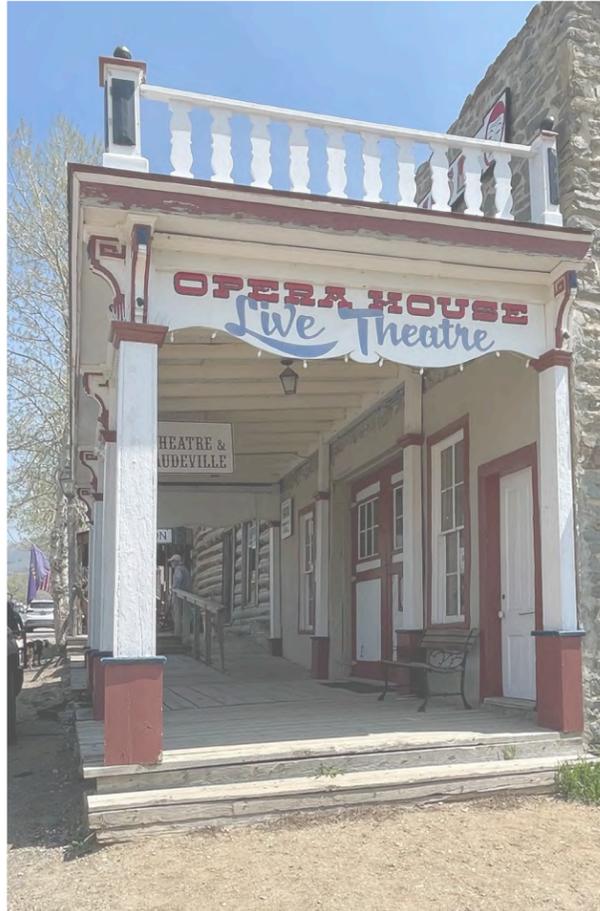
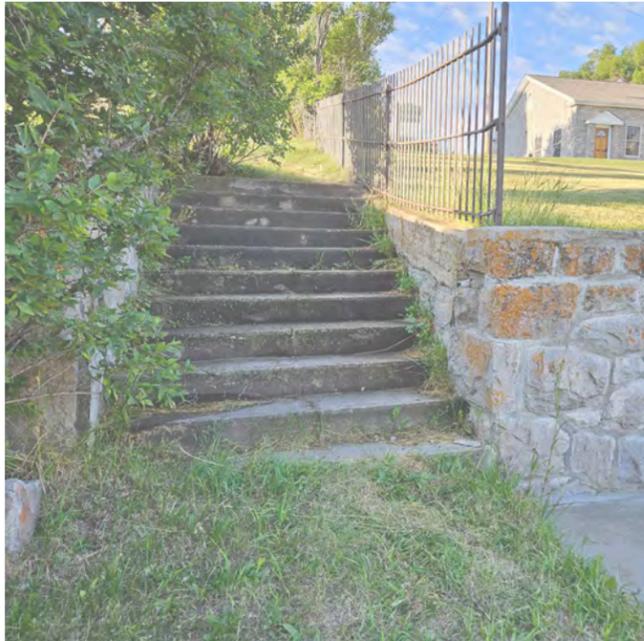


Wallace Street Accessibility Study

Virginia City, Montana
August 2023



Credits

This project was funded through the Montana Heritage Commission to support preservation efforts in the National Historic Landmark town of Virginia City, Montana

Montana Heritage Commission

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Purpose & Intent

The recurrent issue of accessibility in Virginia City came to the forefront of conversation when the Opera House, home to the Virginia City Players, expressed an urgent need to improve accessibility at the playhouse. This facility serves as host to hundreds of local residents and visitors to historic Virginia City, a National Historic Landmark, to experience live melodrama and vaudeville theater in a former c. XXX Livery. A similar urgency was also recently considered through a study prepared for the Board of Trustees for the Thompson-Hickman Memorial Building who wanted to investigate options to improve building access for individuals with mobility and accessibility challenges. This study, completed in December, 2022, also included a limited discussion on accessibility concerns on Wallace Street and other areas of town. The study Identified numerous accessibility factors of which three stood out:

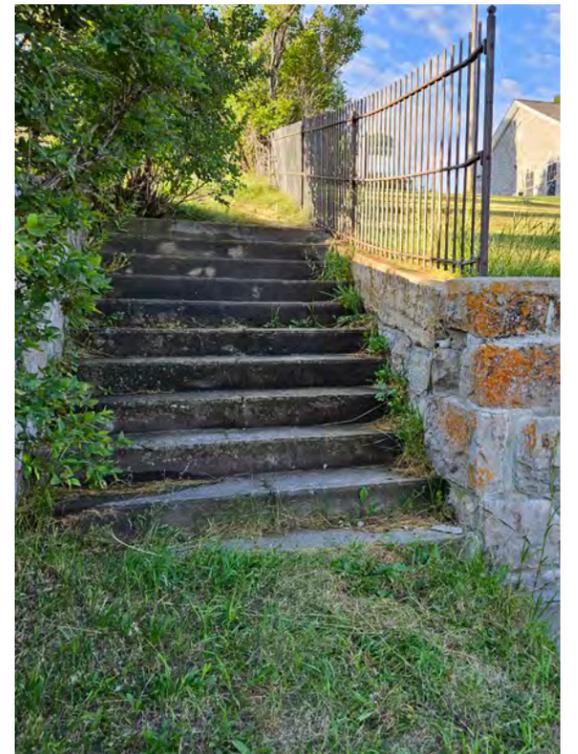
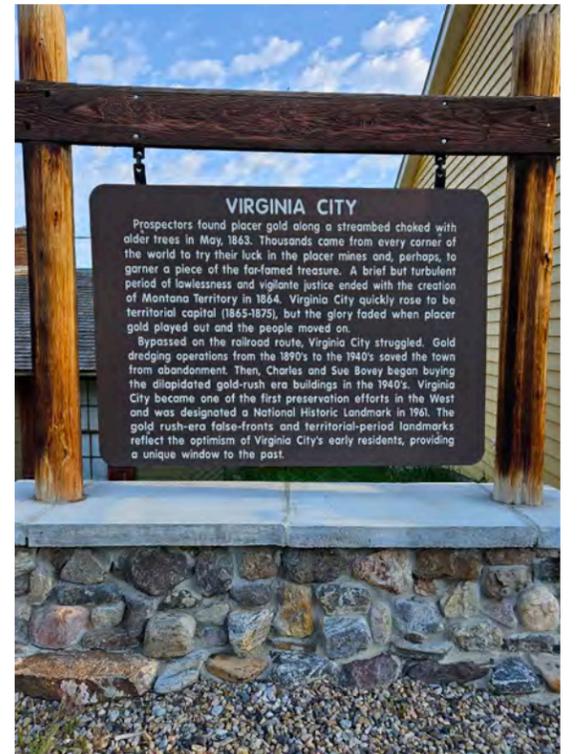
The resident population of Madison County is growing larger (+15% over the past 10 years) and older (+15 years (53) compared to the national average of 38).

