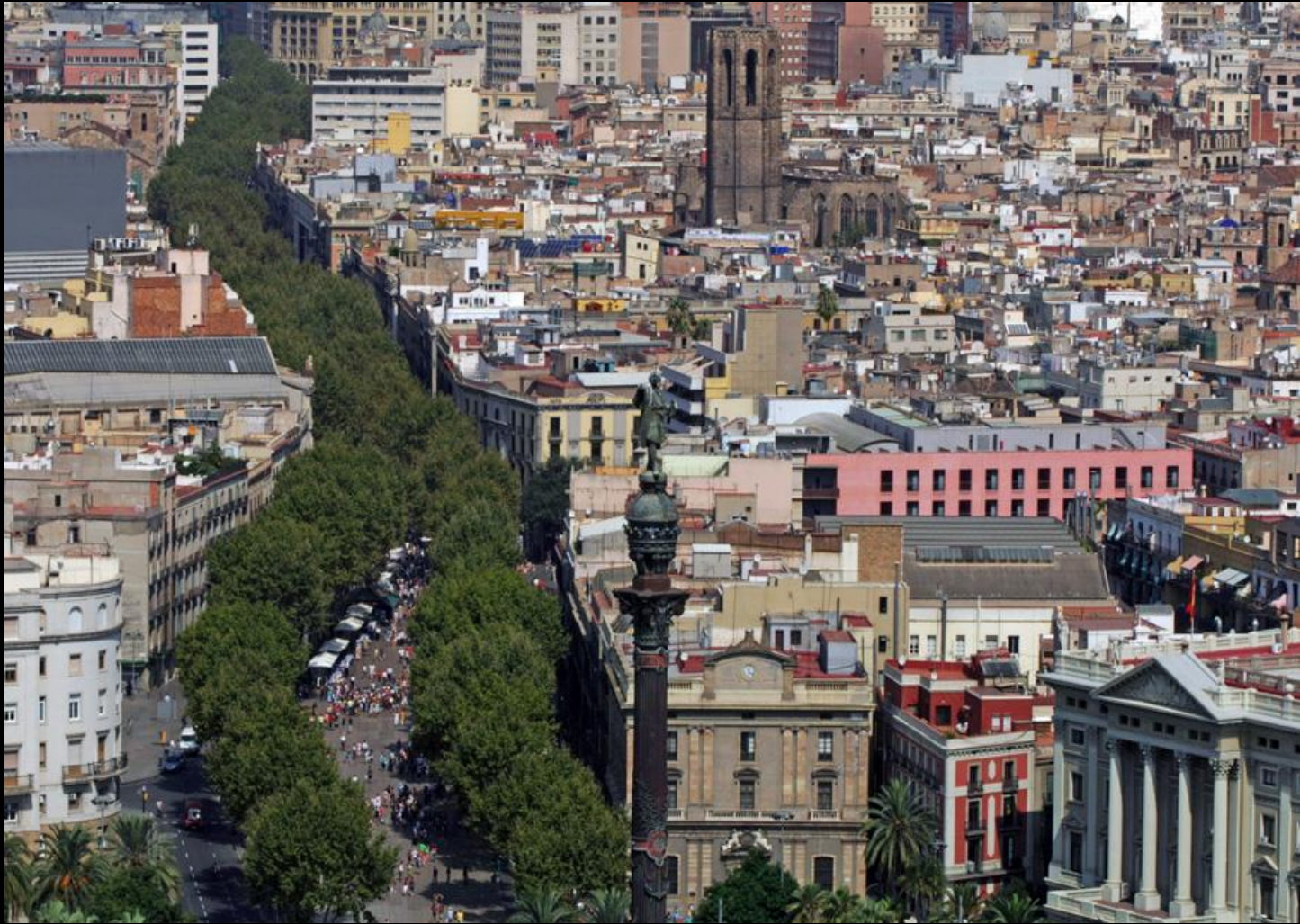# Street Trees and Soil Volume

An Urban Design Perspective

Topics:

- Urban Design – What is it?

