



PREPARED FOR THE URBAN DESIGN COMMISSION

Project: Amending Urban Design District (UDD) 8 - MGO 33.24(15)(e)5.a.
Review Type: UDD 8 Text Amendment – Common Council Referral
Legistar File ID #: 81908
Prepared By: Jessica Vaughn, AICP, Urban Design Commission Secretary

Background Information

The Common Council has referred this text amendment to the Urban Design Commission (UDC) and Plan Commission (PC) for advisory recommendations. The Plan Commission is scheduled to review this item at their March 11, 2024, meeting with the Common Council scheduled to consider this amendment at its March 19, 2024, meeting.

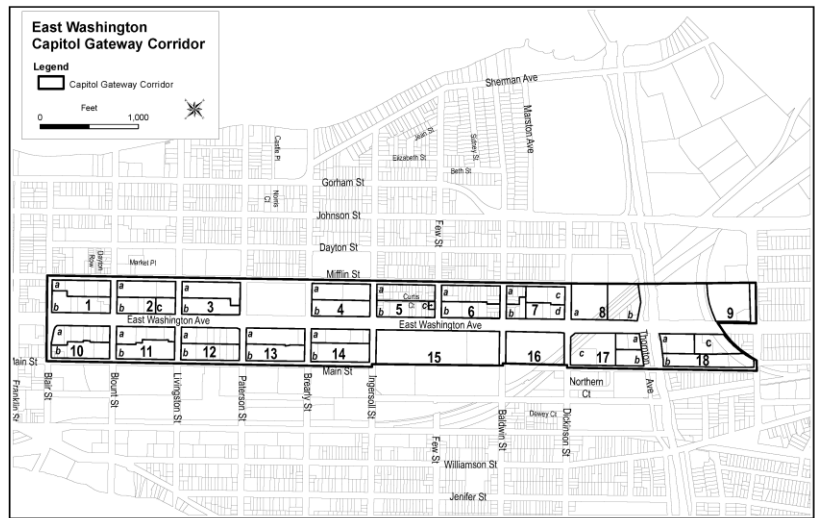
This proposed amendment would remove the minimum street terrace width requirement from Urban Design District 8 (UDD 8) - MGO 33.24(15)(e)5.a.v. Removing this reference would eliminate conflicts with the City’s recently approved and more detailed “Complete Green Streets” policy, adopted in 2023 as part of Legislative File 74926.

Summary of Proposed Amendment

UDD 8 currently specifies that street terraces (areas between curb and sidewalk) have a minimum width of ten (10) feet to accommodate the growth of canopy street trees. While this regulation is located within the UDD 8 standards, the UDC does NOT have review and approval authority for right-of-way design including terrace widths or street tree plantings. This does not change with this amendment. As a further note, no other Urban Design Districts include street terrace dimensional standards.

The City’s more contemporary and comprehensive “Complete Green Streets” (CGS) policy outlines specific street design parameters for certain types of streets (i.e., urban avenues, boulevards, parkways, mixed-use connectors, community main streets, etc.) throughout the city, including the desired terrace measurements. In addition to Complete Green Streets, the City Forester reviews items related to tree planting in the right-of-way and assesses the correct spacing to support healthy tree growth. The Complete Green Street Guide identifies this portion of East Washington Avenue as an “Urban Avenue.”

Each street types is further divided into use zones, including the Walkway Zone (sidewalk), Flex Zone (terrace and on-street parking), and Travel Way Zone (area of road dedicated to moving people and goods). Dimensional recommendations and a prioritization level for each zone from low to high. The prioritization ranking of the zones helps to identify the areas where additional infrastructure is needed.



As this applies to the design of the E Washington Avenue corridor in UDD 8, the more contemporary CGS policy would generally include the following parameters for this area:

- Walkway Zone: Six-foot minimum sidewalks, nine-foot preferred (high priority),
- Flex Zone: 10-foot minimum flex zone, 15 feet preferred (medium priority)
- Travel Way Zone - Appropriate transit accommodations, protected bike lanes, two travel lanes in each direction, and medians between 76-102 feet (high priority).

Staff supports this amendment. Overall, removing the terrace width requirement from UDD 8 resolves a conflict with the City's most current adopted policy regarding street design and removes a standard from this ordinance that is not enforced by the Urban Design Commission.