



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

SUBJECT	New Street Furniture Installation Rules	AGENCY	City of Oakland Department of Transportation Right- of-Way Management Division
REFERENCE	O.M.C. 12.08.100	EFFECTIVE	September 1, 2023

PURPOSE

This bulletin establishes new street furniture installation rules pursuant to Oakland Municipal Code 12.08.100 to ensure new street furniture installed in the City of Oakland right-of-way does not materially interfere with the public use of the sidewalk or endanger the public welfare and convenience.

RULES

The City of Oakland Department of Transportation may approve street furniture encroachments—including, but not limited to, charging stations, utility poles, kiosks, vehicle barriers, transit shelters, news racks, lighting, art, etc.—in the public right-of-way consistent with the following design parameters:

1. Placement of street furniture in the public right-of-way is prohibited without an encroachment permit.
2. Street furniture must be located in the Landscaping/Furnishing Zone adjacent to the curb. The Landscaping/Furnishing Zone is the area between the face of curb and the Pedestrian Clear Zone. Items in this zone are intended for the use or benefit of all residents and visitors.
3. Street furniture may not impede the Pedestrian Clear Zone. The Pedestrian Clear Zone is the area of the sidewalk specifically reserved for pedestrian travel. The Pedestrian Clear Zone should be one straight, consistent path along the block. Lateral shifts in the Pedestrian Clear Zone will have a transition rate of one foot of shift to three feet or greater of run. The Pedestrian Clear Zone must be a minimum of 5'-6"-wide and at least two-thirds of the total sidewalk width. In areas with high pedestrian activity, the Pedestrian Clear Zone is recommended to be a minimum of 8'-wide. Refer to Figure 1.

Figure 1: Pedestrian Clear Zone



Source: NACTO Urban Street Design Guide

4. Street furniture shall not obstruct the visibility of traffic control devices or pedestrian crossings. Street furniture that has the potential to obstruct visibility of a traffic control device or pedestrian crossing must maintain a minimum 25' clearance from the nearside of traffic control devices and marked crosswalks. Street furniture must maintain a minimum 5' clearance from the far-side of traffic control devices and marked crosswalks.
5. Street furniture must maintain a minimum 10' clearance from the end of the curb return at intersections.
6. Street furniture must maintain a minimum 10' clearance from regulatory, warning and guide/informational signs.
7. Street furniture must preserve a minimum 2'-6" from driveway apron or approach.
8. Street furniture must be placed at least 1'-6" from the face of curb.
9. Street furniture shall maintain a minimum 5' clearance from utility poles, pedestrian push buttons, traffic control pedestals, utility service meters, fire hydrants, telecommunication pedestals, private sewer laterals, and City sewer and City storm facilities.
10. Street furniture shall not impede [or preclude] street trees or landscaping. Street furniture may not be installed in a tree box.

If the aforementioned rules cannot be met, the applicant shall provide detailed justification for non-compliance for OakDOT review and potential approval. Design exceptions are not guaranteed.

Please direct questions regarding this Technical Bulletin to the OakDOT Right-of-Way Management Division.


Wladimir Wlassowsky (Sep 6, 2023 10:26 PDT)

Wlad Wlassowsky, Interim City Engineer
City of Oakland Department of Transportation


Fred Kelley (Sep 6, 2022 10:47 PDT)

Fred Kelley, Director
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Street Furniture Technical Bulletin

Final Audit Report

2023-09-06

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