- Urban Design Values.

- Urban Design Values and Street Trees.

- City of Austin Street Tree Programs.

- Challenges and Improvements.

- A Context-Sensitive Approach.

Urban Design – What is it?

Urban Design is the process of shaping a city's physical form.

The primary palette of Urban Design is <u>The Public Realm</u> (parks, open space, streets, sidewalks, walkways, and bridges) and the relationship with its surroundings.

Urban design takes a holistic approach toward all the physical elements that make up a city.

Urban Design – What is it?

Holistic Approach
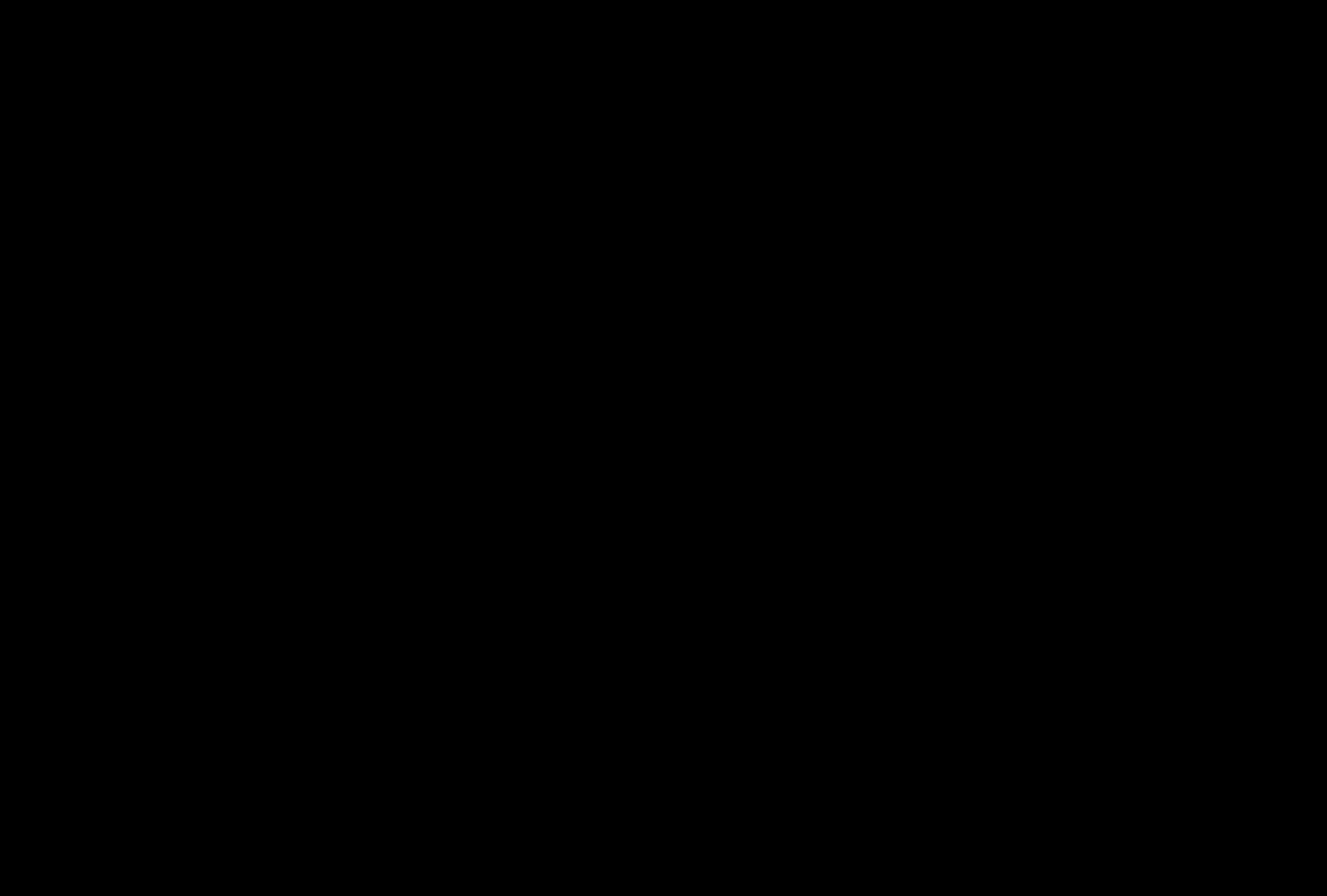
Considers multiple interests and values.