The percentage of Americans with disabilities increases with age. By age 65 over 30% of the population experiences a “condition that substantially limits a major life activity”.

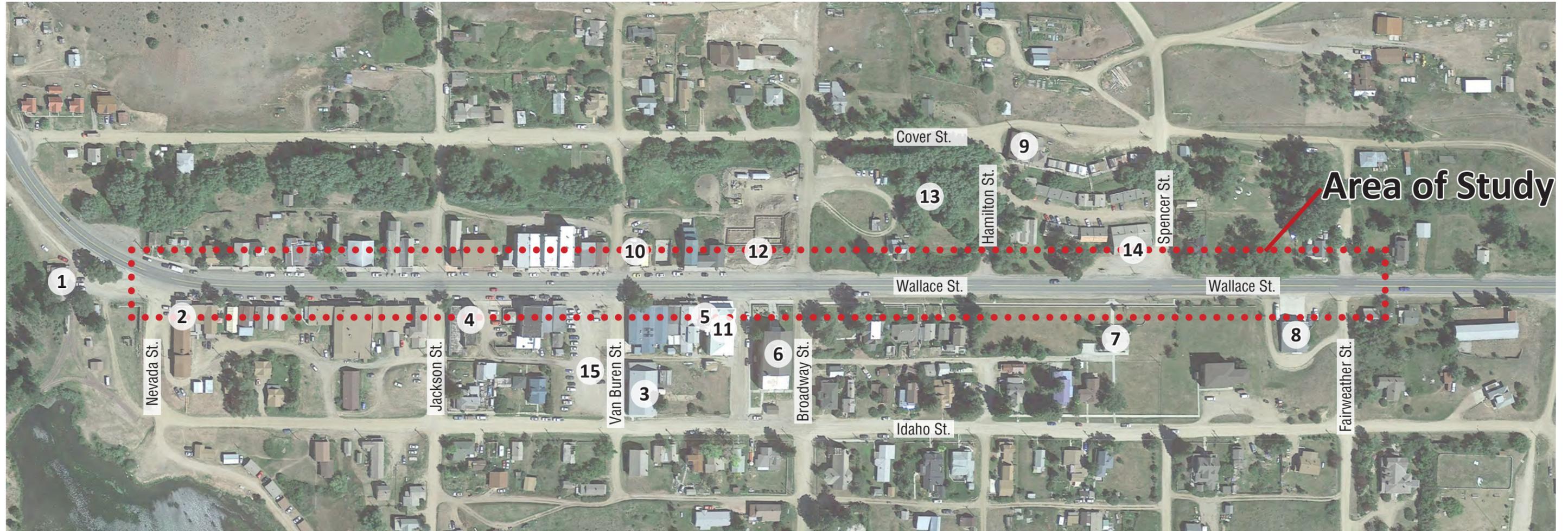
Montana Institute for Tourism Research and Reporting data indicates that approximately 30% of summertime visitors are seniors in their 60’s or older.

The Montana Heritage Commission recognized the importance of this issue and commissioned ARCHitecture Trio, Inc. and Landstory, Inc. to look at the Opera House conditions and other factors limiting free access to the varied experiences and places Virginia City has to offer. The purpose of this document is to heighten awareness of access, mobility, and maneuverability limitations along the Wallace Street (MT Highway 287) corridor and was not intended to be exhaustive or all-encompassing of the accessibility challenges in town. Instead, the intent was to identify general and typical accessibility, mobility, and public safety concerns and to serve as a call to action.

The Montana Department of Transportation is currently in the planning stages for Wallace Street improvements. The desire is to be able to document existing conditions, identify potential solutions and encourage further investigation and accessibility and safety improvements sympathetic to the historic integrity of the community and enhance the early western settlement experience to all ages and abilities.



Area of Study - Key Plan

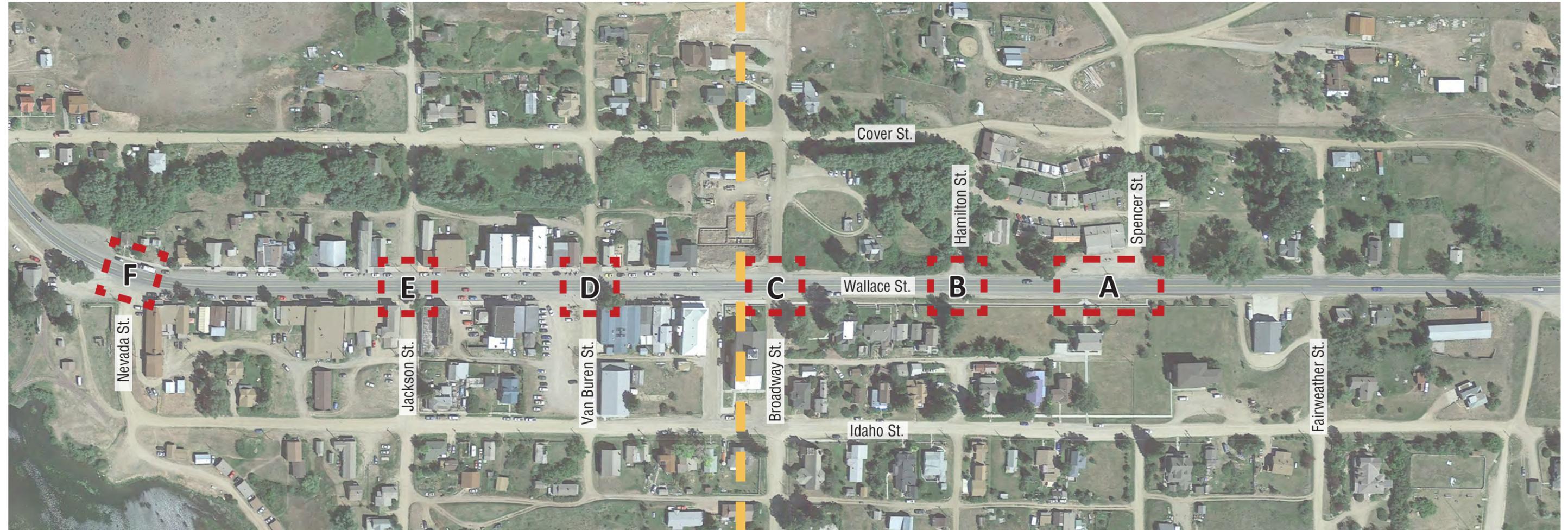


ATTRACTION KEY

1. Virginia City Train Depot
2. Virginia City Opera House
3. Virginia City Community Center
4. Stonewall Hall | Montana's First Territorial Capitol
5. Virginia City Town Office
6. Madison County Courthouse
7. Thompson-Hickman Memorial Building | Library & Museum
8. Virginia City Firehouse
9. Gilbert Brewery Complex | Brewery Follies
10. Hangman's Building
11. Virginia City Elks Lodge
12. Madison County Courthouse Annex
13. Brewery Park
14. Virginia City Visitor's Center
15. Public Parking



