

Street Design Manual



**New York City
Department of Transportation**

**2020
Third Edition**

Street Design Manual

**New York City
Department of Transportation**

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RIGHT: Intersection of Tillary Street and
Adams Street, Brooklyn



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Letter from the Commissioner

Dear Fellow New Yorkers:

I am thrilled to bring you the third edition of the New York City Department of Transportation's *Street Design Manual*. In the six years since I became Commissioner, the city's record employment, tourism, and e-commerce have continued to push the limits of our street network. This growth, in conjunction with the city's ambitious climate, equity, safety and mobility goals, has made efficiently accommodating a wide variety of users ever more urgent. To do this, we must continue to transform our city's streets and push the boundaries of safe, multimodal street design.

With its arrival in 2009, the *Street Design Manual* broke ground for the unprecedented clarity and guidance it provided to numerous agencies and organizations involved in projects on New York's streets. The Manual included standardized techniques and combined formerly separate silos of the street design process into a single resource for practitioners and citizens alike. As policies and best practices have advanced—from our expanded toolkit of bike and bus lanes to our growing portfolio of street furniture and our redoubled emphasis on accessibility—the Manual has evolved with them. This Third Edition represents a significant undertaking to ensure that agencies and public stakeholders have current information at their disposal. And with our new, fully interactive website, they can access it more easily than ever before.

These things matter. Working from the same playbook and codifying best practices not only encourages and streamlines the use of proven street safety techniques, it saves time and money for all the entities that work in our streets, and fosters award-winning design excellence in projects across the City. And the results are clear: a public realm that emphasizes high-quality design for users of all ability levels helps create a vibrant city, where New Yorkers and visitors feel comfortable walking, riding their bike, and spending time outdoors with friends and family. A street designed for pedestrian comfort and access is more likely to be an inviting, and therefore safer, street for all users.

I want to acknowledge Assistant Commissioner Wendy Feuer and her tremendous team who have distilled the great work of the agency and our partners as we continue to experiment, innovate and build expertise in so many areas of street design. DOT's practices have become a model for public realm enhancements around the country – and the world; I'm proud that each new edition of the Manual has reflected this fast-paced evolution.

In 2009, many of the treatments in the Manual's First Edition were aspirational: new ideas for New York with photos showcasing the techniques used in other cities. Today, these same pages document those treatments and many new installations and activities within the five boroughs, showing the ways New Yorkers are interacting with their neighborhoods.

But pictures only tell part of the story. Go out—walk, ride a bike, take a bus—experience the transformation of your City's streets for yourself.



Polly Trottenberg
Commissioner

Preface

The Third Edition of the *Street Design Manual* continues the Manual's status as a living document and reinforces its role as a critical resource for those working on projects in New York City's public right-of-way. It provides both a thorough update to the guidance in previous iterations and a number of important additions: a new chapter on programming in streets and public spaces; a host of new entries throughout the Process, Geometry, Furniture, and Landscape chapters; and substantially expanded coverage of several key topics, including bike lanes, inclusive design, and plant selection and management. Importantly, the Third Edition is available on a new website, www.nycstreetdesign.info, to increase the reach and accessibility of this essential reference document.

Like its predecessors, the Third Edition of the *Street Design Manual* is the result of substantial intra- and interagency collaboration. The following agencies participated in its development: the Departments of Buildings (DOB), City Planning (DCP), Design and Construction (DDC), Environmental Protection (DEP), and Parks and Recreation (Parks), as well as the Economic Development Corporation (EDC), the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), the Public Design Commission (PDC), and the Mayor's Office.

Acknowledgments

The Third Edition of the New York City Department of Transportation's *Street Design Manual* is the result of substantial intra- and interagency collaboration. Thanks to the contributions and attention to detail of nearly 150 participants across city government, this edition is as comprehensive as possible reflecting the latest guidance and best practices in street design. The publication also builds on the previous two editions; to recognize those contributors, the acknowledgments pages from the prior publications are included in APPENDIX C.

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Agency Acronyms

CECM

Mayor's Office of Citywide Event
Coordination and Management

DCAS

New York City Department of
Citywide Administrative Services

DCLA

New York City Department of Cultural
Affairs

DCP

New York City Department of
City Planning

DCWP

New York City Department of
Consumer and Worker Protection

DDC

New York City Department of
Design and Construction

DEC

New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation

DEP

New York City Department of
Environmental Protection

DOB

New York City Department
of Buildings

DOHMH

New York City Department of
Health and Mental Hygiene

DoITT

New York City Department of
Information Technology and
Telecommunications

DOT / NYCDOT

New York City Department
of Transportation

DSNY

New York City Department
of Sanitation

EDC

New York City Economic
Development Corporation

FDNY

New York City Fire Department

FEMA

Federal Emergency Management
Agency

FHWA

Federal Highway Administration

FTA

Federal Transit Administration

LPC

New York City Landmarks
Preservation Commission

MOPD

Mayor's Office for People
with Disabilities

MOR

Mayor's Office of Resiliency

MOS

Mayor's Office of Sustainability

MTA

Metropolitan Transportation Authority

NYCEM

New York City Emergency
Management

NYCT

New York City Transit, an MTA agency

NYPD

New York City Police Department

NYSDEC

New York State Department
of Environmental Conservation

NYSDOT

New York State Department
of Transportation

OCPD

Mayor's Office of Capital
Project Development

OMB

Mayor's Office of Management
and Budget

Parks

New York City Department of
Parks and Recreation

PDC

New York City Public Design
Commission

SAPO

The Street Activity Permit Office
within the New York City Office
of Citywide Event Coordination
and Management

SBS

New York City Department of
Small Business Services

SHPO

New York State Historic Preservation
Office

US ACE

US Army Corps of Engineers

US DOT

US Department of Transportation