No single interest or value holds "the trump card."

Context sensitive.

Balancing values.

Urban Design Values.

Urban Design Values.

People-Centered

Urban Design Values.

Commerce/Economy

Urban Design Values.

Mobility

Urban Design Values.

Community Building

Urban Design Values.

Art

Urban Design Values.

Aesthetics

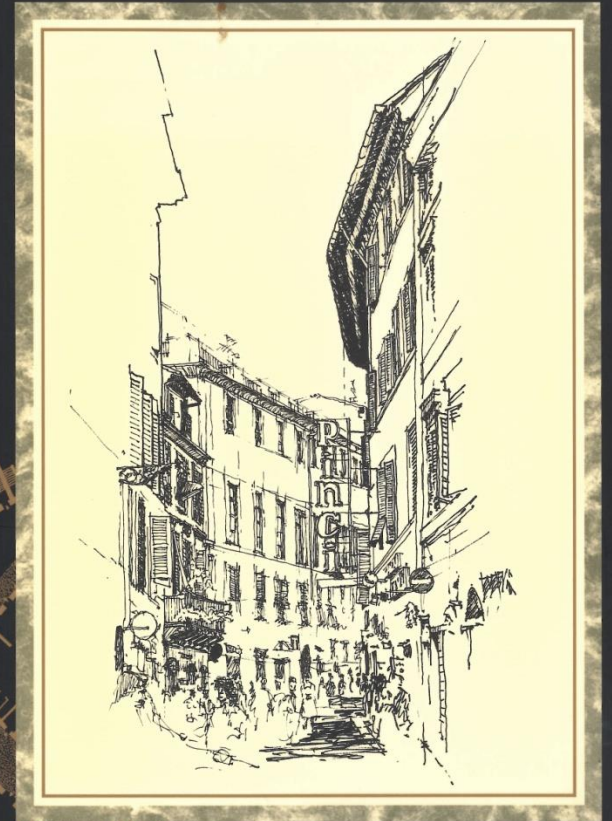# Urban Design Values.

Sustainability

Urban Design Values and Street Trees.

"Given a limited budget, the most effective expenditure of funds to improve a street would probably be on trees.

Assuming trees are appropriate in the first place and that someone will take care of them, trees can transform a street more easily than any other physical improvement.

Moreover, for many people trees are the most important single characteristic of a good street."

GREAT STREETS

ALLAN B. JACOBS

Urban Design Values and Street Trees.

People-Centered

Scale

Figure 1

Figure 2

Urban Design Values and Street Trees.

People-Centered

Safety

Urban Design Values and Street Trees.

People-Centered

Comfort

Urban Design Values and Street Trees.

Commerce/Economy

Businesses on treescaped streets show 12% higher income streams.

Urban Design Values and Street Trees.

Mobility

Urban Design Values and Street Trees.

Community Building

Urban Design Values and Street Trees.

Art

Urban Design Values and Street Trees.

Aesthetics

The Beauty of Nature

Urban Design Values and Street Trees.

Aesthetics

Define the space of the street

Urban Design Values and Street Trees.

Aesthetics

Define the character of the street

Urban Design Values and Street Trees.

Aesthetics

Filter Sunlight – Provide Shade

Urban Design Values and Street Trees.

Aesthetics

Filter Sunlight – Provide Shade

City of Austin Street Tree Programs.

