

## **Complete Streets for Austin**

**Policy Implementation**

**Learning from Best Practices**



Austin Transportation Department  
November 2012

## **The (Complete) Road Ahead** Charting a 5-Year Path for Transformation

### **Launching Implementation**

Policy to Program to Projects

- > Immediate Opportunities
- > Building Long-Range Program



C.S. Design Guidance:  
Standards, Criteria, Handbooks



Project Checklists and Guidance





## PEER CITY REVIEW

Implementation:  
From Policy to  
Program to  
Projects



### TORONTO 5 Year Process (Planned)

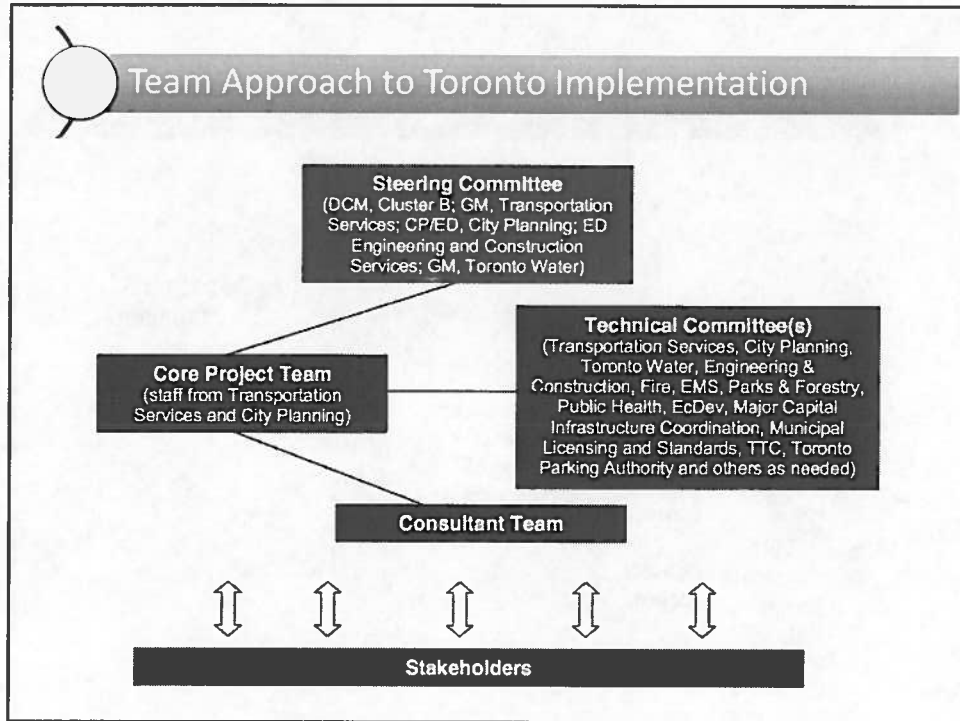
2013:  
City  
Council  
Action

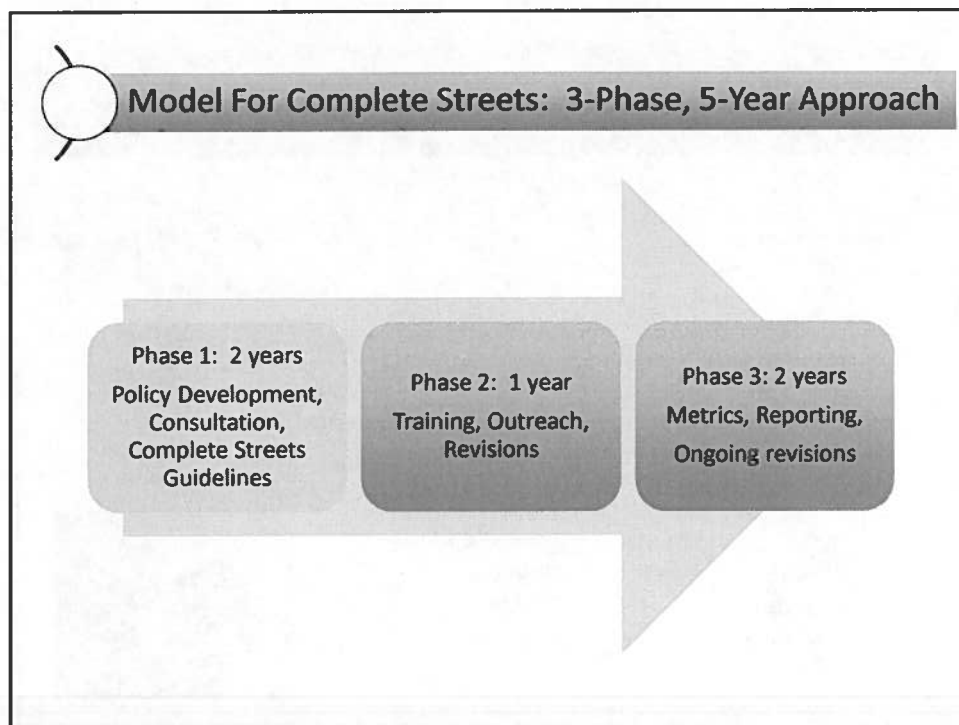
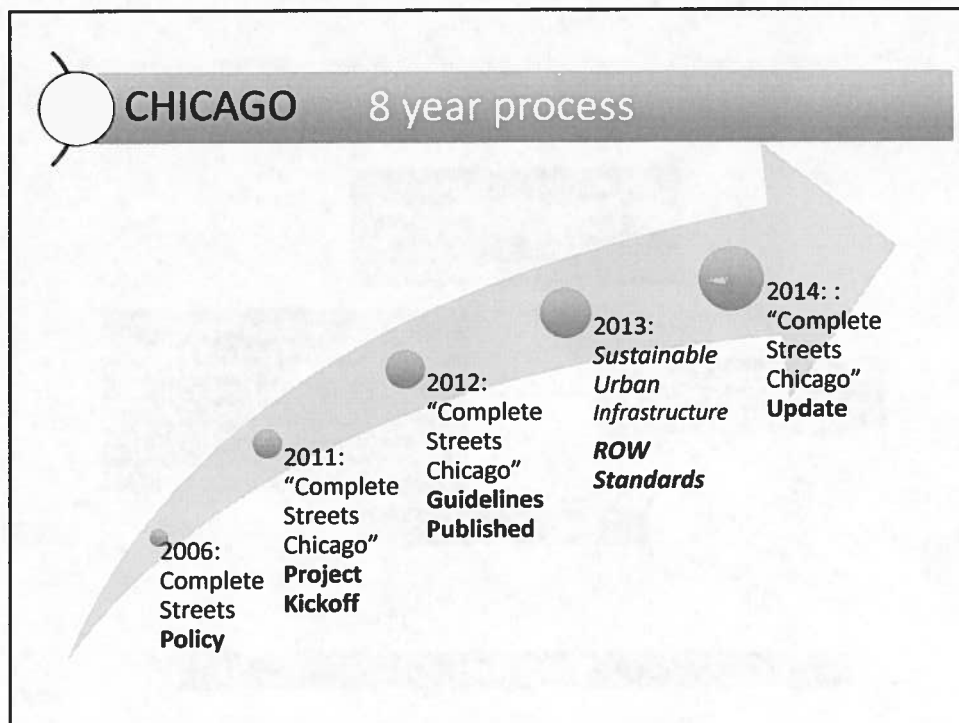
2013-2014:  
Exploration  
of  
approach,  
funding,  
peer cities