High Pedestrian Traffic Areas



PLAN LEGEND	
	High Pedestrian Traffic Crossing

Various conditions present difficulties hampering accessibility, challenges for those with mobility constraints, and general public safety concerns. These images do not represent all conditions, but reflect a general sampling of areas of concern and are classified in three ways:

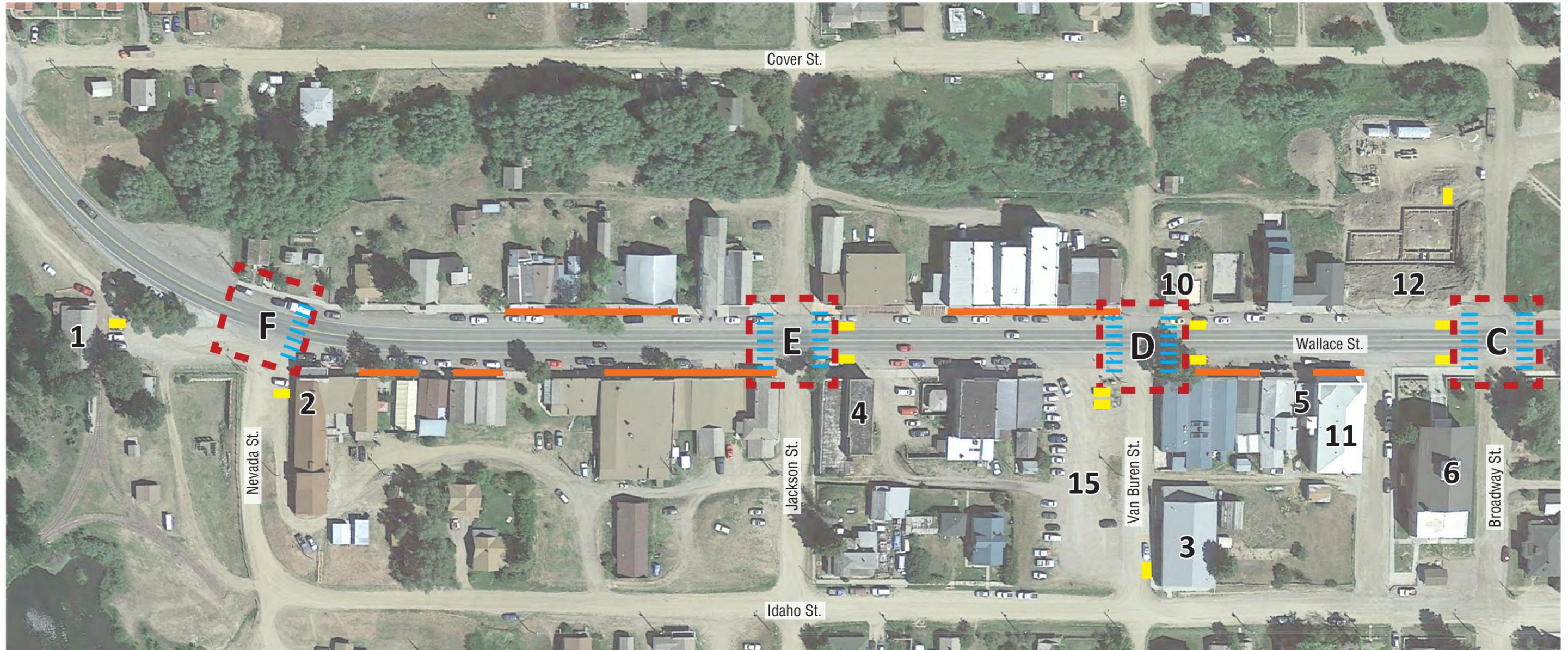
ACCESSIBILITY - includes steep slopes, uneven transitions, and stair access only conditions

EXCESSIVE HEIGHT DIFFERENTIAL - includes primarily boardwalk in areas where street steps down are in excess of 8"

HIGH TRAFFIC CROSSING - includes areas of high pedestrian crossing



General Recommendations



PLAN LEGEND

	High Pedestrian Traffic Crossing		Pedestrian Crosswalk Suggested
	Excessive Height Transition		No Curb - Pedestrian Lane Suggested
	ADA Parking Existing/Suggested		Ramp Up to Boardwalk Suggested

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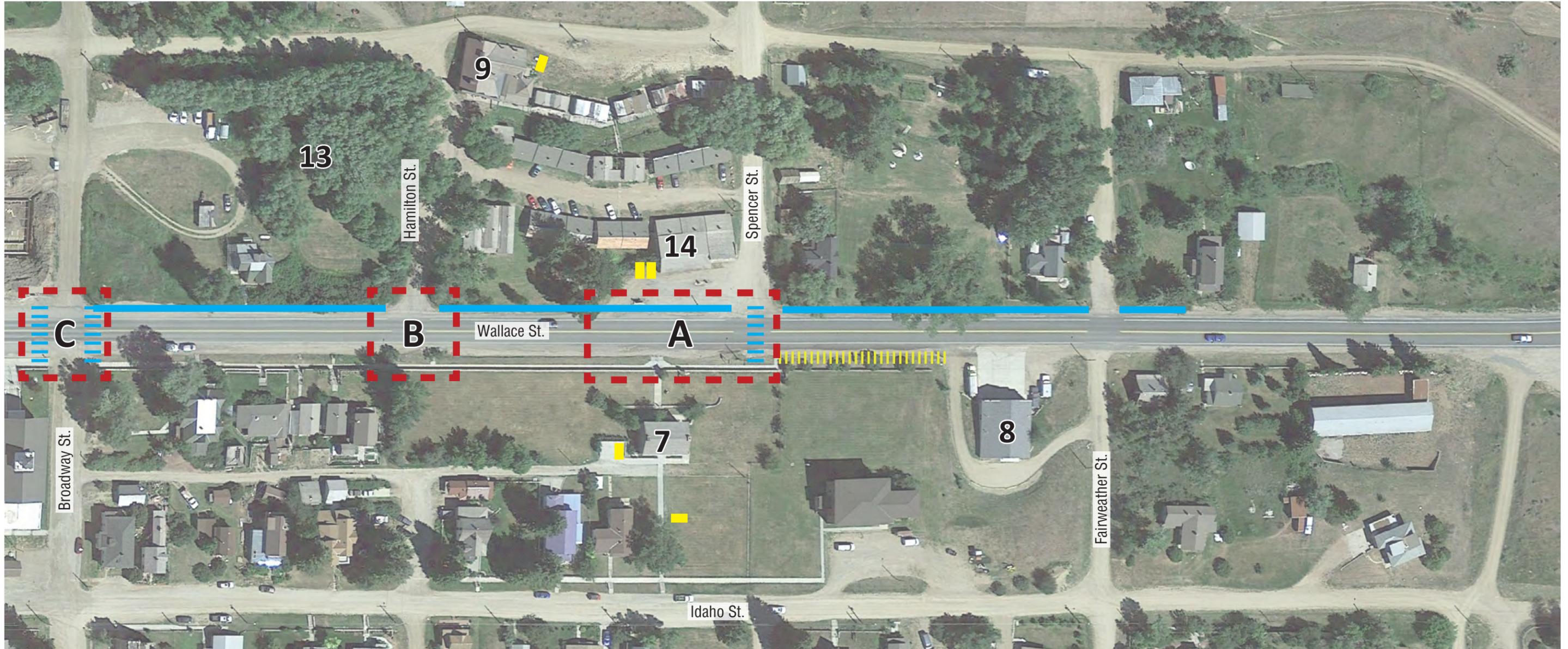
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General Recommendations



PLAN LEGEND

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High Pedestrian Traffic Crossings

These areas have been highlighted due to the significant amount of pedestrians crossing Wallace Street between key points of attraction. These locations represent the highest level of interaction between pedestrian and vehicular traffic, calling for more significant additions.

