QL2.4 IMPROVE COMMUNITY MOBILITY AND ACCESS

INTENT:

Locate, design and construct the project in a way that eases traffic congestion, improves mobility and access, does not promote urban sprawl, and otherwise improves community livability.

LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT

IMPROVED	ENHANCED	SUPERIOR	CONSERVING	RESTORATIVE
(1) Limited coordination. The project team recognizes the need and utility in providing access to adjacent facilities, amenities and transportation hubs. However, the team has not coordinated fully with owners and operators of adjacent facilities, amenities and/or transportation operators. Design decisions are made internally, within the project team. Despite attempts at coordination, design gaps in mobility and access are still significant. Principles and specifications for reducing negative impacts on mobility and access in the construction phase are limited. (A, B)	**(4) Satisfactory access.** Project team recognizes the need and utility of providing such access, and seeks input from the operators of adjacent facilities, amenities and transportation hubs. Design decisions are based in part on improved access. Access design decisions based on coordination with operators of adjacent facilities, amenities and transportation hubs. Principles and specifications for reducing negative impacts in the construction phase extend to adjacent facilities. (A, B)	**(7) Exceptional access and flow.** Project team expands access considerations to expected traffic flows and volumes, preferred modes of access. Discussions with decision-makers to optimize design choices. Project team works with decision-makers in adjacent facilities and amenities and transportation hubs to determine best modes of access. Designs based on expected traffic flows and transportation choices. Principles and specifications for reducing negative construction impacts emphasize substantially reduced impacts, well beyond construction norms. Construction specifications direct the contractor to consider alternative modes of access, e.g., rail, water, to reduce road traffic. Also, takes into consideration materials to be brought in and taken off site. (A, B, C, D, E)	**(14) More livable communities.** Project team expands the range of discussion. The team works not only with decision-makers in adjacent facilities, et al., but also with local community officials. Design considerations have moved beyond access issues and now address the reduction of traffic congestion, improvements in walkability in the community, and other key measures of mobility and access. The location of the project has been chosen to utilize and improve the existing transportation infrastructure. It incorporates a community transportation strategy. Principles and specifications for reducing negative construction impacts require strong programs for working with affected community. (A, B, C, D, E, F)	

DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this credit is to reduce the negative impacts of the constructed works on transportation, mobility and access, thereby reducing congestion, improving traffic flow and contributing to community livability.

If public access is required and the site and constructed works are not located near existing public transportation, consider creating new links to public transport rather than relying on motorized vehicles providing access.

The use of alternate materials and sources that reduce the need for materials transport should be specified in construction. Alternate means of transportation, e.g., rail, water should be considered in the deliver of construction materials, as well as waste materials needing to be transported off site.

ADVANCING TO HIGHER ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS

Benchmark: Compliance with local laws and regulations regarding construction transport, but no inspection and enforcement programs beyond what's required, if anything. Only conducting conventional impact studies as required by local regulations. No particular efforts in the design to improve access or reduce congestion. Only using conventional design standards for access.

Performance improvement: Broader consideration given to coordination with adjacent facilities, amenities and transportation hubs. Focus on reducing traffic congestion and improving walkability. Net improvement on community livability.

EVALUATION CRITERIA AND DOCUMENTATION

A. Have the impacts of the project on community access and mobility during construction and operation been properly and comprehensively addressed?

   1. *Assessment studies and reports addressing the effects of the constructed works on access and mobility.*

   2. *Completeness of the assessment studies and reports.*

B. Has the project team coordinated with owners and operators of adjacent facilities, amenities and/or transportation hubs to address issues of mobility and access during operation of the constructed works?

   1. *Reports, memoranda, minutes of meetings with managers and operators covering access to adjacent facilities, amenities and transportation hubs.*

   2. *Decisions made and actions taken.*

C. Has the project team considered, and incorporated when feasible, the use of alternate modes of transport?

METRIC:

Extent to which the project improves access and walkability, reductions in commute times, traverse times to existing facilities and transportation. Improved user safety considering all modes, e.g., personal vehicle, commercial vehicle, transit and bike/pedestrian.

1. *Assessments of the availability, feasibility and use of rail, water, non-motorized transit, and pipeline access to ease congestion.*
2. *Changes made or not made to transport modes and rationale.*

D. Has the project team developed plans to reduce traffic disruption during construction, including monitoring, and corrective action?

1. *Specifications of requirements and procedures directed to the constructor.*
2. *Comprehensiveness of those specifications.*

E. Has the project team incorporated design strategies to address access and mobility concerns during operation, e.g., congestion, usage rates of existing transit infrastructure, access to public transit and non-motorized transportation?

1. *Access and mobility principles, requirements and specifications incorporated into the design, and expected outcomes.*

F. Has the project team expanded mobility and access considerations to include improvements to long-term transportation infrastructure efficiency, walkability, and livability?

1. *Reports, memoranda and minutes of meetings with community officials covering the long-term mobility and access needs of the community.*
2. *Design components showing the extent to which long-term mobility and access needs and issues were incorporated into the constructed works.*

SOURCES

- Adapted from The Sustainable Sites Initiative: Guidelines and Performance Benchmarks 2009, Credit 1.6: Select sites within existing communities.
- Greenroads Manual v1.5, AE-5: Pedestrian Access, AE-6: Bicycle Access, AE-7: Transit and HOV Access, http://www.greenroads.us
- CEEQUAL Assessment Manual for Projects Version 4, December 2008, Roger K. Venables, Sections 10.1.2, 10.1.3, 10.1.4, 10.2.

RELATED CREDITS

QL1.1 Improve Community Quality of Life

QL2.5 Encourage Alternative Modes of Transportation

QL2.6 Improve Site Accessibility, Safety and Wayfinding

RA1.6 Reduce Excavated Materials Taken Off Site