2014-2015:  
Development  
& delivery of  
complete  
streets  
guidelines

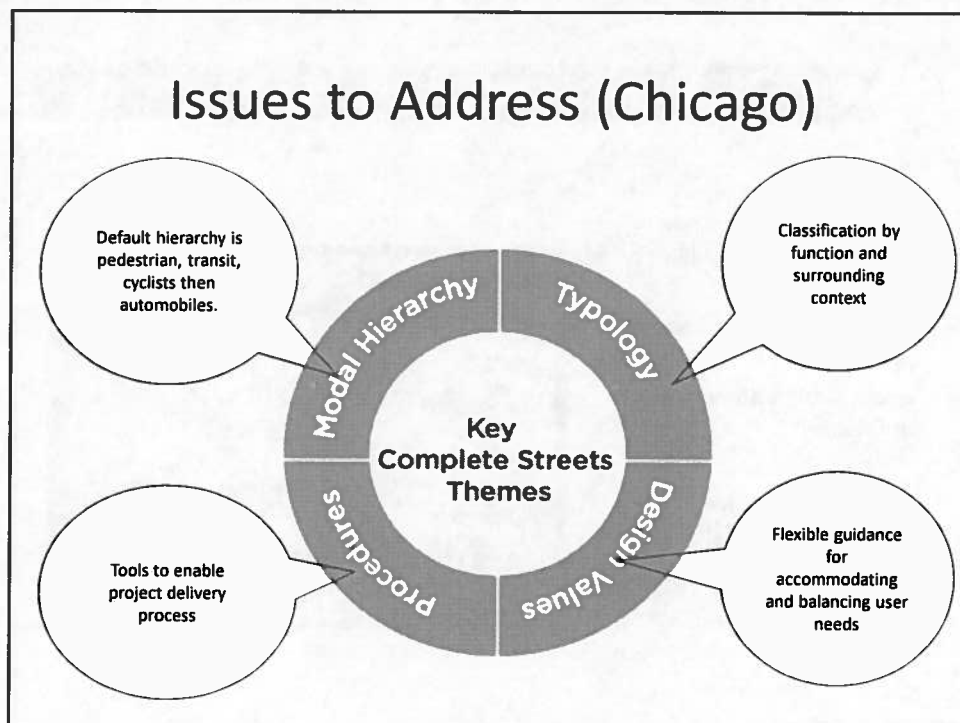
2015-2016:  
Training,  
outreach &  
revisions

2016-2018:  
Implementation  
& monitoring





## Issues to Address (Chicago)



### Toronto Implementation (Year 1)

- ✓ Project scoping
- ✓ Peer cities review
- ✓ Internal Review: relevant issues ,policies, procedures, gap analysis
- ✓ Stakeholder Focus Group
- ✓ Launch Steering Committee and Technical Committee
- ✓ Define goals: C.S. Guidelines
- ✓ Proposal for phased approach
- ✓ Guidelines: Define document scope and approach, for RFQ





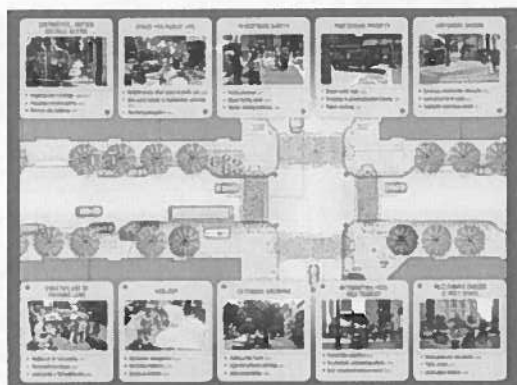
## San Francisco Better Streets Plan: Goals

✓ Improved pedestrian environment and public realm

✓ Provide a comprehensive update to the City's ROW and Street Design Standards and Guidelines

✓ Green Streets: Realize the ecological potential of streets

✓ Improve public health



## San Francisco: Design Guidance by Street Type

### Down own Commercial

Down own commercial streets such as Grant or Kearny Streets handle high pedestrian volumes and high levels of activity throughout the day. Due to their importance, activity, and high levels of pedestrian activity, down own streets should have generous sidewalks, high levels of pedestrian amenities, and distinctive, formal design treatments.

Scenescape guidelines for down own commercial streets are described in the Down own Streetscape Plan, adopted in 1999.

