Guidelines for Crosswalks with Artistic Elements

Crosswalks that incorporate artistic design can provide community place-making and add visual interest to an intersection. However, such elements do not provide additional safety to pedestrians than standard reflective crosswalks. The purpose of these guidelines is to provide design parameters for artistic elements within intersections that do not compromise the safety of the crossing for all users.

Design Guidelines

- Crosswalks must contain two white transverse lines with reflectivity to be compliant with minimum crosswalk standards. The transverse lines shall extend across the full width of the pavement or the edge of the intersecting crosswalk. Artwork must be contained with the two transverse (horizontal) lines.

- Painting between the solid white vertical lines in a continental (piano key-style) crosswalk is not allowed per federal guidelines. If installing at a location where a continental crosswalk already exists, existing striping shall be removed prior to installation of white transverse line and artistic design.

- Artwork shall not contain colors in such a way that could be confused with other standard traffic control devices or pavement markings.

- Artwork shall not contain octagons or triangles, or other shapes that may be confused with standard traffic control devices or pavement markings.

- Artwork shall not contain logos, text, or advertising.

- The Municipal Traffic Engineer shall make the final determination as to the overall safety of the artistic design.
Crosswalk Specifications

- Reflective transverse lines shall be a minimum 6” wide and a maximum 24” wide.
- Artistic elements shall be non-reflective.
- The gap between transverse lines shall be a minimum of 6-foot wide and a maximum of 10-foot wide.
- The gap between transverse crosswalk line and STOP bar shall be a minimum of 4 feet.

Materials

- The artistic crosswalk shall consist of street-grade paint applied using stencils, or preformed thermoplastic.
- The application material and method shall provide a non-slip surface for pedestrians. The material for the artistic design shall be non-reflective.

Installation

- The applicant shall agree to install, maintain, and provide any necessary traffic control during installation.
- A traffic obstruction permit must be obtained from the Department of Public Works prior to installation of the crosswalk.

Maintenance

- Painted crosswalks generally have a life span of up to one year when using waterborne street grade paint and three to five years when using epoxy street grade paint or thermoplastic, depending upon materials used and location.
- The Department of Public Works is not responsible for maintaining or replacing non-standard crosswalks or other non-standard markings within the right of way. City streets are subject to repaving at any time, and the street may, at City discretion, be returned to its prior condition upon repaving or during regularly scheduled striping maintenance with a standard crosswalk.
- The applicant shall enter into a Maintenance Agreement with the Department of Public Works.

Submissions

- Design must be presented on a scaled plan with dimensions identifying existing pavement type, proposed pavement marking material, and reflective/non-reflective pavement markings.
- Design plan and material specifications shall be submitted to and receive final approval by the Department of Public Works prior to installation.
- Design must be submitted to and have final Art Commission approval prior to installation.

Plans Submissions:

Amanda Purcell, Municipal Traffic Engineer
Department of Public Works, Bureau of Transportation and Engineering
City-County Building
414 Grant Street, Room 301
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

For information about the Art Commission process, email Yesica Guerra, the Public Art & Civic Design Manager, at yesica.guerra@pittsburghpa.gov.