



MAIN STREET CHECKLIST

This tool is designed to help evaluate the strengths and needs of a main street district. It can be applied to traditional main streets or used in planning efforts to create a main street environment. Use this checklist for a quick overview of main street characteristics and needs. For detailed guidance, resources, implementation ideas, visuals, and local examples, check out the [Main Street Handbook](#).

PEDESTRIAN EXPERIENCE AND SAFETY

SPEED AND CROSSINGS

- Posted speed limits are between 25 and 30 MPH.
- Traffic calming measures have been implemented to keep prevailing speeds below 30 mph.
- Crosswalks are spaced at least every 400 feet – or more frequently if needed – to support safe and convenient walking between destinations.
- If needed, medians and pedestrian refuge islands are present to facilitate safe crossing.

SIDEWALKS AND BUFFERS

- There are wide sidewalks in the core area. In certain sections, they are at least 10–25 feet wide.
- There is a buffer such as a row of trees or parked cars, between pedestrians on the sidewalk and automotive traffic.

LAND USE AND ZONING

PUBLIC GATHERING SPACE

- There is at least one public space or plaza directly adjacent to the district and visible from the sidewalk. This space is highly visible to both pedestrians and motorists and centrally located.

SPACING AND MIX OF BUSINESSES

- A variety of businesses are located nearby, creating a vibrant mix of uses. Storefronts are frequent and closely spaced along the street.

HOUSING

- Housing is incorporated within the district and is located on the second floor and above, or on nearby supporting streets within walking distance of main street.

PARKING LOCATION

- Parking is available through on-street parking spaces or in lots located behind main street.



MOBILITY AND ACCESS

WALKING OR BIKING TO THE DISTRICT

- There are safe and convenient ways to reach the district by bike or on foot from residential neighborhoods located within half a mile of the main street.
- There are safe and convenient walking routes to nearby cultural and natural destinations.
- Bike racks are easy to find and located near key destinations including restaurants, retail, and transit.

DRIVING TO THE DISTRICT

- There are clearly visible signs that guide drivers to shared parking areas.



GREEN SPACE AND ENVIRONMENT

TREES

- Species of trees are suitable for a main street setting. Trees are healthy and well-maintained.
- The street trees are positioned between storefronts at shared walls, rather than directly in front of entrances or signage

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND STORMWATER

- The municipality has a framework to support green infrastructure implementation for the district. This includes sustainable practices to manage stormwater.
- The municipality has considered green infrastructure in alignment with traffic calming opportunities.
- Drainage and flooding issues in the district are identified and addressed in planning documents, such as corridor plans, stormwater plans, and sustainability plans.



IMAGE AND CHARACTER

ART AND CULTURE

- Local history and culture is represented through elements such as historic markers, signage or public art. Cultural assets are integrated into the district to create a unique sense of place.
- Local ordinances allow for sidewalk sales, festivals, and outdoor dining.

STREETSCAPE APPEARANCE

- Public amenities such as trash cans, flower beds, and streetlights are well-maintained and in good working condition. Litter is regularly picked up to keep the area clean.



BUSINESS SUPPORT AND INNOVATION

LOCAL ASSISTANCE

- A designated point of contact for business support exists within the district, provided either by the local government or through a nonprofit organization.
- The local government provides a how-to guide for opening a business.
- Land use regulations are written in a way to support startups, small businesses, and a variety of business types.