### Curb Space: An Asset Hidden in Plain Sight



NACTO Designing Cities Conference Kevin O'Neill, Meghan Shepard September 28, 2016



### Our mission, vision, and core values

Mission: deliver a high-quality transportation system for Seattle

Vision: connected people, places, and products

Committed to 5 core values to create a city that is:

- Safe
- Interconnected
- Affordable
- Vibrant
- Innovative

For all

# Seattle's street system

- System is constrained by geography (water, hills)
- Arterials are needed for multiple purposes (transit, freight, general purpose, access, etc.)



Seattle's growth strategy

- Comprehensive Plan focuses growth:
  - Urban centers
  - Manufacturing & industrial centers
  - Urban villages
- 80% of city growth in centers/villages since 1994
- Future growth targets 2015-2035
  - 70,000 additional households
  - 115,000 additional jobs



# Comprehensive Plan Transportation Element: key themes







Invest in travel options

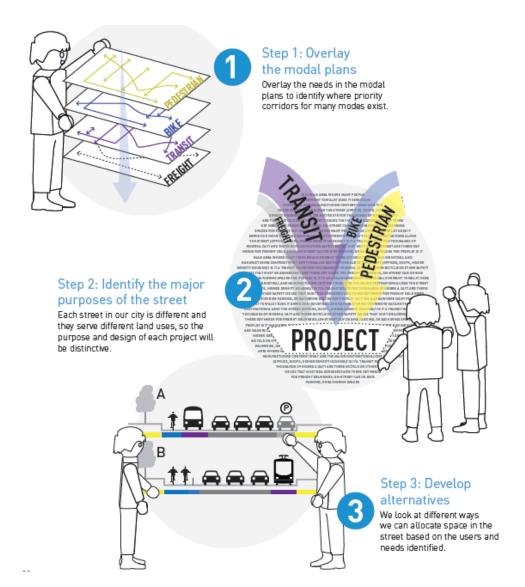
Ensure goods movement

Use right-of-way for multiple purposes

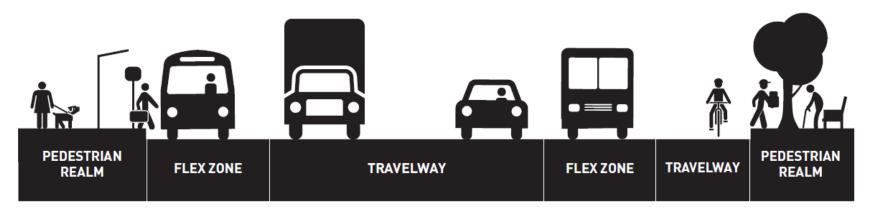
# Right-of-way (ROW) allocation

 Interest in considering <u>all</u> functions of the public right-of-way, including access and activation (not just mobility)

 Comprehensive Plan identifies new framework ROW allocation decisions



### ROW allocation: zones



#### PEDESTRIAN REALM

Comprised of frontage, pedestrian mobility, and furniture zones between the property line and the flex or travelway zones. This space includes the sidewalk, planting areas, bus shelters, sidewalk cafes, and bike racks.

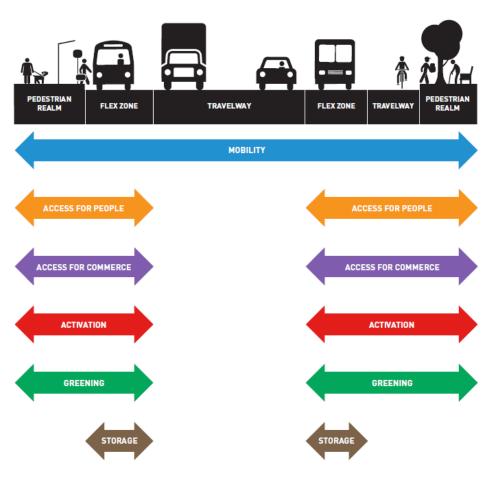
#### **TRAVELWAY**

Most often used for mobility purposes. Lanes can serve all modes or be dedicated to serve specific modes, such as a bus or bike lane.