Great Streets Program

University Neighborhood Overlay

Streetscape Programs Based on Roadway Types:

- Subchapter E (Design Standards)

- Transit-Oriented Districts

City of Austin Street Tree Programs.

Great Streets Program – City Council Directives

"The City Manager is directed to ensure that . . . The finalized Downtown Great Streets Master Plan be implemented to ensure that each emerging project throughout the downtown has consistent streetscape and public right-of-way improvements. . ." (Res. 001214-76)

"The City Council adopts for implementation . . . The Great Streets Master Plan streetscape standards to ensure that downtown has a consistent look and feel . . ."(Res. 021205-66A)

City of Austin Street Tree Programs.

Great Streets Program
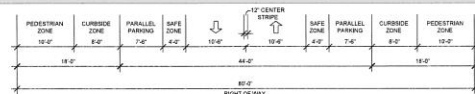

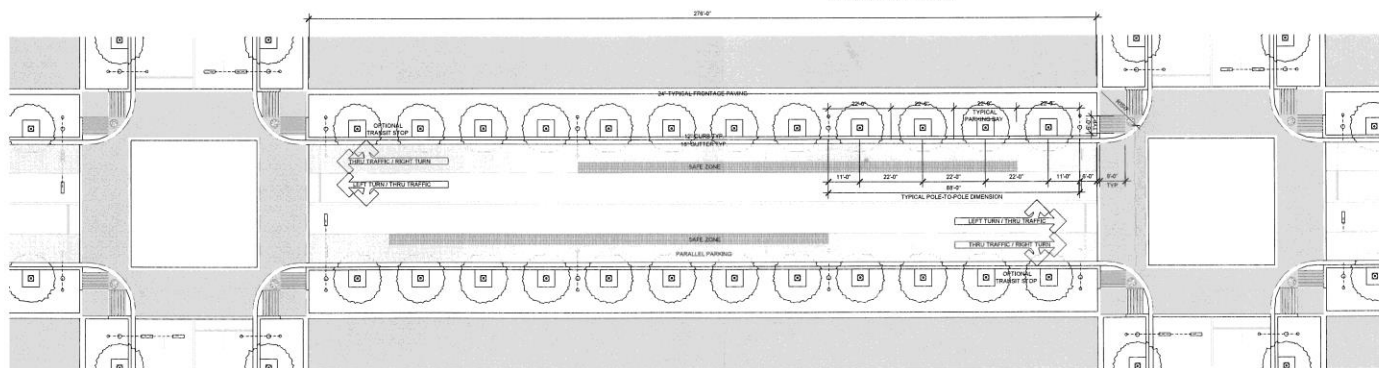Great Streets Master Plan Implementation

Legend
- Planned CIP's (Capital Improvement Project)
- Planned GSDP's/GSMP
- Under Construction CIP's
- Under Construction GSDP's/GSMP
- Completed
- Great Streets Development Program (GSDP) Boundary
- Great Streets Master Plan (GSMP) Boundary

City of Austin –Planning and Development Review Department: November 2013

City of Austin Street Tree Programs.

Great Streets Program

City of Austin Street Tree Programs.

University Neighborhood Overlay

An incentive-based program: Awards additional entitlements (height or density) in return for certain community benefits including affordable housing and tree-lined streetscapes.

City of Austin Street Tree Programs.

Road Type-Based Streetscape Programs:

Subchapter E (Design Standards)

Transit-Oriented Districts

City of Austin Street Tree Programs.

Subchapter E (Design Standards)

Primary Organizing Tool: **Roadway Type**

"This Subchapter recognizes that development should reflect and respond to its location within the city. For example, a commercial development in a suburban location can (and often should) look and function differently than a commercial development in downtown Austin.

Because roadways provide both access to a site and define the urban design framework of the city, roadway types have been used as an organizing tool to establish many of the new development standards in this Subchapter."

City of Austin Street Tree Programs.