A

B

C

D

E

F



Accessibility

These areas have been highlighted due to the prevalence of steep slopes and uneven transitions occurring on pedestrian walkways, and areas where the only route of travel involves a staircase. Due to the lack of accessibility these areas call for more significant adjustments.

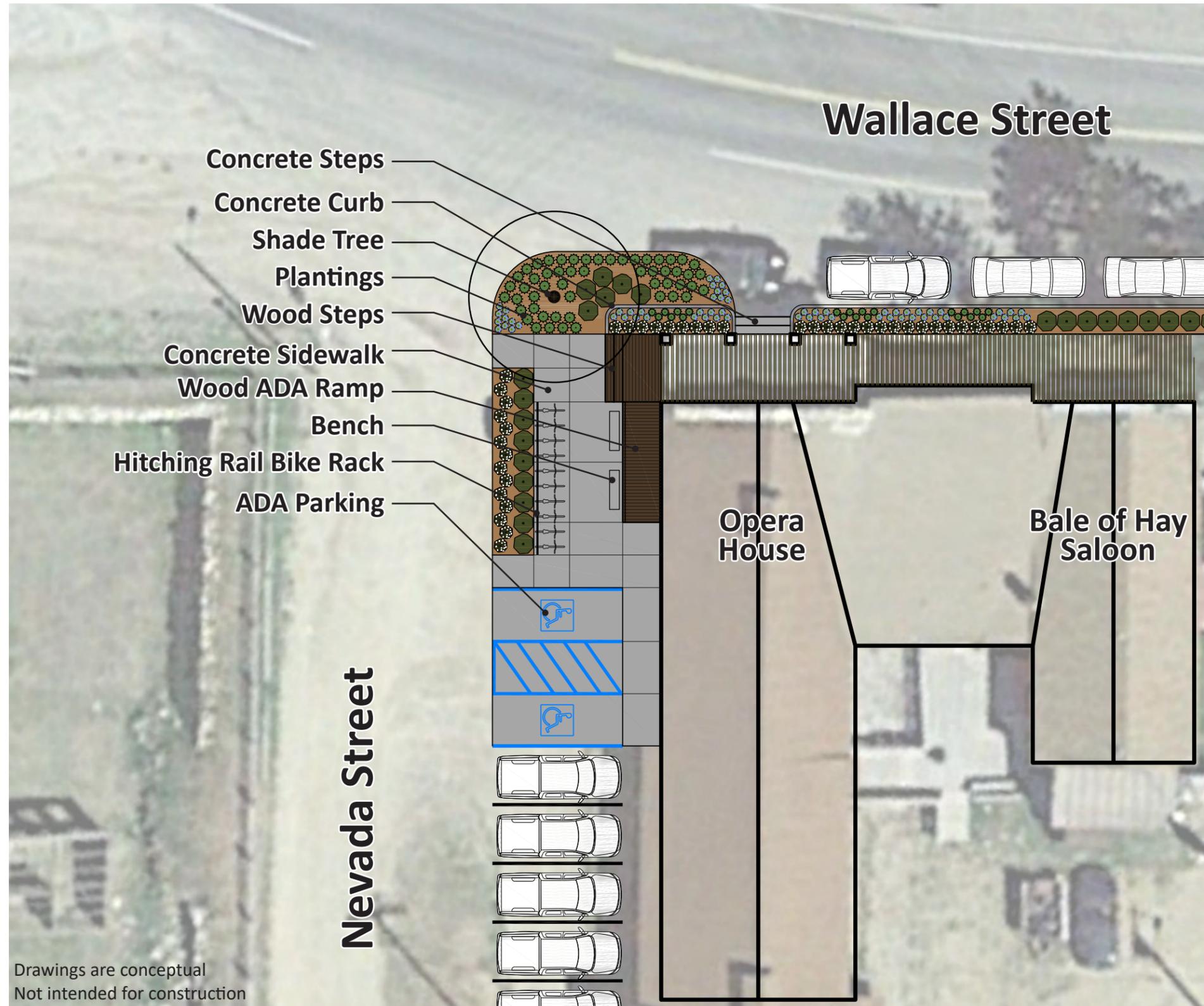


Excessive Height Transitions

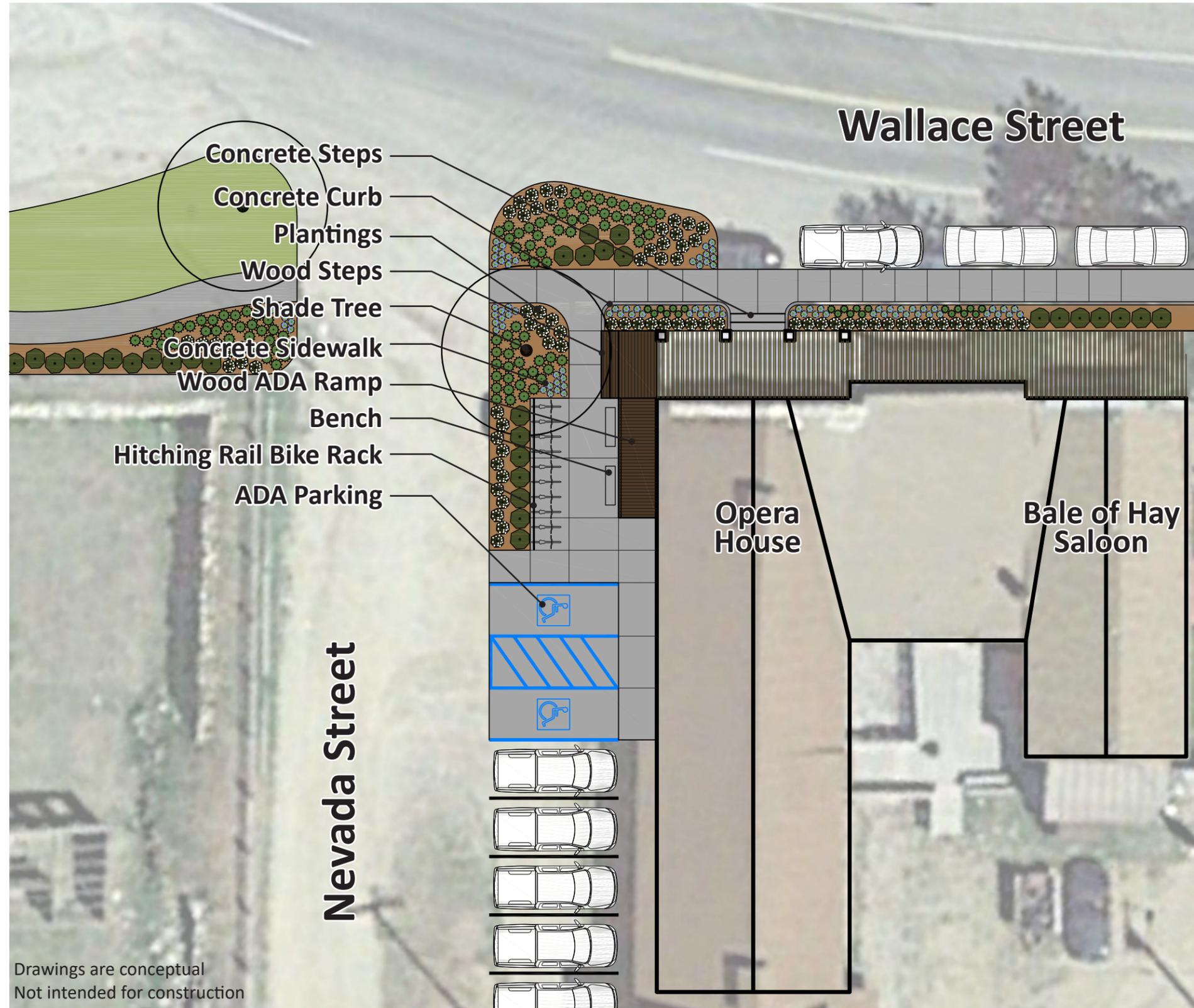
There are numerous transitions at the existing boardwalk where the vertical grade difference varies from 8" to 11", presenting hazardous and unsafe conditions. This is in violation of current building code and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards are exceeded. In some locations guardrails have been provided offering a barrier and deterrent to potential personal injury. The use of additional handrails and guardrails should be encouraged. Street furnishings including various seating and benches also provide areas for rest and respite, given the high altitude..