#### **FLEX ZONE**

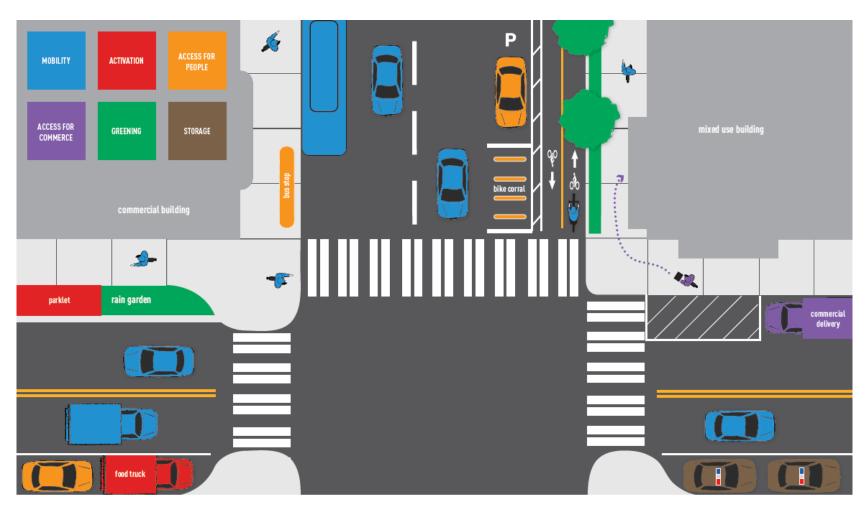
An essential zone for people and goods, providing separation between moving vehicles in the travelway and people in the pedestrian realm. This zone can contain multiple uses along a street - including commercial deliveries, parklets, on-street parking, and taxi zones. It can be used for mobility at specific times of the day.

### ROW allocation: functions

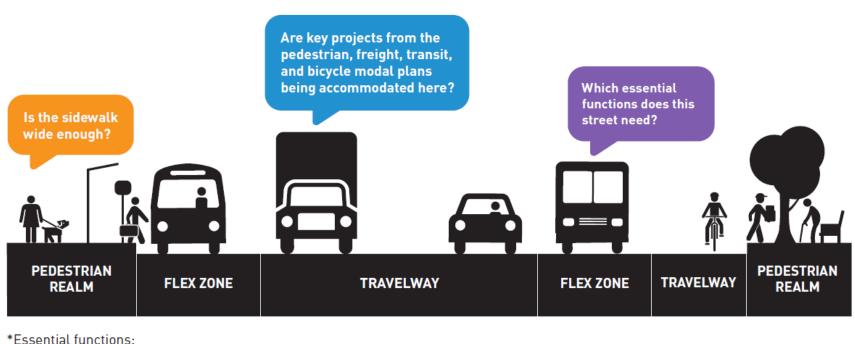


FUNCTION	DEFINITION	EXAMPLES OF USES
MOBILITY	Moves people and goods	Sidewalks Bus or streetcar lanes Bike lanes General purpose travel lanes (includes freight) Right- or left-turn only lanes
ACCESS FOR PEOPLE	People arrive at their destination, or transfer between different ways of getting around	Bus or rail stops     Bike parking     Curb bulbs     Passenger load zones     Short-term parking     Taxi zones
ACCESS FOR COMMERCE	Goods and services reach their customers and markets	Commercial vehicle load zone     Truck load zone
ACTIVATION	Offers vibrant social spaces	Food trucks     Parklets and streateries     Public art     Street festivals
GREENING	Enhances aesthetics and environment health	Plantings - Boulevards - Street trees - Planter boxes  Rain gardens and bio-swales
STORAGE	Provides storage for vehicles or equipment	Bus layover Long-term parking Reserved spaces (e.g., for police or other government use) Construction

