

8 Great Characteristics of Great Streets

- 1 Great Streets are great places** The street is public space. Features such as buildings, walkways, open space, and activity help establish a community's sense of place.
- 2 Great Streets integrate land use and transportation planning** The transportation network is planned to refine and support a community's vision. Both the land use and transportation elements must work cohesively at the local level and within a regional context.
- 3 Great Streets accommodate all users and all modes.** A plan includes a practical network of all travel modes. Trips to, through, and within an area are all facilitated. Priority for pedestrians, motorists, transit riders, cyclists, and service functions is balanced according to use and need. Most every trip begins and ends on foot, so parking, transit stops, and bicycle facilities provide safe and amenable transitions to walking.
- 4 Great Streets are economically vibrant** A healthy local economy draws diverse functions, attracts investment, builds creative fiscal stewardship, and supports social activity. Great streets provide stability and resilience for surrounding neighborhoods. They also offer healthy and free access to neighborhood retail and services for those who live or work near them.
- 5 Great Streets are environmentally responsible** Great Streets provide an attractive and refreshing environment by working in concert with natural systems. Addressing environmental concerns such as storm water runoff, urban heat island

effect, planting maintenance, as well as air, sound and light pollution, can add value and durability by reducing energy consumption, waste, and project costs.

- 6 Great Streets rely on current thinking** Great Streets rely on current best practices, advances in technology, and lessons learned from local and global examples. Collaboration with those charged with plan implementation is essential when applying such practices to the local context.
- 7 Great Streets are measurable** Key issues are identified and considered in terms of current conditions and aspirations. Defining important issues, goals, and strategies facilitates constructive discussion when weighing priorities and resources. Tying measures to the goals allows key elements of a project to be assessed over time.
- 8 Great Streets develop collaboratively** Combining local knowledge with technical skill is essential. People who live, work, and play in a place must work with a design team throughout a planning process. In doing so, the community develops a sense of ownership and an expectation to effect change. All involved must be well prepared to evaluate the work and weigh competing issues. The process is equally important as the final plan.



To learn more about what characteristics are found in great streets, as well as the design and process issues involved, you can start with the Digital Design Guide online at www.greatstreets-stl.org/