Subchapter E (Design Standards)

Primary Organizing Tool: **Roadway Type**

Core Transit Corridor

City of Austin Street Tree Programs.

Subchapter E (Design Standards)

Primary Organizing Tool: **Roadway Type**
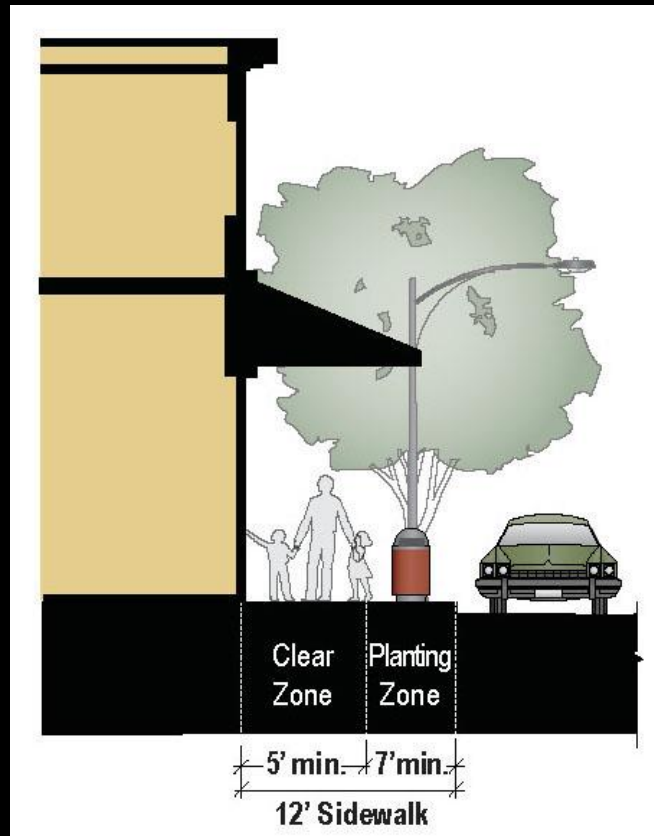
Core Transit Corridor

City of Austin Street Tree Programs.

Subchapter E (Design Standards)

Primary Organizing Tool: **Roadway Type**

Urban Roadway

Clear Zone | Planting Zone

5' min. | 7' min.

12' Sidewalk
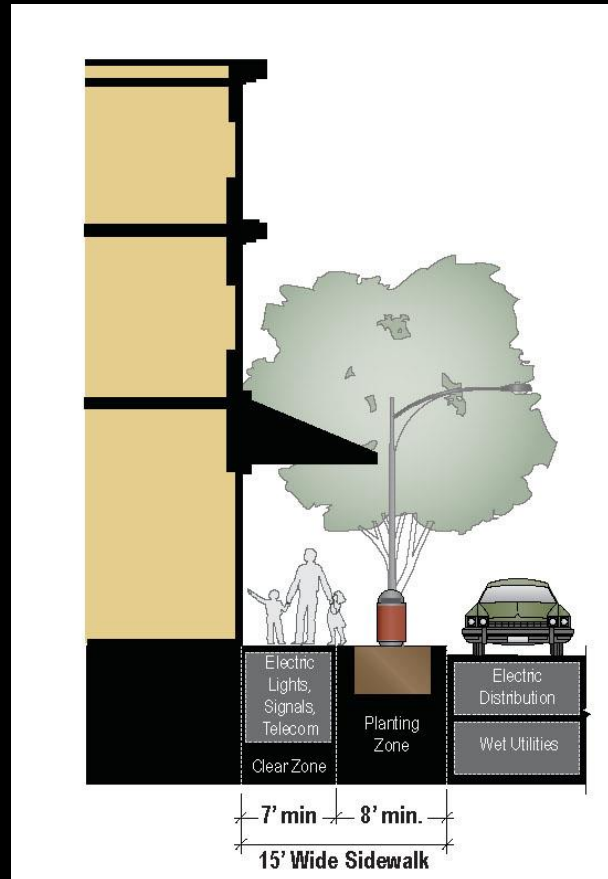
City of Austin Street Tree Programs.