# Outcome: multi-functional streets



# Making the best use of the streets we have























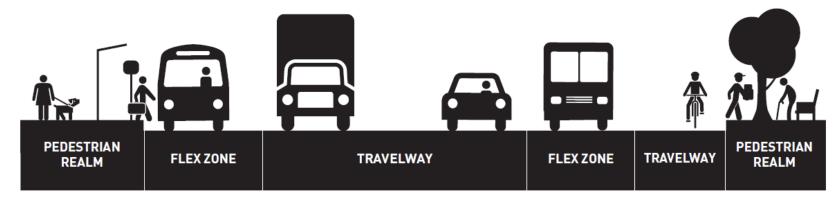
STORAGE

### What is the flex zone?



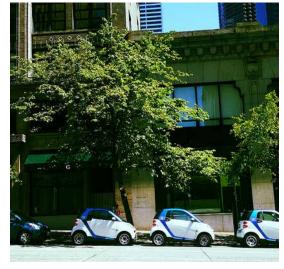






### New curb demands









# Five year changes to curb\*

- Transit projects

Green Streets planning

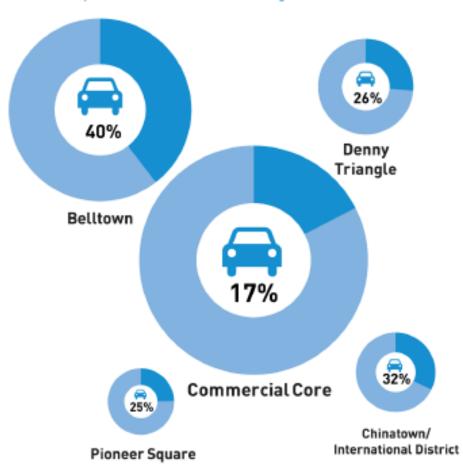
bus lares can operate on

Bicycle projects Streetscape projects Private development Street ends along Spring Street may Alaskan Way are. multiple master Master Plan Implementation Master Plan Corridors Transit Master Plan Wasken Waterfrom Plan Bicycle Master Plan Green Streets Plan Yester Multimodal Corridor Plan Possible transition ==== Draft Freight Master Plan area for multiple plan Existing Transportation Networks - Light Rail Protected Bicycle Lanes Bicycle master plan overlap \* Assumes build-out of projects in Transit, Pedestrian, Freight and Bicycle Modal Plans Curbspace Study SDOT

### Curbspace in Seattle's CBD

#### **Private Vehicle Parking**

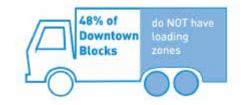
Curb Space Dedicated to Private Parking



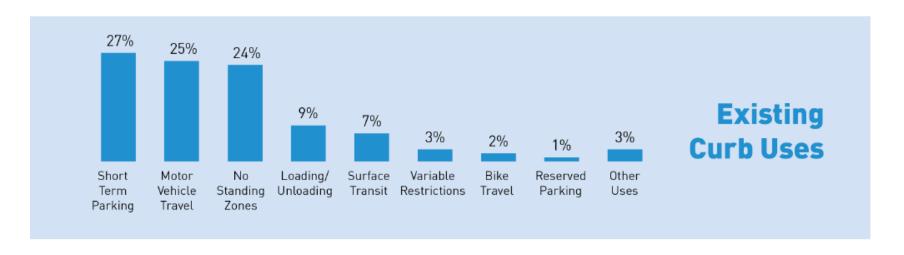


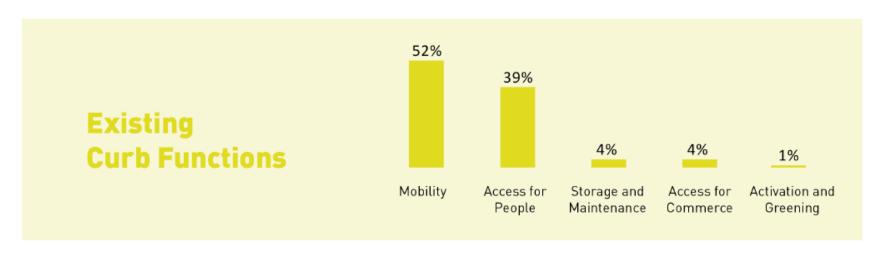
2.8%

of the curb space has variable programming, serving different functions at different times of the day