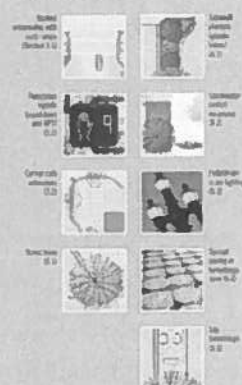


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#### Considerations

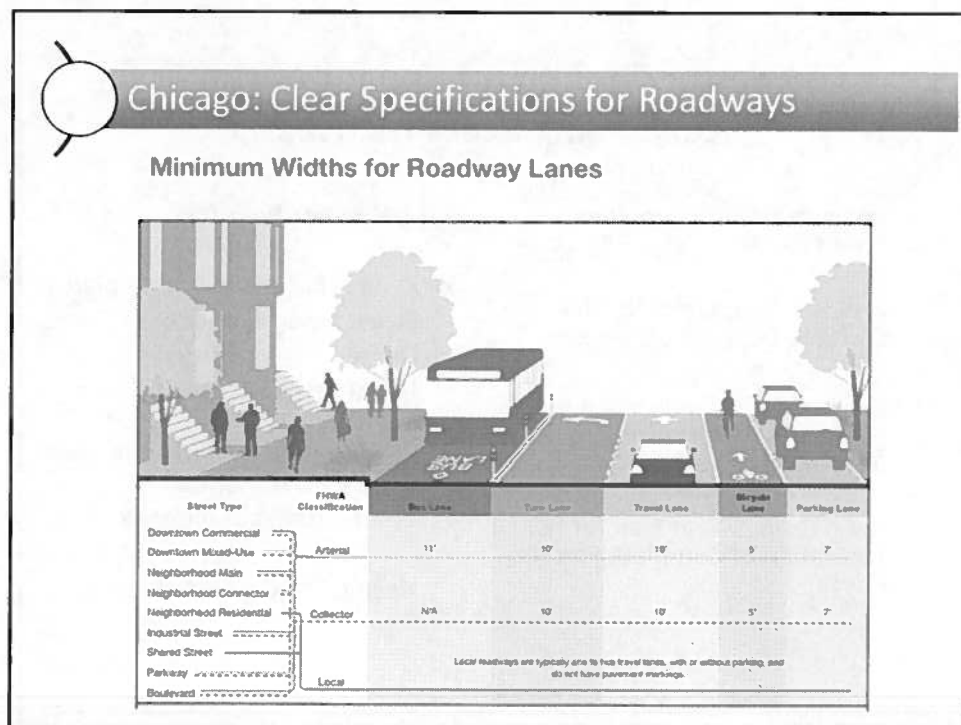
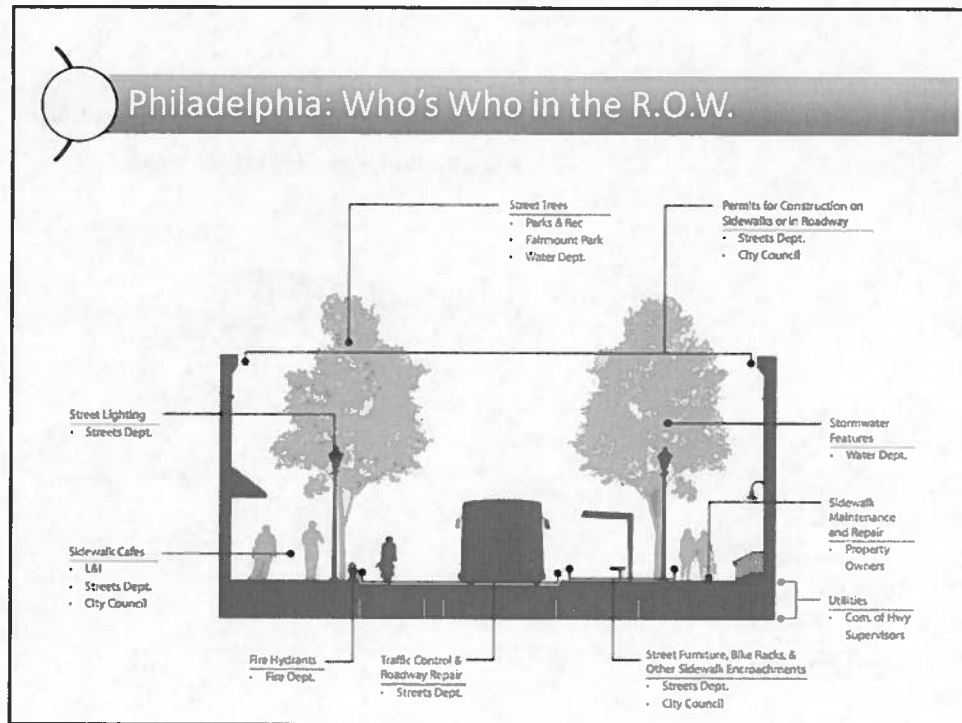
- High levels of pedestrian activity
- Design for generous pedestrian environment and public realm
- High volume of through traffic
- Pedestrian travel time
- Active frontage for local businesses
- Pedestrian amenities of pedestrian environment
- Limited on-street parking for delivery