Subchapter E (Design Standards)

Primary Organizing Tool: **Roadway Type**

Urban Roadway

Challenges and Improvements.

Efforts for Continuous Improvement

Challenges and Improvements.

Efforts for Continuous Improvement

Challenges and Improvements.

Efforts for Continuous Improvement

Challenges and Improvements.

Efforts for Continuous Improvement

Challenges and Improvements.

Efforts for Continuous Improvement
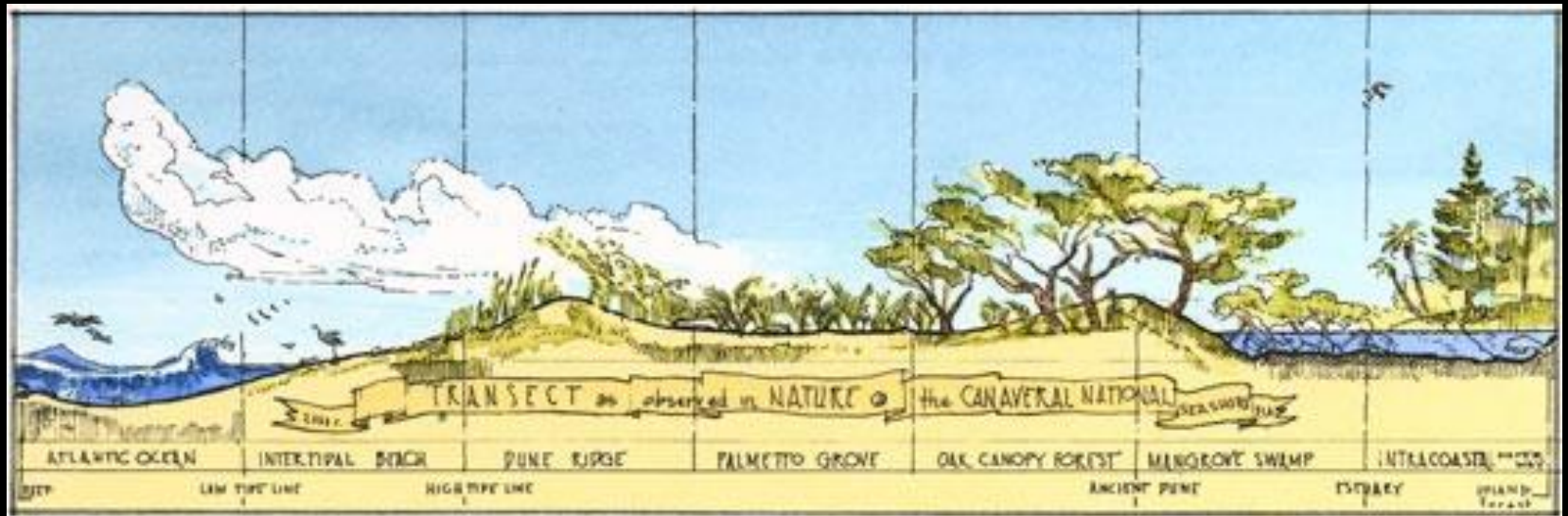
Challenges and Improvements.

Efforts for Continuous Improvement

A Context-Sensitive Approach.