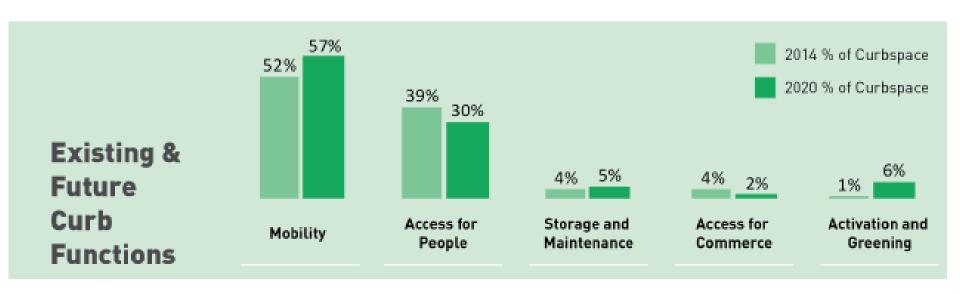


### CBD curb use and function today





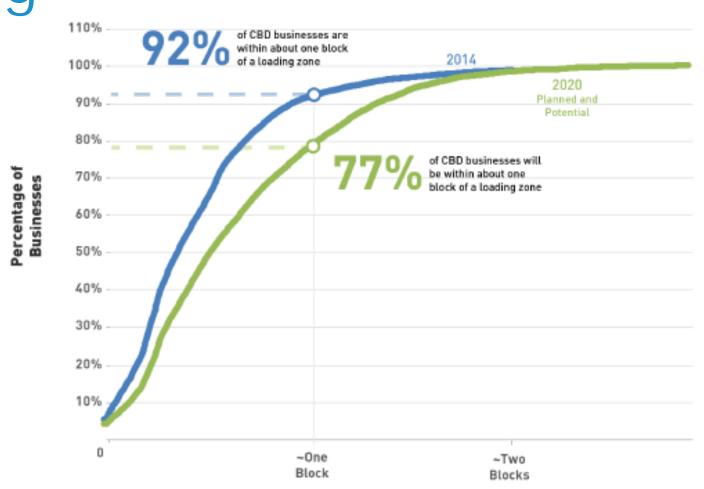
# 5-year function changes



# Changes in loading

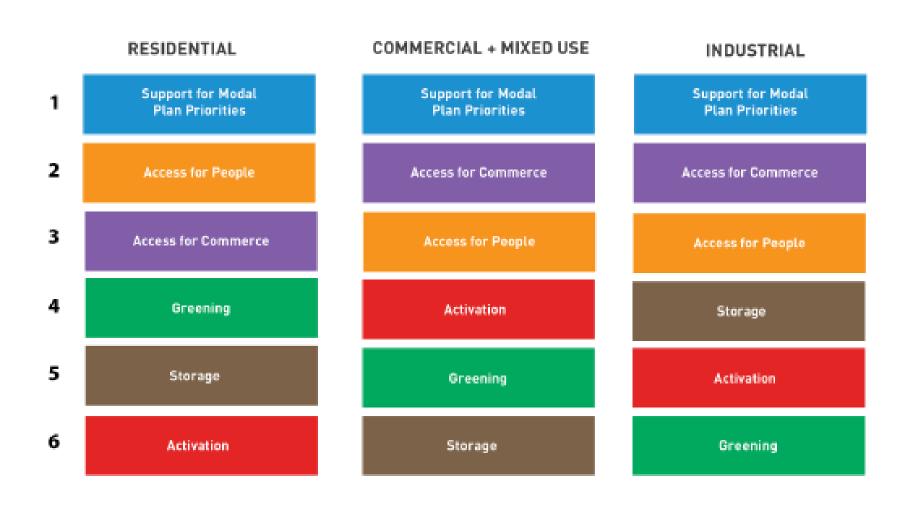
#### **CBD OVERALL**

Access for Commerce: Distance to Loading Zone



Approximate Distance from a Loading Zone

## Seattle curbspace priorities



# Urban goods delivery strategy

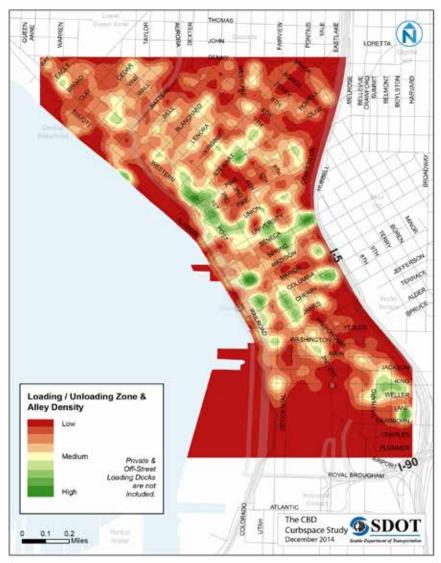


"Provide a freight network that supports a thriving and diverse economy for Seattle and the region."

*- Seattle Freight Master Plan, September 2016* 

# Loading minimums

 Establish a minimum distance for loading opportunities from any business address either in on-street, alley or off-street locations



# Design strategies

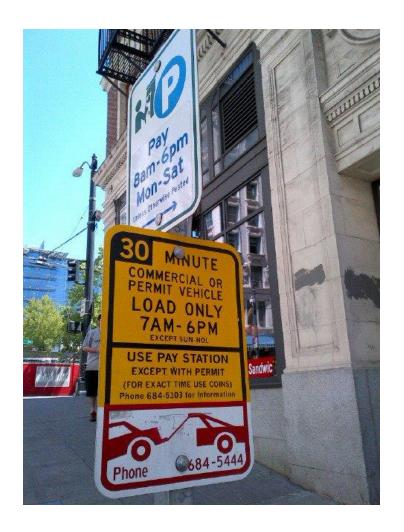
- Maintain or create access through creative design
