

The Parts of a Street

Designing for vehicle speeds of 25 to 35 mph

Help make most drivers feel comfortable traveling 35 mph or slower.

Trees: A vertical wall and buffer

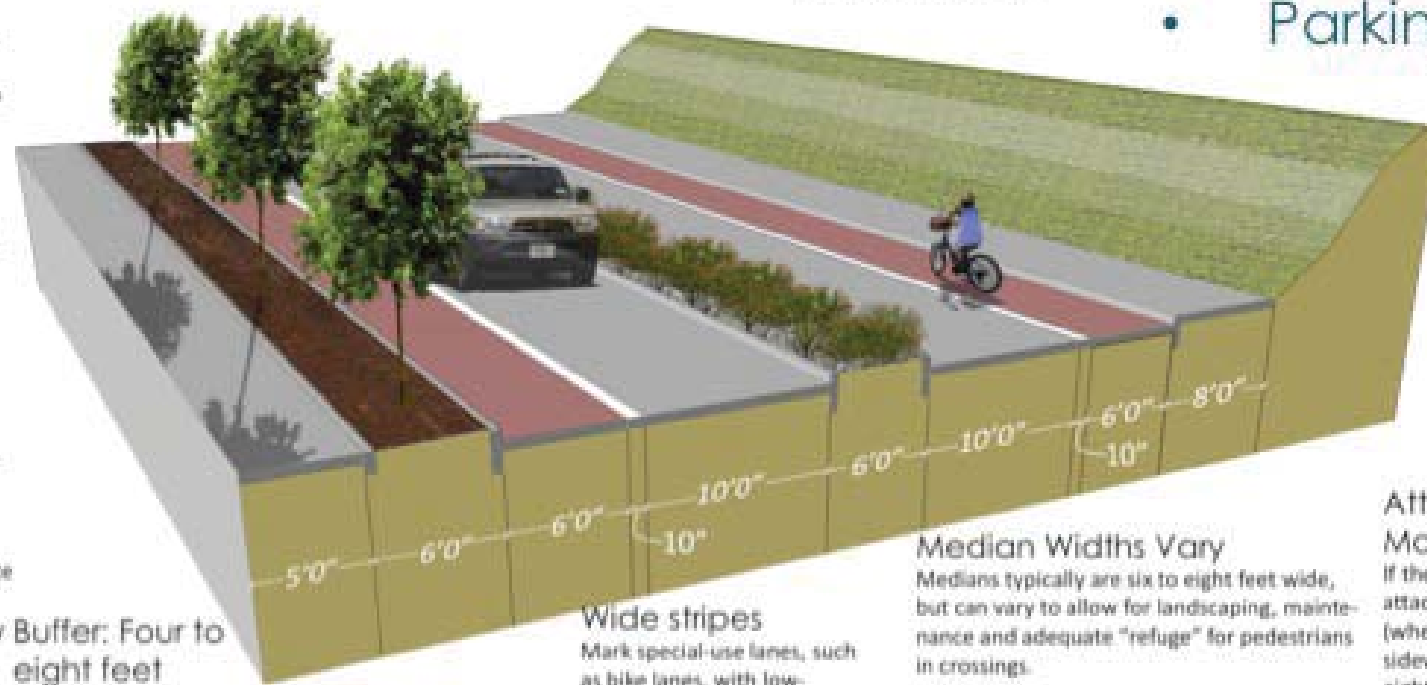
Tall trees of a species appropriate for the area are spaced 15 to 25 feet apart. The vertical wall helps calm traffic and encourages lower vehicle speeds, while creating a buffer between cars and pedestrians.

Bike lane: At least six feet

To function well, bike lanes should be at least six feet wide. Among other things, this provides adequate space for cars to pull over to let emergency vehicles pass.

Buffer: Four to eight feet

If the buffer includes trees, they should be set back from the curb at least four feet and the total buffer should be at least six feet.



Wide stripes

Mark special-use lanes, such as bike lanes, with low-maintenance or thermo-plastic stripes eight to 12 inches wide. This conveys that the lane has a special use and helps drivers stay cautious.

Median Widths Vary

Medians typically are six to eight feet wide, but can vary to allow for landscaping, maintenance and adequate "refuge" for pedestrians in crossings.

Vehicle lanes: Ten feet

The wider a vehicle lane is beyond ten feet, the faster a car will go and the more likely a severe crash.