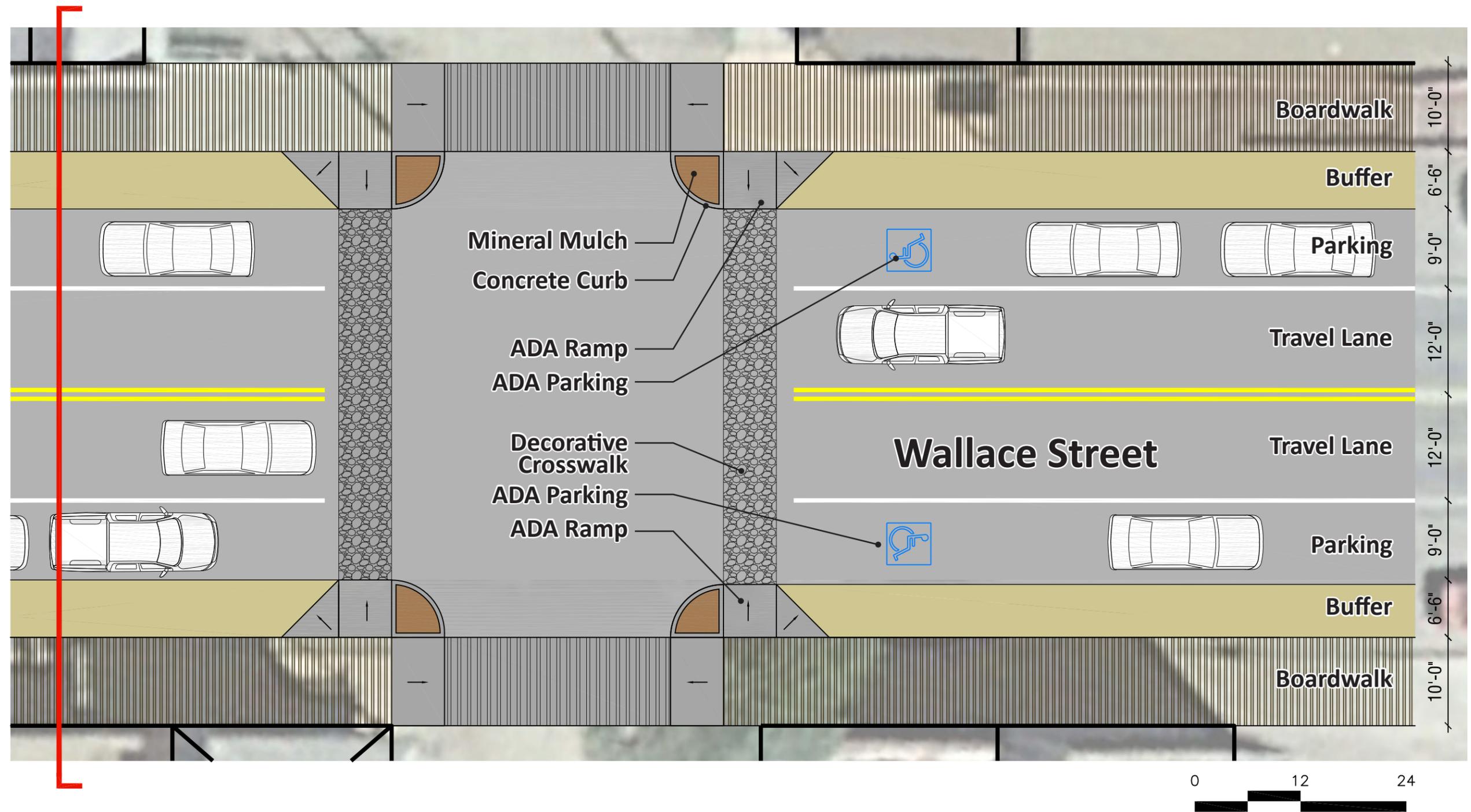
Area F - Proposed Concept 1 | Enlarged Plan