- Address impact of alley vacations on nearby properties



3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue flex/load zone

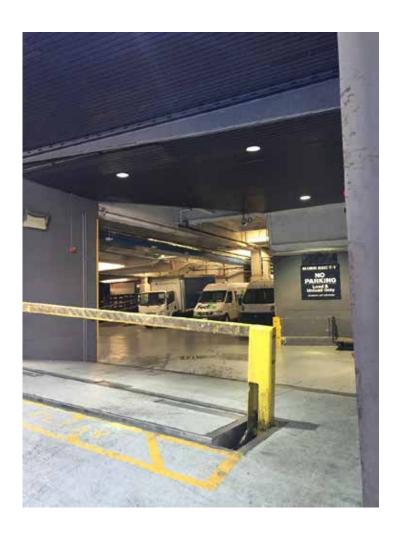
### Commercial load zone strategies

- Investigate off-hour delivery pilot
- Change the commercial load zone permit pricing structure to better manage demand



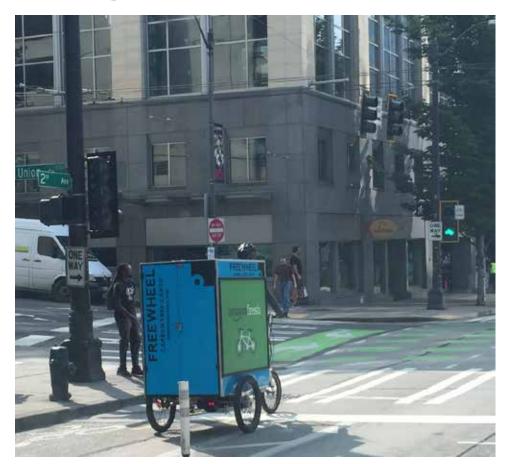
### Off-street strategies

- Explore best practices in off-street loading dock and use standards
- Update new development requirements for package storage



# Freight demand management strategies

- Consolidate trips
- Enable right-size vehicles in dense areas
- Employ technology to guide deliveries and manage access



### Ouestions?

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### www.seattle.gov/transportation









