

Pedestrian Environment: Expanding the Border Area

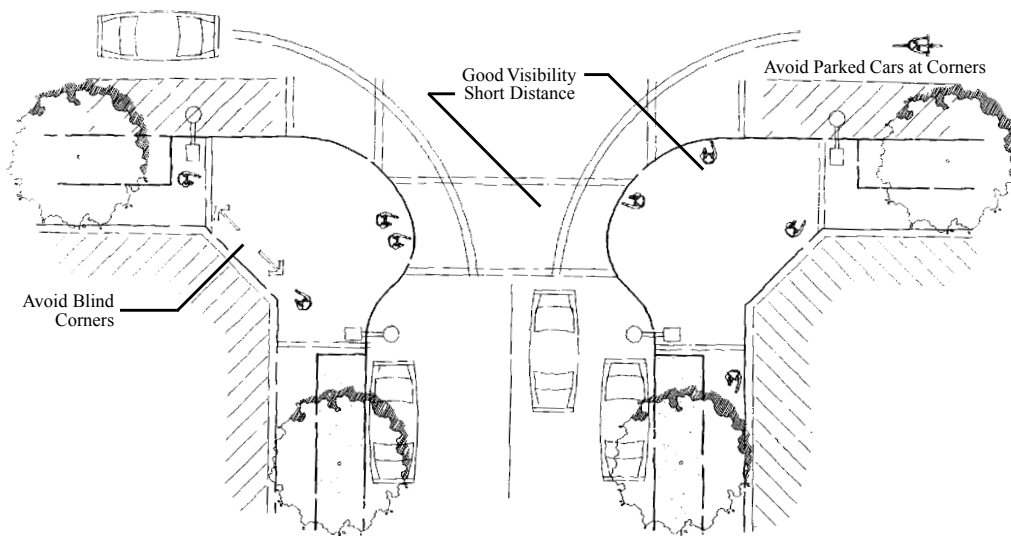
TOOL 9 – Extending the Street Corner

Design Issues

Street corners are places where several vehicle types and pedestrian activity occur in a relatively small area. One of those activities is crossing the street. Curb extensions (or bulb outs) at corners effectively extend the border area into the roadway, reducing its physical and visual scale where it is most daunting to pedestrians. While actual travel lane widths are not reduced, the visual appearance of the roadway has a significant traffic calming effect. For waiting pedestrians, the crossing distance and time are shortened and they are more visible to motorists.

Guideline

Curb extensions at corners or offset extensions as chicanes.



NTM Considerations

- Smaller curb radii slow turning speeds at crosswalks (always allow for bus, truck and emergency vehicle movements).
- Prevent vehicle parking too close to corners.
- Creates additional furnishing or landscape area at selected corners.
- May cause bicyclists discomfort (‘pinching’) on streets with heavy traffic volume, unless bicyclists are provided a ‘by-pass’ lane or ramp at the restriction.