#### Standard Improvements



#### Additional Guidelines

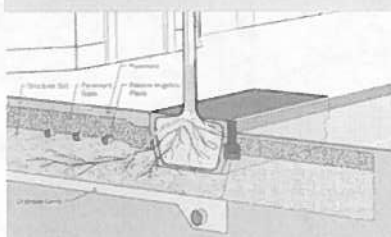
- Down own commercial streets should follow the guidelines of the Down own Streetscape Plan
- For specific street-level design treatment, see Section 5.2





## Specifications Example: Street Trees

### Root Environment for Street Trees



### Preferred Tree Spacing and Offsets

	1 Short Stature Ornamental Trees	2 Medium Stature Trees	3 Large Stature Shade Trees
On-Center Spacing	20'	25'	30'
Offset from Curbs or Path Edges	2'-6"	3'-6"	2'-6"
Offset from Light Poles	15'	15'	15'
Offset from Driveways, Fire Hydrants, Loading Zones	10'	10'	10'
Offset from Intersections (Depending on direction of traffic)	20'	20' to 40'	20' to 40'

## A Faster Track to the Top for Austin Leveraging Best Practices

- Imagine Austin, Complete Streets Policy
- National Standards: NACTO + ITE/CNU Design Guidelines
- Short-term: Provide interim guidelines, criteria and process for project review
- Long-Term: 5-Year Plan for full realization of Complete Streets Policy

### Typical Major Projects

- ✓ Pedestrian realm/safety plan
- ✓ Street Design Guidelines
- ✓ Classify streets by type
- ✓ Update city code and criteria manuals
- ✓ Integrate all city criteria in one unified ROW manual
- ✓ Green Streets Guidebook

*Ready, Set, Go Austin!*





## AUSTIN 2014 Accomplishments

- ✓ Complete Streets Steering Committee  
*Imagine Austin Implementation*
- ✓ **Complete Streets Policy Adopted** June 12, 2014
- ✓ National Complete Streets Coalition Workshops, Sept. 15-16
  - ✓ Staff Training
  - ✓ Community Education
  - ✓ Department Leadership Engaged
  - ✓ Scope and Initial Workplan Developed
- ✓ Assessing landscape: Code, TCM, standard procedures, pilot projects
- ✓ Green Streets Working Group
- ✓ **Bike Plan & Urban Trails Plan Adopted**
- ✓ Developing phased approach



### Next Steps:

- Launch Technical Committee
- Launch TCM revision
- Launch **Pedestrian Plan**
- Stakeholder Focus Group(s)
- Finalize, release work plan
- Scope of work: ID resources needed, funds available



## AUSTIN 5 Year Process (Envisioned)



**2014**  
City  
Council  
Action

**2014-15**  
**Launch C.S.  
Program;**  
TCM  
Update  
Bike Plan  
Trails Plan

**2016**  
Fund major  
projects:  
- Guidelines  
- Pedestrian  
Master Plan  
- ROW  
Standards

**2016-2018**  
Complete &  
release:  
- C.S.  
Guidelines  
- G.S. Guide  
- ROW  
Standards  
*Education  
Funding*

**2018-2020**  
Active  
Implementation  
**Major C.S.  
Projects**  
Monitoring &  
Metrics  
*Continuous  
Improvement*