Sidewalk:

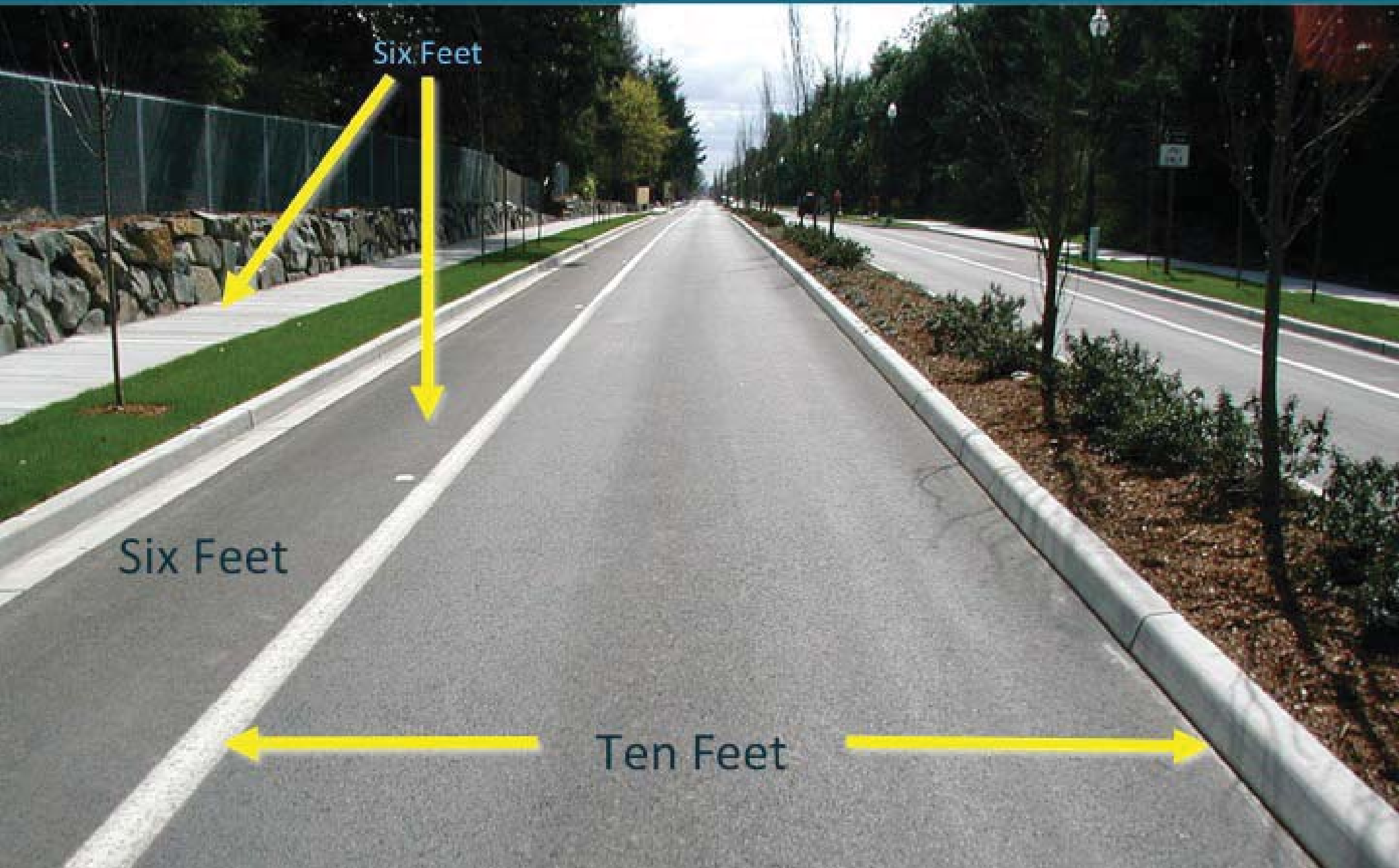
At least five feet
Eight feet near schools and wider in commercial areas

- Sidewalks
- Bike Lanes
- Vehicle Travel Lanes
- Driveways
- Parking

Attached Sidewalks: Need More Width

If there isn't a buffer and the sidewalk is attached to the curb, allow for the "shy zone" (where people won't walk) by using a wider sidewalk, at least six feet, but preferably eight. Likewise, if the other side of the sidewalk is bordered by a retaining wall, allow for a shy zone there and make the sidewalk even wider.