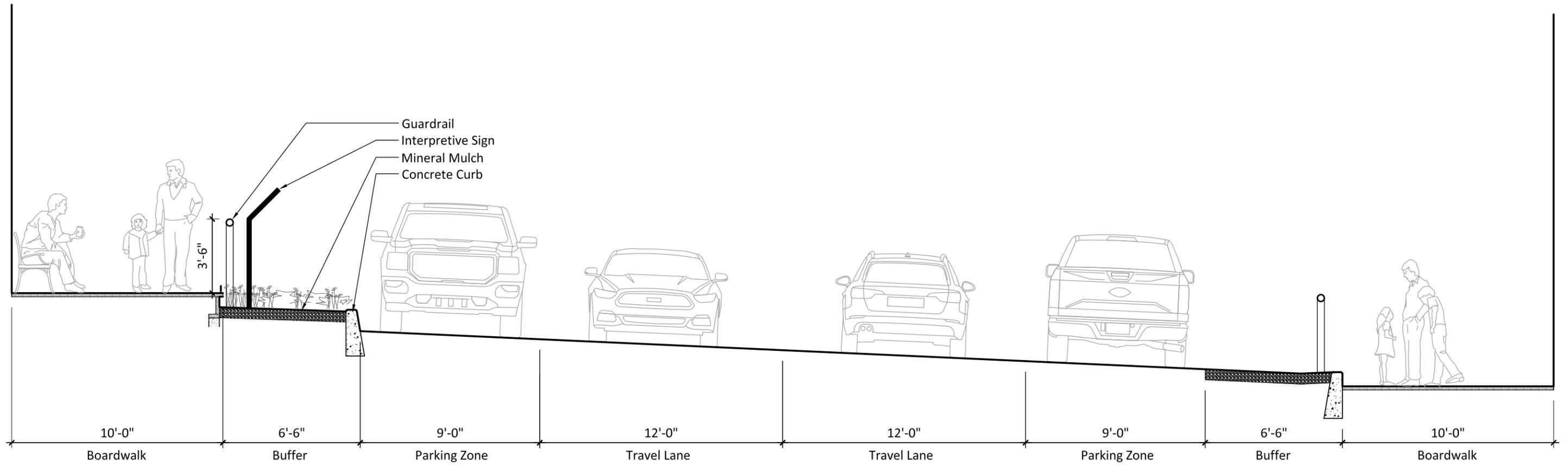
Area F - Proposed Concept B | Enlarged Plan



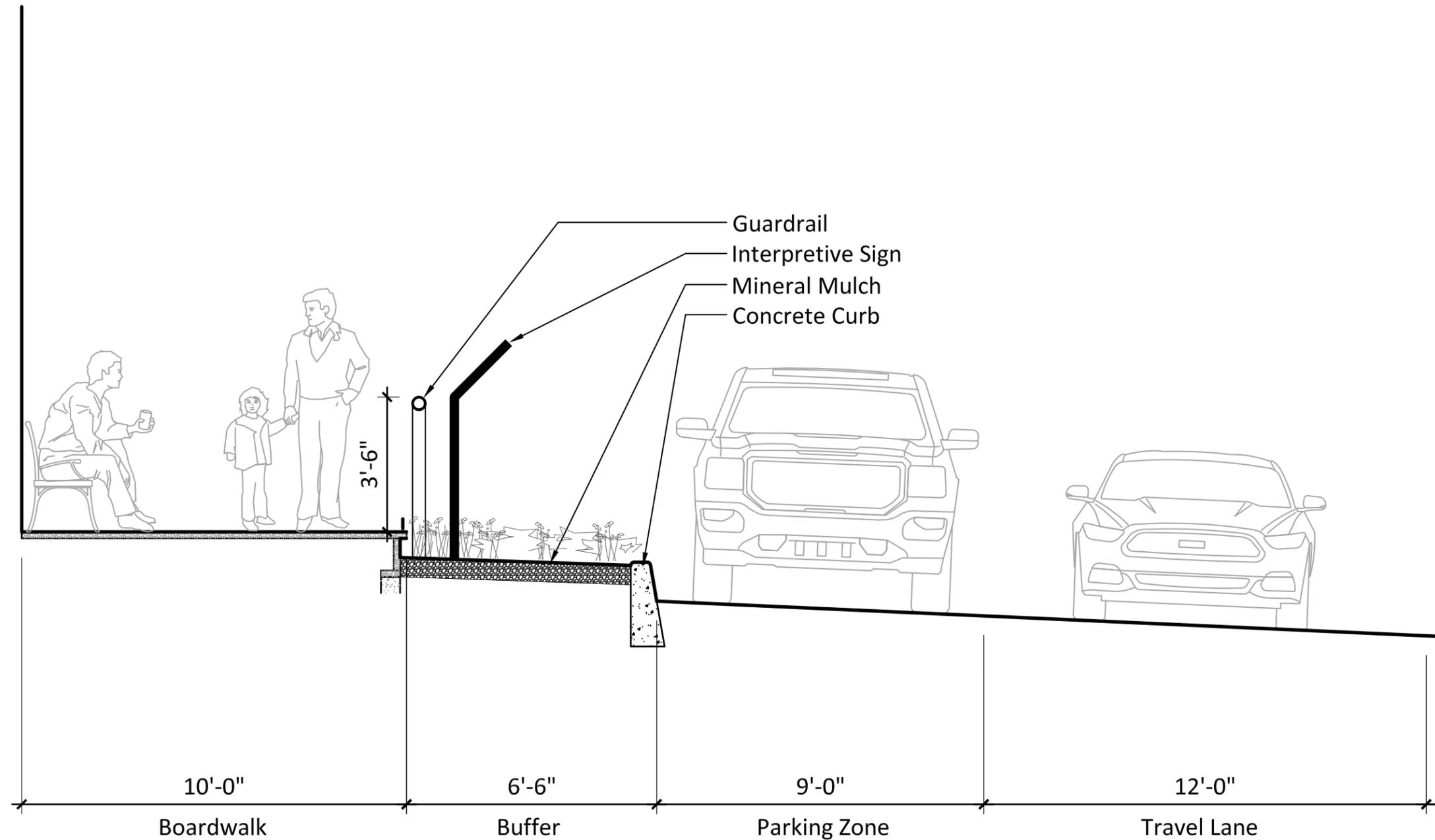
Typical Intersection - Proposed Concept Enlarged Plan



