



Built to Move:

DRCOG Multimodal Local Development Standards Toolkit

Board of Directors: October 15, 2025



Agenda

- Project overview.
- Toolkit components.
- Anticipated outcomes.
- Project timeline.
- Feedback & discussion.



Project Overview

Existing challenges

- **Coordinating** land use and transportation planning efforts.
- Lack of regional **context-sensitive design guidance** for urban, suburban, and rural environments.
- **Capacity** to study, adopt, and implement best practices.



Toolkit overview

Goals

- Strengthen **multimodal access** through local development standards.
- **Build capacity and understanding** within DRCOG on development best practices.
- Engage and support urban, suburban, and rural contexts with **adaptable tools**.

Outcomes

- **Improved regional resources** for member governments.
- Increased knowledge capacity and new **coordination opportunities**.
- Clear regional **development design guidance**.



Toolkit components

Corridor typology framework

- Framework for **urban, suburban, and rural contexts**.
- Analyze multimodal access, community context, and development patterns.
- Align with **existing DRCOG tools** (Complete Streets Toolkit, Regional Vision Zero).



Case studies

- Learn from peers about effective multi-modal supportive development strategies.
- Document lessons and key takeaways for DRCOG jurisdictions.

Principles

Traffic Signals

Signal cycle lengths should be kept to a minimum to reduce delay for all users. As technology advances, traffic signalization should move towards a smart system that passively detects pedestrians, bicyclists, transit, and motor vehicles in order to become more efficient, reducing delay and improving safety for all users.

Intersections for all

Intersection design should balance the need to move motor vehicles efficiently with the need for safe and efficient movement of non-motorized users. Pedestrians and bicyclists are susceptible to far greater injuries in the event of a crash with a motor vehicle. This principle applies to all aspects of intersection design, from determining the number of lanes, to the configuration of crosswalks, to the design of traffic signals.

Reclaim Space

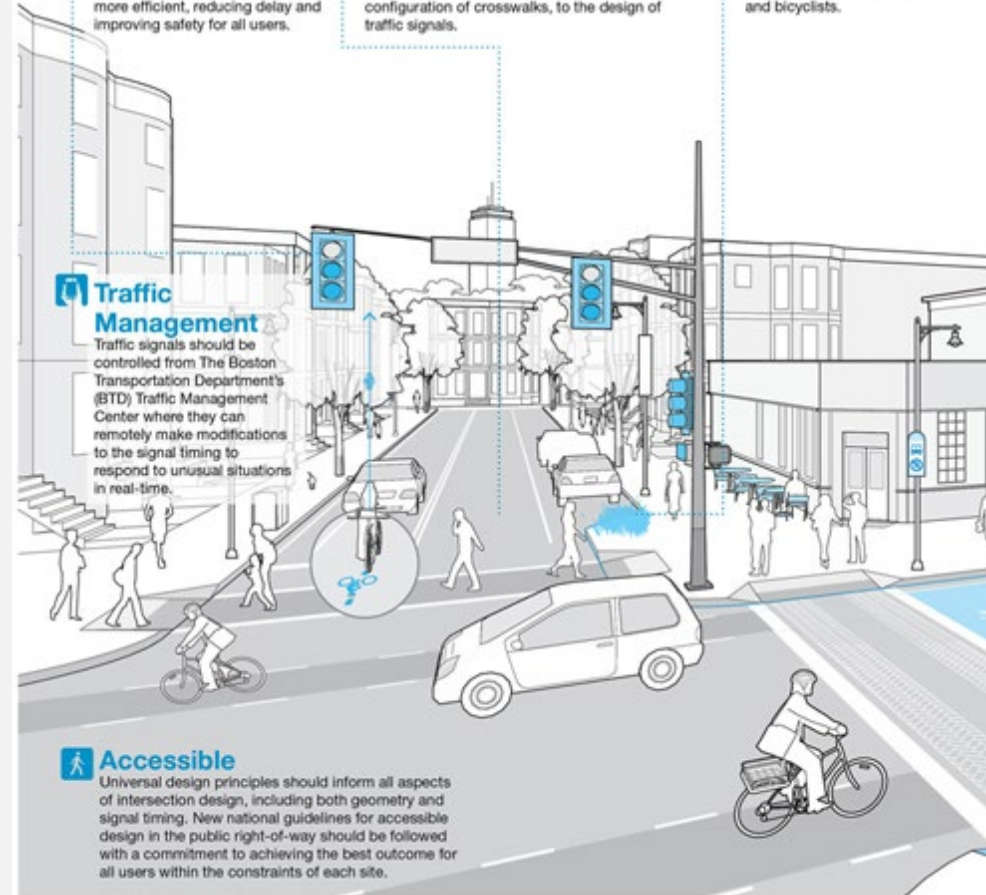
Intersections that contain wide, undefined areas of pavement that are not necessary for the efficient movement of motor vehicles provide opportunities to reclaim street space for pedestrians, transit users, and bicyclists.

Traffic Management

Traffic signals should be controlled from The Boston Transportation Department's (BTD) Traffic Management Center where they can remotely make modifications to the signal timing to respond to unusual situations in real-time.

Accessible

Universal design principles should inform all aspects of intersection design, including both geometry and signal timing. New national guidelines for accessible design in the public right-of-way should be followed with a commitment to achieving the best outcome for all users within the constraints of each site.



Source: Toole Design

Design & development standards

- Provide a **range of context-sensitive** design and development standards for member jurisdictions.
- Help guide **private development and public infrastructure toward multimodal** goals.
- Introduce **tools and standards** applicable to a variety of multimodal conditions and scales.





Next steps

Engagement opportunities

- Location-based **pop-up events** at existing mobility hubs, transit-oriented developments, and multimodal corridors.
- **Focus groups** with local and member government staff and elected officials.
- **Developer roundtable** structured to discuss challenges, share knowledge, and identify opportunities.

Project timeline

Task 1: Assessing Current Conditions

June 2025 – September 2025.

- *Draft corridor contexts.*
- *Existing conditions report.*

Task 2: Toolkit Components

August 2025 – March 2026.

- *Case studies (best practices).*
- *Land development code strategies.*

Task 3: Community & Stakeholder Engagement

October 2025 – April 2026.

- *Pop-up events.*
- *Focus groups.*
- *Developer roundtable.*

Task 4: Toolkit Implementation Strategies

December 2025 – July 2026.

- *Establish coordinating roles.*
- *Toolkit final draft.*



Thank you!

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