

BUS STOPS AS AMENITIES

New development and redevelopment presents an opportunity to improve the experience of using transit. By working together, thoughtful design can make transit more attractive to future residents, employees, and visitors. By ensuring that developers are accounting for transit in their site plans, cities can also avoid unexpected conflicts between new development and transit.

REVIEWING SITE PLANS

Cities can share preliminary development plans as well as formal submittals with transit agency staff. In general, transit staff will circulate plans among service planners and operational staff who are familiar with existing and potential future conditions.

Minneapolis and Saint Paul currently have formal site plan review processes with Metro Transit. Other communities can contact their sector representative in [Local Planning Assistance](#) to reach the right staff at Metro Transit or other regional transit providers.



Streetscape improvements and project features can enhance the environment for transit riders but can also interfere with getting on and off the bus.

WHAT DO WE LOOK FOR?

Transit planners will evaluate site plans, as well as the public right-of-way, to identify potential issues and opportunities. They will evaluate current transit facilities, consider the level of existing and planned service, and investigate how transit operations currently interact with the site. They will also consider how pedestrians and bicyclists access the stop.

EXAMPLES

Collaboration between cities, developers, and transit providers can benefit everyone involved. For example:

- Metro Transit staff replaced a shelter adjacent to the development site where the developer worked with the city to widen the sidewalk.
- A site plan review discovered that planned bike racks and planters would interfere with passengers exiting the back of the bus. Consequently, the City and developer modified the location of public improvements to avoid this problem.
- A property owner wanted to incorporate stops for its own shuttles along the right-of-way. Metro Transit agreed to relocate its bus stop and the property owner paid for improving the accessibility of the stop.



Effective bus stops have space for shelters, furnishings like benches, and room to get on and off the bus.

WHAT CAN CITIES DO?

We recommend the following:

- Discuss with developer the importance of transit to your community.
- If you have questions about how transit interacts with a development, consult transit agency staff early in the process, especially if your City is seeking a Livable Communities grant from the Council in support of the development.
- Require that developers illustrate transit features on site plans, such as bus stop sign posts, ADA pads, bus stop length, back door zones, accessible paths to transit stops, bus stop shelters, and street furnishings.
- Become familiar with best practices for transit design. We recommend the [NACTO Transit Street Design Guide](#).

LEARN MORE

Metro Transit Better Bus Stops

<https://www.metrotransit.org/better-bus-stops>

National Association of City Transportation Officials: Transit Street Design Guide

<https://nacto.org/publication/transit-street-design-guide/>

Bus Stop Design Guidance

<https://nacto.org/publication/transit-street-design-guide/stations-stops/stop-configurations/curbside-pull-stop/>

Accessible Paths & Slopes

<https://nacto.org/publication/transit-street-design-guide/stations-stops/stop-design-factors/accessible-paths-slopes/>

CONTACT US

For Metro Transit's service area, please contact your Sector Representative in Local Planning Assistance:

<https://metro council.org/Communities/Planning/Local-Planning-Assistance/Sector-Reps.aspx?source=child>

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**TRANSIT
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DEVELOPMENT
GUIDE**

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