

Creative Crosswalk Guidelines

Special crosswalk paving treatments can break the visual monotony of the asphalt or concrete pavement and highlight crossings as an extension of the pedestrian realm. Creative crosswalks are a great way to showcase the culture and history of a neighborhood or serve as gateways to key civic, commercial and mixed-use areas.

The goal of the creative crosswalk pilot program is to work with the community install safe, cost efficient and low-maintenance painted crosswalks by using a combination of colors, textures, scoring patterns to liven up an existing marked crosswalk.

To request a creative crosswalk in your neighborhood or business district please contact [Austin 3-1-1](#). Austin 3-1-1 will forward your request to the Austin Transportation Department (ATD) and ATD will work with you to approve a design. ATD funds are extremely limited; we encourage you to identify your own funding source for your proposed creative crosswalk such as grants, donations, etc. Please also consider continued maintenance costs when raising funds.

Creative Crosswalk Guidelines

- Creative crosswalk treatments such as decorative paving, colored or textured concrete, pavers or any similar treatment shall not be construed as elements of regulatory crosswalk markings. Continental high-visibility crosswalk markings should be used at creative crosswalk locations. Standard parallel crosswalk markings should be used only at the discretion of the Traffic Engineer.
- Creative crosswalks shall be installed at a location where:
 - a. there is an existing marked crosswalk and,
 - b. the crosswalk is controlled by a stop sign, a traffic signal or a pedestrian hybrid beacon (PHB)The approval of a creative crosswalk at any other location needs to be carefully considered and include well-documented safety benefits, and will be at the discretion of the Traffic Engineer.
- Existing school zone crosswalks shall not be considered for creative crosswalks.
- Where existing crosswalk markings have a continental style, the creative crosswalk shall maintain the continental style, and artistic elements may only be added in between the 2-feet longitudinal bars. For standard parallel crosswalk markings, creative crosswalk design shall include the two transverse parallel bars at least 8 feet apart and conform to COA's standard crosswalk design.
- Standard white markings for creative crosswalks shall be reflective and of thermoplastic material.

- Creative crosswalk treatments should:
 - a. Integrate color, texture and pattern. Materials may include colored or stamped concrete;
 - b. Provide a stable, durable, skid and slip resistant surface;
 - c. Provide a surface that does not cause excessive vibration for wheelchairs or other assistive mobility devices;
 - d. Always include the reflective white parallel bars in continental or standard layout ;
 - e. Not include shapes such as octagons, triangles or any text or logos that can be confused with standard traffic control devices or legends;
 - f. Include stencils for placement of the creative design. No hand painting will be allowed;
 - g. Include colors and materials that are easily available from ATD's vendors;
 - h. Only be installed when pavement is in good condition, allowing the materials to bond well;
 - i. Be backed by a cost-effective maintenance plan. Painted crosswalks should last a minimum of 3 years.

- Creative crosswalks maybe implemented in conjunction with partnerships programs such as:
 - a. Art in Public Places (AIPP) program of the City of Austin
 - b. Neighborhood Partnering Program (NPP) administered by Public Works Department
 - c. Or implemented via a separate (new) ATD administered program

ATD may choose to solicit proposals from interested parties, neighbors, community organizations or the public to implement creative crosswalks on streets that are important to the city pattern, on key commercial and mixed-use areas, at entries to residential areas, etc.

