

CURBLESS AND SHARED STREETS DESIGN GUIDE BRIEFING



Description

Montgomery Planning, in partnership with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT), developed the *Curbless and Shared Streets Design Guide* as a supplement to the *Complete Streets Design Guide*. It provides planning, policy, and design guidance for Curbless and Shared Streets in Montgomery County. During this session, Planning Staff will provide a briefing on the guide and the Board will receive public testimony.

Complete: 09-12-2024

MCPB

2425 Reedie Drive

Item No. 5

Floor 14

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Wheaton, MD 20902



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Summary

- Montgomery Planning and the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) developed a design guide for Curbless and Shared Streets in Montgomery County.
- During this session, Planning Staff will provide a briefing on the guide and the Board will receive public testimony. The Board will consider adopting the guide at a future session.

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Background

Montgomery Planning, in partnership with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT), developed the *Curbless and Shared Streets Design Guide* as a supplement to the [Complete Streets Design Guide](#). It provides planning, policy, and design guidance for Curbless and Shared Streets in Montgomery County.

Curbless and Shared Streets re-envision the use of public spaces between buildings, highlighting the social aspects of streets alongside their mobility functions. By eliminating physical barriers that separate different modes of movement and promoting the mixing of these modes at slow speeds, Shared Streets can become lively and safe areas for people to move and gather. Similarly, Curbless Streets can serve as venues for community events while functioning as Conventional Streets at other times.

Project Purpose

Montgomery Planning and MCDOT partnered to create this guide to ensure that Curbless and Shared Streets contribute to the vision for streets presented in the *Complete Streets Design Guide*. The guide serves to:

- Promote the delivery of high-quality Curbless and Shared Streets in Montgomery County that demand greater driver attention and help to achieve a safe and shared environment for people walking, rolling, biking, and driving.
- Align policies, regulations, and practices specifically relating to Curbless and Shared Streets.
- Ensure that Curbless and Shared Streets are fully accessible for people with disabilities, provide access for emergency vehicles and maintenance activities, and integrate stormwater management—a unique design consideration given the lack of curbs.
- Inform the master planning and development review and approval process by promoting consistent design elements and terminology.

Project Process

The study process involved regular interdisciplinary meetings with experts in various fields, including planning, engineering, development review, environmental protection, stormwater facilities, emergency access, and other specialties. The team conducted a comprehensive literature review, evaluated existing policies and regulations, and engaged in discussions with development review staff. Additionally, the study included outreach and engagement with the Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities, focusing on planning and design for accessibility.

Next Steps

During this session, Planning Staff will provide a briefing on the guide and the Board will receive public testimony. Planning Staff will return to the Board at a future meeting to hold a worksession, as needed, and to request the Board's approval of the design guide. Once the Board approves the design guide, it will inform the master planning and development review and approval process. Once adopted, Planning Staff and MCDOT will collaborate on revising County Code, regulations, and policies for consistency.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Curbless and Shared Streets Design Guide – Draft