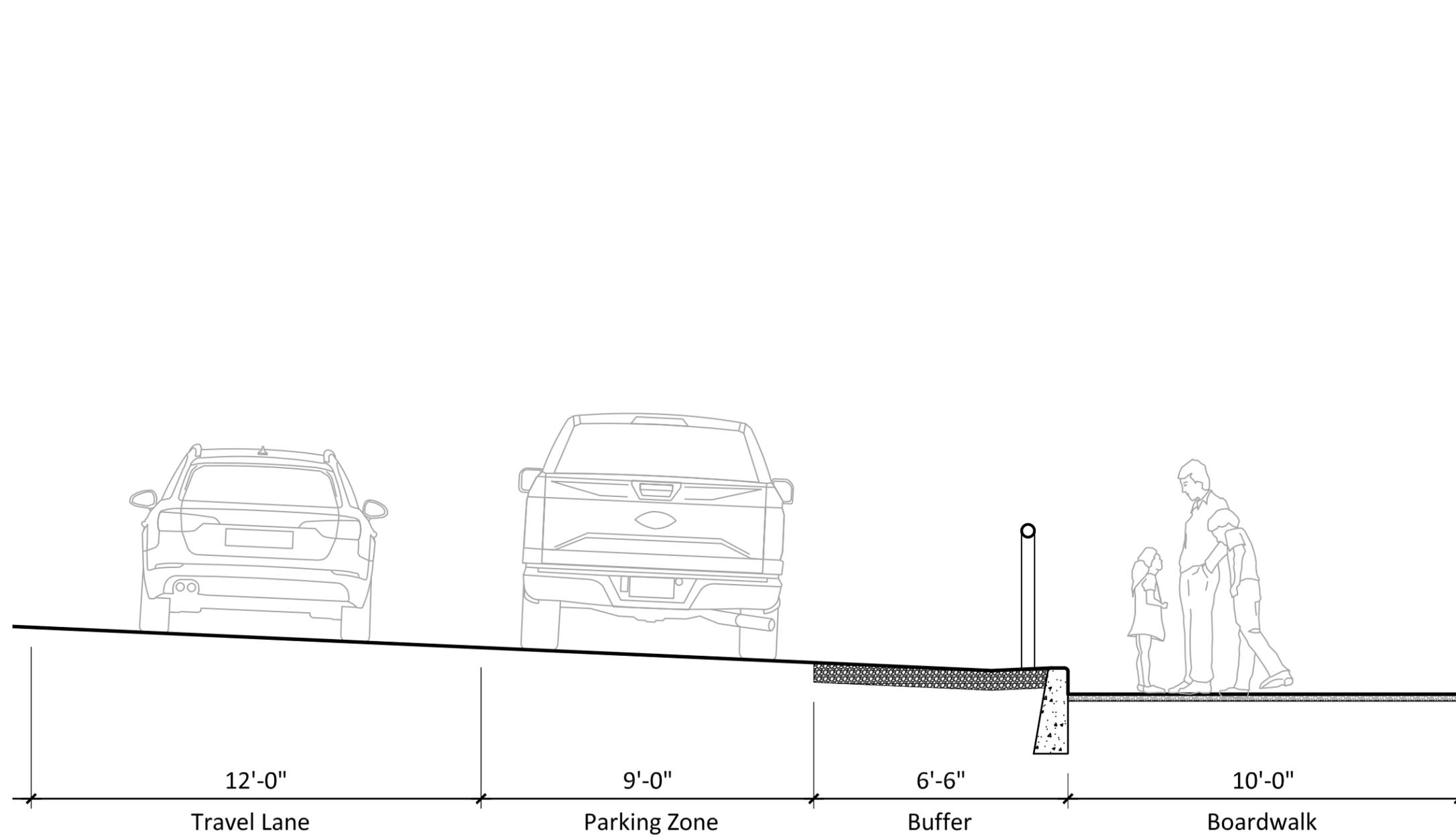
Wallace Street | Proposed Sectional Diagram



South Side Wallace Street | Enlarged Proposed Sectional Diagram



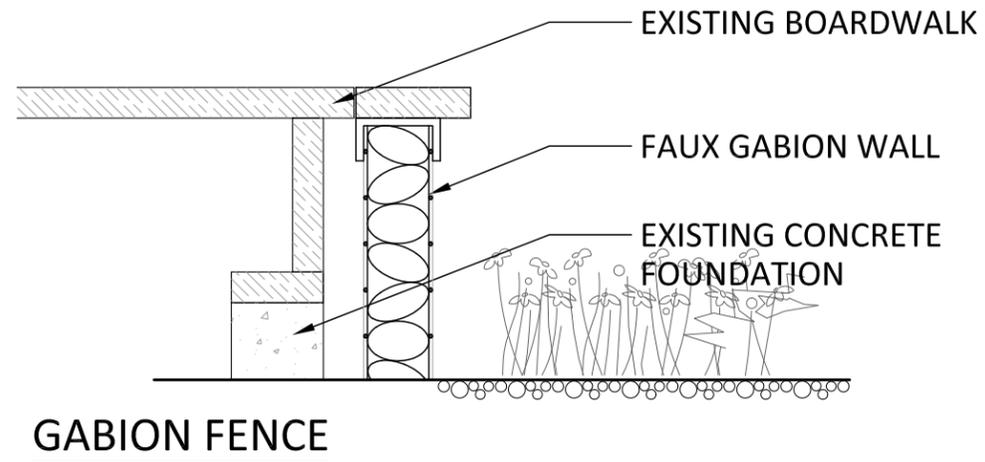
North Side Wallace Street | Enlarged Proposed Sectional Diagram



Precedent Inspiration Images



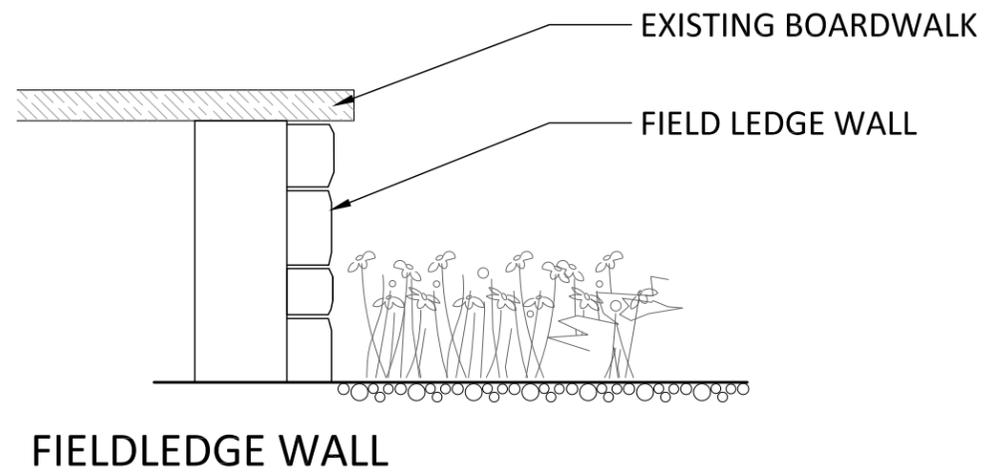
Typical Boardwalk | Proposed Sectional Diagrams & Materials