Informs how you balance competing values and find appropriate solutions. I.e., no one size fits all.
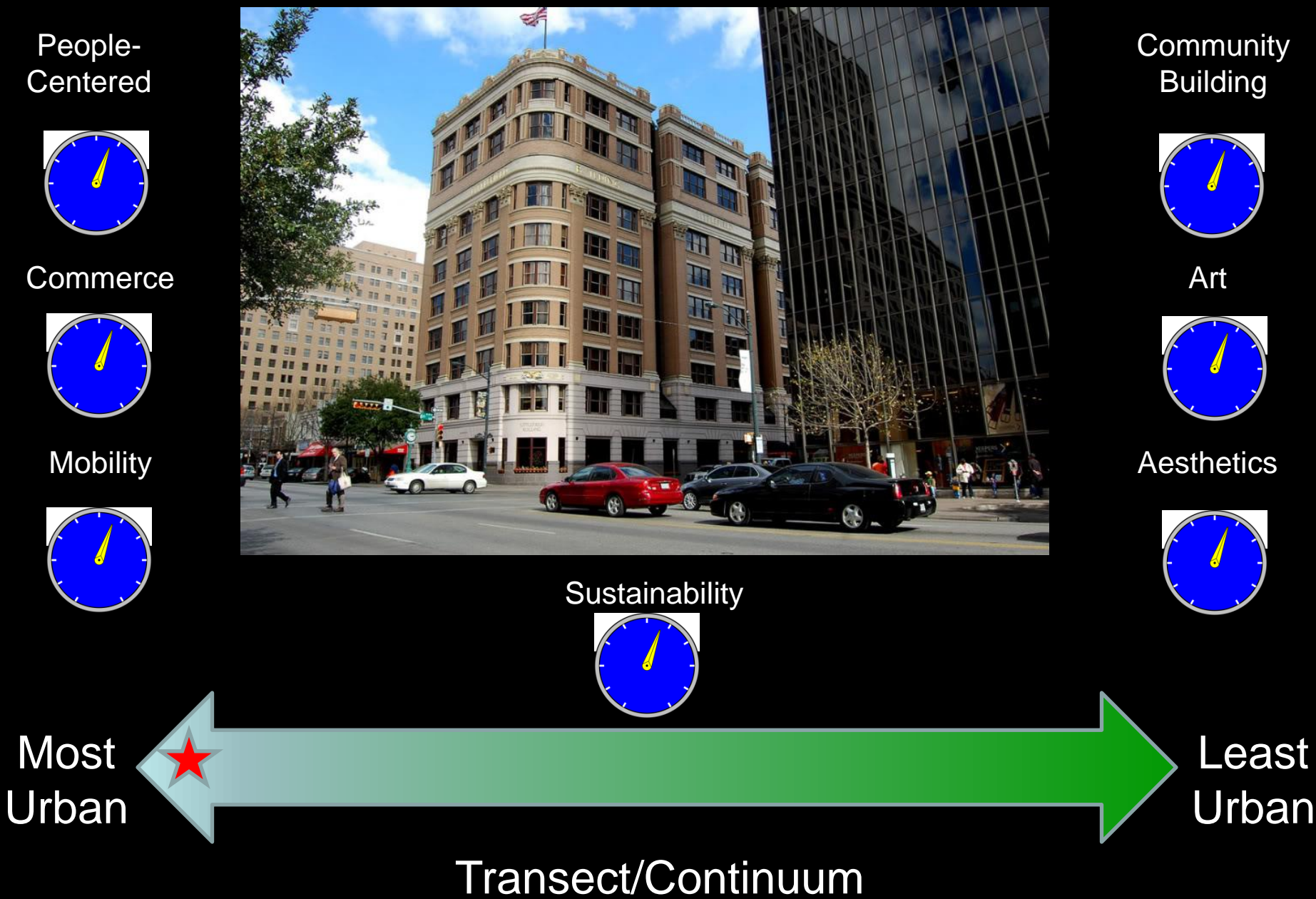
A Context-Sensitive Approach.

