Distribution Types And Customization

Type 1 Symmetrical   Type 1 Asymmetrical   Type 2   Type 3   Type 4   Type 5

STREET SIDE

SIDEWALK SIDE

Standard Type III Optics Configuration

Streetscape

STREET SIDE

SIDEWALK SIDE

Custom Optics Configuration
Using Type III and Type I Optics

Streetscape