Gabion Fence



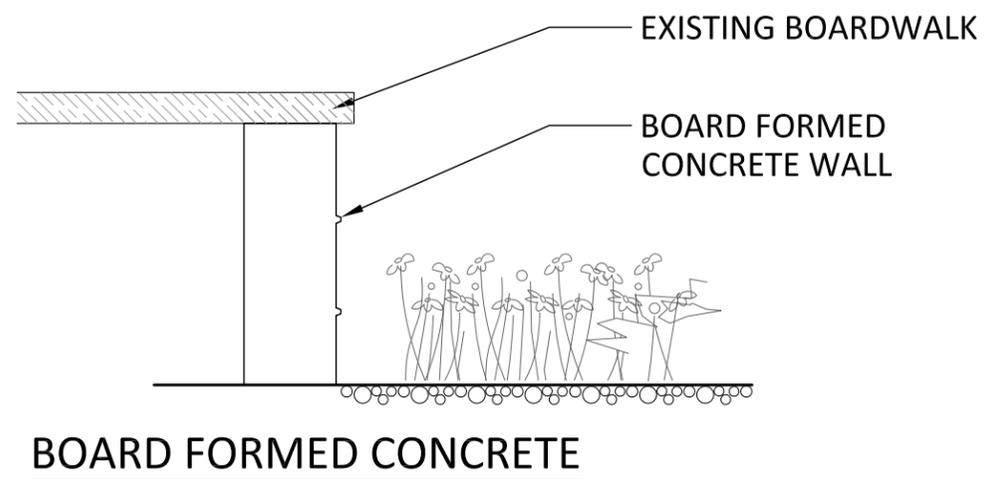
Fieldledge



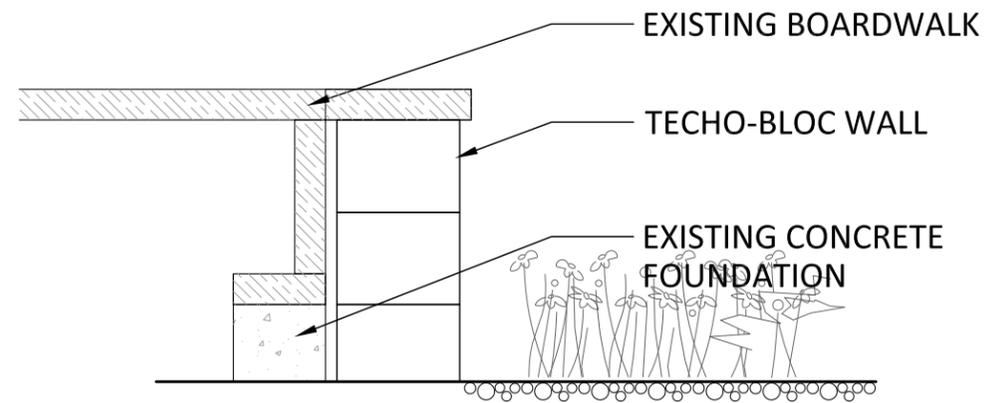
Board-formed Concrete



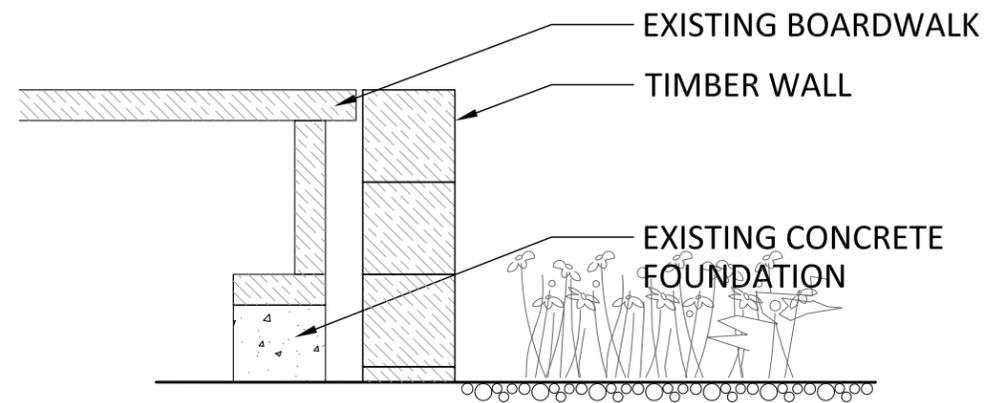
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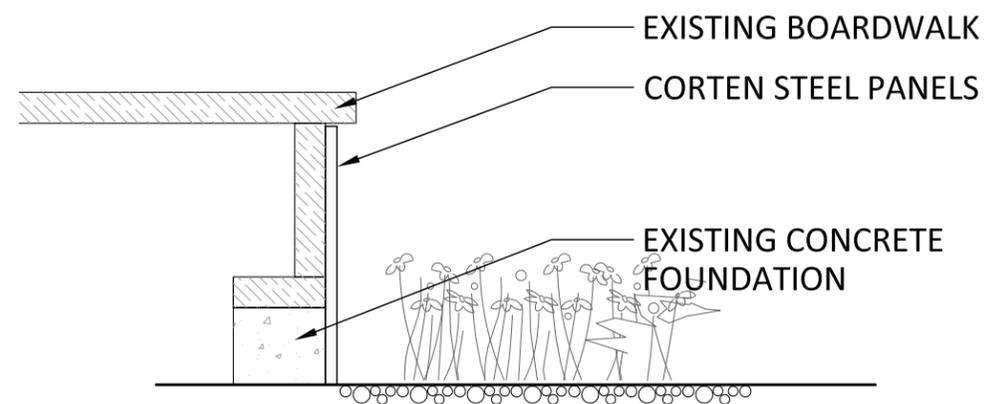
Typical Boardwalk | Proposed Sectional Diagrams & Materials



PRECAST TIMBERS



WOOD TIMBER WALL



CORTEN STEEL PANELS



Precast Timbers



Wood Timbers



Corten Steel



Corten Steel

Streetscape Accessory Inspiration



Interpretive Signage



Bench Seating



Guardrail / Hitching Rail

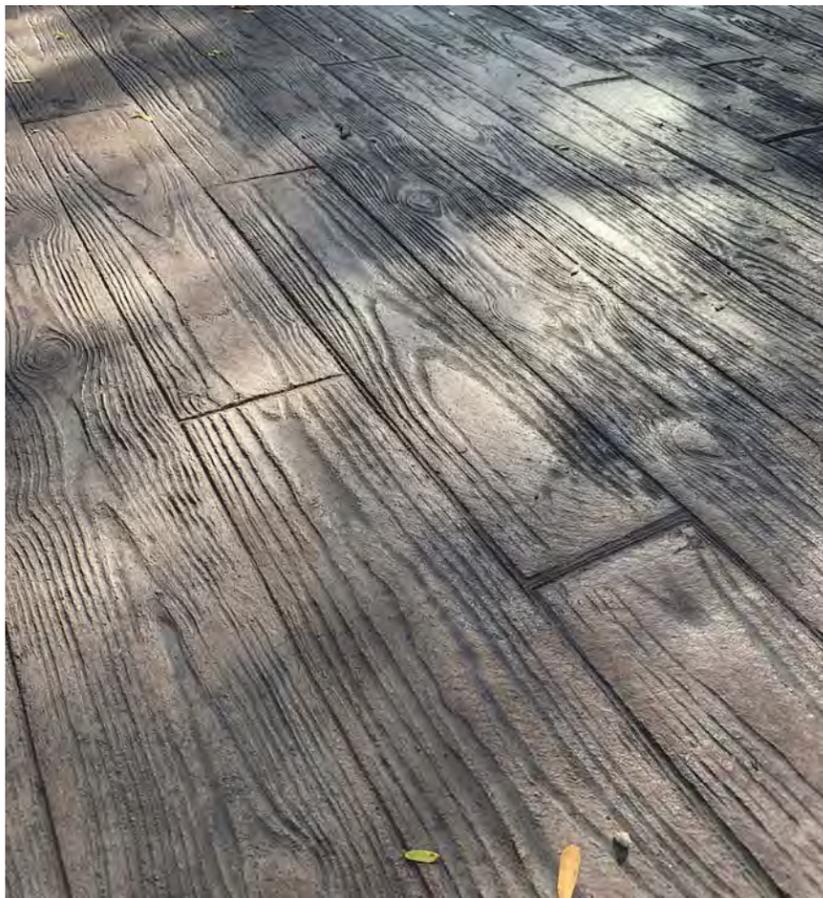


ADA Parking Sign



Creative Bike Racks

Suggested Pavement Materials



Wood Grain Stamped Concrete

Stone Stamped Concrete

Stone Stamped Concrete



LAND STORY

