QL2.6 IMPROVE SITE ACCESSIBILITY, SAFETY AND WAYFINDING

INTENT:

Improve user accessibility, safety, and wayfinding of the site and surrounding areas.

LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT

IMPROVED	ENHANCED	SUPERIOR	CONSERVING	RESTORATIVE
	(3) Onsite wayfinding. Increase the users' ability to understand, and safely access and leave the constructed works and the site. Provide signage and other guidance that makes it intuitive for users to orient themselves to navigate from place to place. (A, B)	**(6) Additional safety and security.** In addition to the site, the project makes additional efforts to improve the safety and security of its surroundings. This may include protecting sensitive sites (wetland, cultural sites, etc.) or, in populated areas, neighborhood safety and security. (A, B, C)	**(12) Integration with surroundings.** In addition to the site, the project takes notable steps and significant effort to understand and improve the projects impact on its surroundings. This may include protecting sensitive sites (wetland, cultural sites, etc.) or, in populated areas, neighborhood safety and security. Project enhances public safety. The constructed works integrates well with the local community and its environmental and cultural resources. (A, B, C, D, E)	**(15) Restoring safe neighborhoods.** Over and above the accessibility, safety and wayfinding aspects of the project, the changes made to the site and general vicinity of the constructed works improve overall access and safety of the adjacent neighborhoods, an increase from previous levels. (A, B, C, D, E, F)

DESCRIPTION

The project should be designed in such a way that users can find their way in and around the facility or other infrastructure. Wayfinding also has health and safety implications. It involves the ability of users and occupants to exit the facility and get out of harm's way in the event of an emergency. It also improves the ability of emergency personnel to access the facility and find their way in the event of an emergency.

During design project team considers impacts on surroundings and considers the following measures:

Physical safety

- Improve the safety and accessibility of street crossings by providing universal access curb cuts, pedestrian crossing signs, and high visibility crosswalks. Or, for major roads, provide pedestrian over/under passes.
- Include traffic calming measures in areas with heavy pedestrian or bicycle traffic.
- Install physical barriers between sidewalks and street traffic exceeding 40 mph.
- Design bike lanes to encourage bicycling by being as safe as possible. This may include separating bike lanes from street traffic. When designing street parking consider the vehicle door swing if including adjacent bike lanes.
- The design makes a clear distinction between publicly accessible space where pedestrian traffic is encouraged and restricted space where it is not.

Crime and vandalism

- Locate publicly accessible space as to be as visible as possible from surrounding neighborhood at night.
- Design public space to have clear lines of sight internally and from major pedestrian traffic zones.
- Install surveillance equipment to discourage crime and vandalism.
- Design public space to integrate in the urban context and encourage pedestrian traffic.
- Design site for easy public access to, from, and around the project with clear signage and wayfinding signals.

ADVANCING TO HIGHER ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS

Benchmark: Only use conventional design standards for signage and wayfinding. Meet health and safety regulations applicable to cite safety in way-finding. Signage meets MUTCD and ADA requirements and other applicable standards.

Performance improvement: Increasingly clear, identifiable and intuitive signage for safe access and egress.

EVALUATION CRITERIA AND DOCUMENTATION

A. Have the project owner and the project team developed the appropriate signage for safety and wayfinding in and around the constructed works?

METRIC:

Clarity, simplicity, readability and broad-population reliability in wayfinding, user benefit and safety

1. *Design documents showing plans for access and egress and plans for signage showing how the design and signage is clear and intuitive for users.*

B. Have the project owner and the project team addressed appropriately, safety and accessibility in and around the constructed works for emergency personnel?

1. *Design documents showing plans for access and egress routes for emergency personnel, users and occupants.*
2. *Effectiveness of the design for emergency situations.*

C. Have the project owner and the project team extended accessibility and signage to protect nearby sensitive sites (wetland, cultural sites, etc.) or, in populated areas, neighborhood safety and security?

1. *Design documents showing plans for accessibility to and protection of nearby sensitive and/or cultural sites.*
2. *Effectiveness of accessibility and protection.*

D. Have the project owner and the project team designed the project so as to have a net positive impact on public safety?

1. *Design documents and plans showing how the project will impact public safety.*

E. Does the constructed works integrate well with the local community and its surroundings?

1. *Design documents and plans showing how the project will integrate with the local community and its environmental and cultural resources.*

F. Have the owner and the project team incorporated features into the project design that restore and improve overall access and safety in adjacent neighborhoods?

1. *Design documents and plans showing how the project has restored safety and access in the adjacent neighborhoods.*

SOURCES

- CEEQUAL Assessment Manual for Projects Version 4, December 2008, Roger K. Venables, Sections 10.1.2, 10.1.3, 10.1.4.
- Adapted from The Sustainable Sites Initiative: Guidelines and Performance Benchmarks 2009, Credit 6.5: Provide for optimum site accessibility, safety, and wayfinding.
- U.S. DOT, Federal Highway Administration, Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

RELATED CREDITS

QL2.4 Improve Community Mobility and Access

QL2.5 Encourage Alternative Modes of Transportation

QL2.1 Protect Public Health and Safety