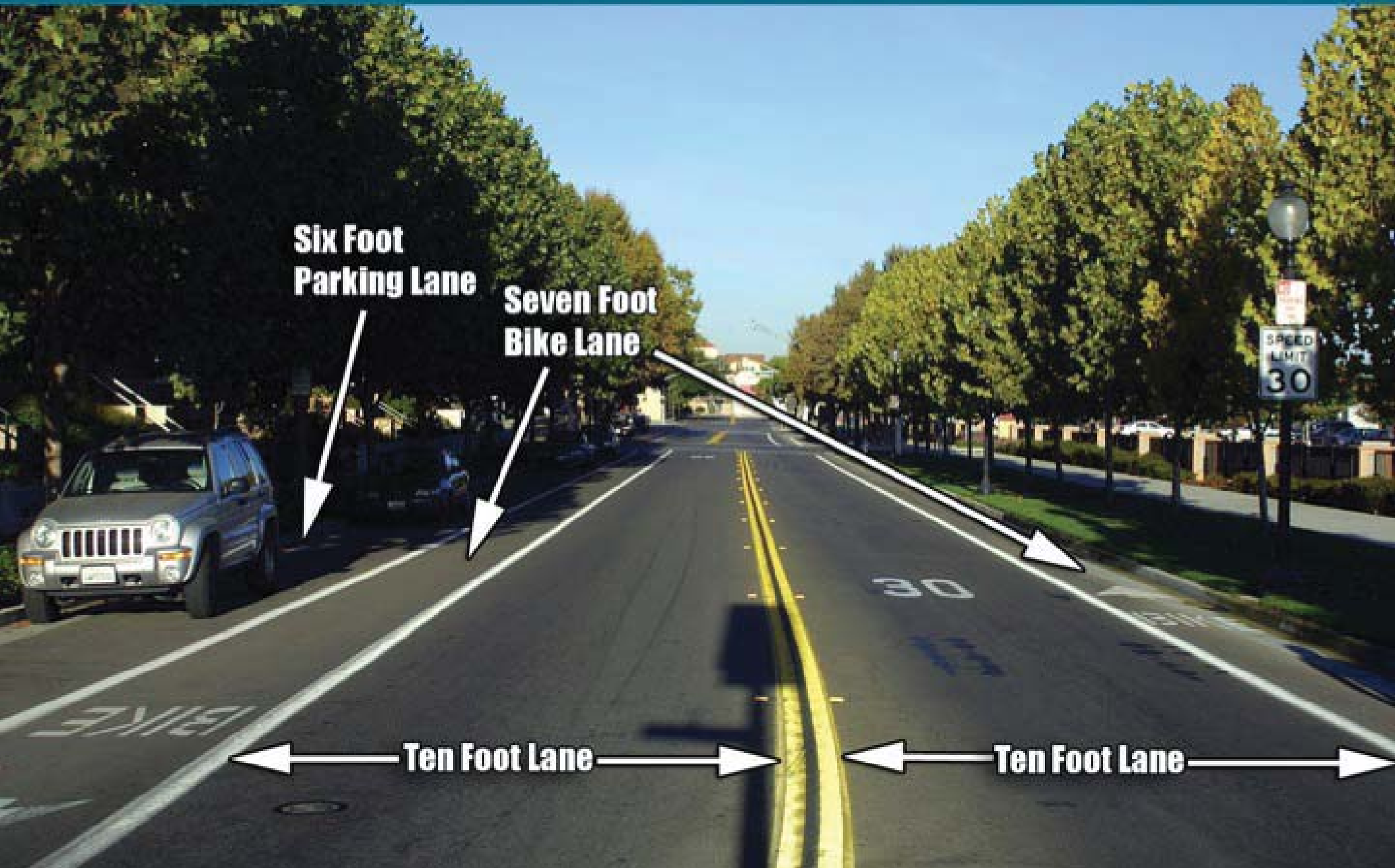
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Sidewalks



Bike Lanes





Travel Lanes



Why Complete Streets Matter



Complete Streets are streets for everyone. They are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities must be able to safely move along and across a complete street.

Example of a Complete Street

La Jolla Boulevard, San Diego, CA





78
Feet



14 Feet













The best drinks ice
could hope for.