Transect/Continuum
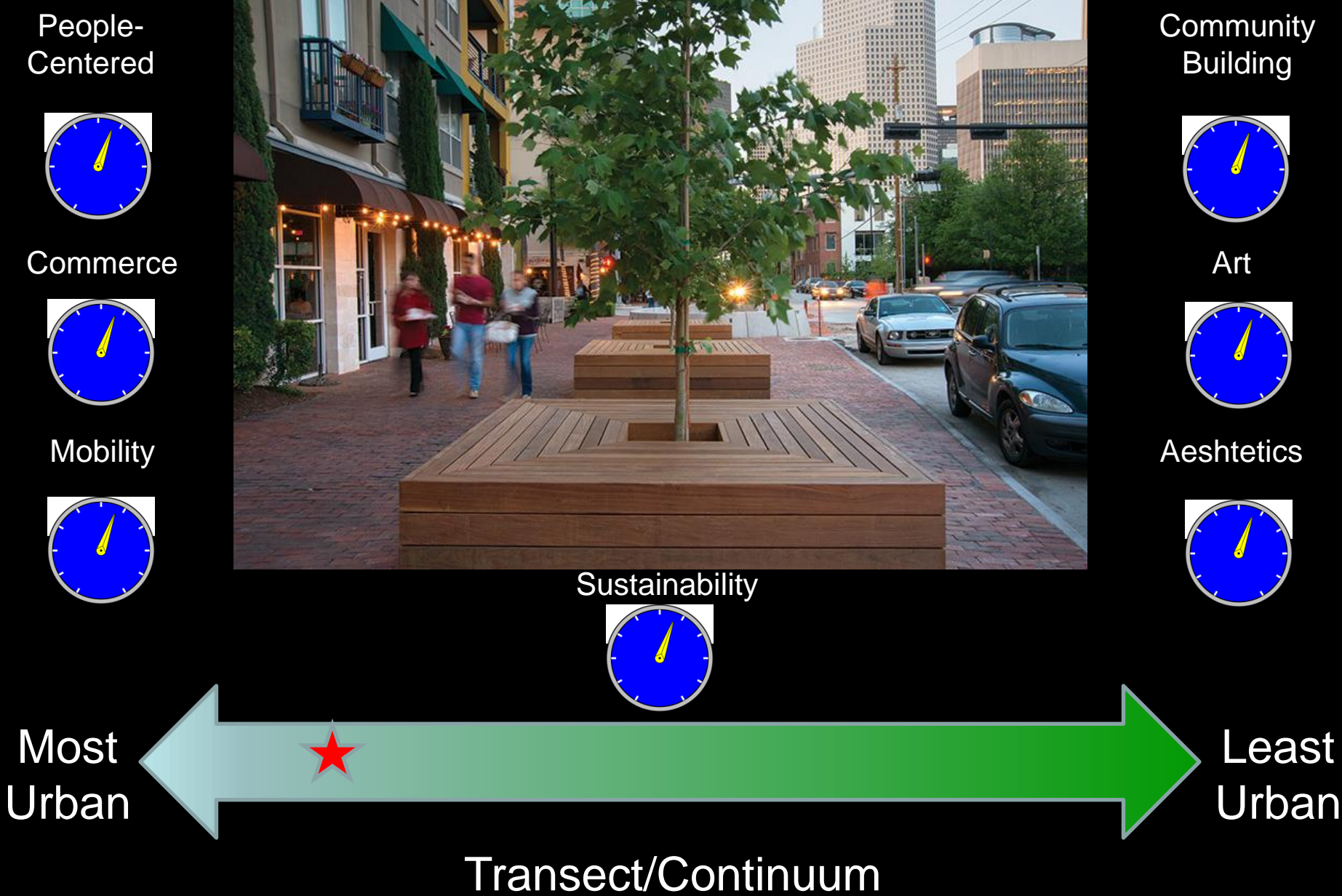
A Context-Sensitive Approach.

Most
Urban

Least
Urban

Transect/Continuum

A Context-Sensitive Approach.

People-Centered

Commerce

Mobility

Community Building

Art

Aesthetics

Sustainability

Most Urban

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Least
Urban

Transect/Continuum

Before and After

2nd Street

Before and After

2nd Street

Before and After

Colorado Street

Before and After

Colorado Street

Before and After

Colorado Street

Before and After

Colorado Street

Before and After

Cesar Chavez Street

Before and After

Cesar Chavez Street