

29.68 ALTERNATE RESIDENTIAL STREET STANDARDS

29.68.010 Intent of Provisions

The intent of this chapter is to provide flexibility in the creation, approval and use of public street infrastructure that varies from the cross-sectional standards provided in Chapter 29.20, and to accommodate such proposals under administrative approval procedures. This resulting alternate street standard may be used to create neighborhood character, enhance visual appeal, and to accommodate unique topographical or site features. Further, implementation of these standards should result in “a better solution,” allowing alterations to the standard street section that produce benefit to the community.

29.68.020 Performance Criteria

All public streets considered for alternate cross-sections shall meet certain minimum performance-based standards and meet all intent for function of a public right-of-way. Each proposal must be framed within the specific context of the use.

(a) Horizontal Geometry

- (1) The horizontal geometry of street, pathway, and trail layouts must meet TEDS requirements elsewhere herein. The design must accommodate large vehicles such as fire trucks, trash trucks and semi-trucks at an appropriate level of service.
- (2) A minimum pavement width of 20 feet, from flow line of gutter to flow line of gutter, is required for all streets. Pathway and trail widths or pedestrian walkways shall meet minimum widths as required in the Standard Contract Documents for Capital Improvements Construction by pathway and trail classification.
- (3) Horizontal curb radii must be 15 feet minimum for chicanes, parking bulb-outs and other similar features to maintain proper drainage (see GJMC 29.28.160).
- (4) Intersection geometry is as required elsewhere herein.

(b) Vertical Geometry

The vertical geometry of street, pathway, and trail layouts must meet TEDS requirements elsewhere herein and ADA requirements.

(c) Sight Distance

The design must achieve all sight distance requirements listed elsewhere in TEDS.

(d) Connectivity

- (1) Minimum connectivity requirements remain unchanged, including pedestrian and bicycle connectivity. Provision of access to adjacent parcels is required. Additional inter- or intra-parcel connectivity may be necessary where reduced street width is considered.
- (2) Example: One case where narrow streets and the concept of “queuing” are frequently and successfully used is in older downtown neighborhoods across the country. The streets typically have a grid layout, short block length, and possibly an alley, all providing a high-degree of connectivity, thus allowing a narrow street with fairly high density and high use of on-street parking to function satisfactorily.

(e) Parking

- (1) Adequate parking must be provided both on- and off-street. Zoning and development code minimums are required on-site. The on-street parking range is required at 0.5 to 1.5 on-street parking spaces per dwelling unit (see the Local Street Section Notes in Chapter 29.20). Higher density development will demand on-street parking in the upper end of that range.
- (2) Clustering of on-street parking in pods is encouraged where full on-street parking is not provided. The provision of on-street parking shall consider availability of parking for long vehicles or vehicles with trailers.
- (3) Adequate parking outside of the travel lane must be provided. On the other hand, excessive availability of parking contributes to higher speeds due to width of travel lane available as well as to increased construction and maintenance costs.

(f) Pedestrian Facilities

- (1) The design must provide adequate pedestrian facilities equal to or better than existing adopted street sections. Detached walk and additional walk width are encouraged.
- (2) Sidewalk is required to create continuous pedestrian walkways parallel with the public roadway. Generally, if lots front both sides of the street, sidewalk will be required on both sides of the street.

(g) Drainage

- (1) Curb and gutter is generally considered necessary. However, in limited instances, other options may be considered. Examples include an inverted crown as typically used in concrete alley applications and areas where attached curb and gutter may not be practical due to certain soil conditions. In these cases, adequate drainage facilities must be provided per the Stormwater Management Manual ([GJMC Title 28](#)). Alternate drainage facilities must not require additional maintenance effort above conventional facilities.
- (2) Surface drainage at bulb-outs and chicanes is preferred along a continuous gutter without drain troughs or otherwise inaccessible sections of gutter.
- (3) Narrower street sections will not carry the same amount of water as the standard street sections. Analysis of the street stormwater carrying capacity by use of the SWMM nomographs will not be permitted.

(h) Surfacing and Construction Requirements

Hard surfacing (Portland cement concrete or asphalt pavement) is required and shall meet the structural design requirements contained in Chapter 29.32 GJMC. Gravel surfacing is not allowed. Construction requirements are contained in the Grand Junction Standard Contract Documents for Capital Improvements Construction.

(i) Right-of-Way and Multi-Purpose Easements

- (1) Right-of-way and infrastructure dimension and configuration must provide adequate room for all necessary public facilities including, but not limited to, storm drainage; water lines and meters; sanitary sewer lines; electrical, natural gas, cable, telephone supply lines, service lines, pedestals and appurtenances; traffic control signage; irrigation supply and drainage; cut or fill slopes; and other public utility lines and appurtenances.
- (2) The standard 14-foot multi-purpose easement may be reduced in width if adequate space is shown to exist within the right-of-way. The standard multi-purpose easement width on streets with a buffer between the sidewalk and the curb is 10-feet.
- (3) Right-of-way configuration must provide adequate access to public utilities. Fencing of easement areas is discouraged as it reduces access to utilities and improvements.

(j) Private Streets, Shared Drives and Alleys.

- (1) Nothing in this section shall expressly prohibit the use of private streets and shared drives, as allowed elsewhere herein, to be used in conjunction with alternate standard streets.
- (2) The use of alleys is likewise permitted and may be used in conjunction with alternate standard streets to achieve utility service delivery, alternate access to off-street parking or enhance connectivity.

(k) Traffic Calming

Traffic calming requirements are the same as required elsewhere herein. Elements of narrowed streets may be considered part of the traffic calming system.

(l) Other Right-of-Way Elements

All elements of the function of the right-of-way must be considered in the design process.

- (1) **Mail Receptacles.** Streets shall include design elements necessary to meet USPS requirements for access to mail receptacles. Mail receptacles will not be permitted within sight distance triangles at intersections or located such that they interfere with the safe and normal function of the street. Parking shall be provided adjacent to the mail receptacle.
- (2) **Urban Trails.** Where urban trails, primary school walk routes, bike lanes, or other non-motorized transportation routes are indicated on adopted City, school district, or other plans, these elements must be incorporated into the design. The design must meet all requirements of City, State and federal standards, including ADA.

29.68.030 Application

The process for an alternative street request is similar to the Design Exception Process depicted on the flowchart in Chapter 29.64. The applicant shall submit a written report requesting alteration of the standard as a part of a pre-application conference, preliminary plan or other application process. The applicant is encouraged to make this application as early in the process as feasible. The report and plan shall contain the following:

- (a) A specific request for alteration of the standard, detailing elements of the standard that are altered and the proposed alternative.
- (b) A narrative explaining the reasons for requesting the alteration and proposed benefits.
- (c) A narrative, individually addressing each criterion in the performance criteria above.

- (d) A site plan showing limits and extents of proposed alterations.
- (e) A site plan indicating proposed density, approximate lot size and frontage, access locations, street network, and other pertinent elements. Approximate horizontal and vertical geometry may be required, dependent on topography or other site constraints.
- (f) A parking plan demonstrating on-street and off-street parking to demonstrate conformance with parking standards listed above.
- (g) A fire site plan demonstrating that a fire truck can negotiate the development with the proposed on-street parking from both directions.

29.68.040 Approval

The Director or his/her assigned representative(s) shall make a final determination of adequate conformance to these criteria and have the authority to approve or reject each proposed alternative. Staff or agency members may provide comment or modification to the proposal. The Director may consult with or delegate review and approval authority to City Staff, outside review agencies, or outside consultants.

Where the proposed alternate may affect utility placement, approval of the Utility Coordinating Committee is required prior to the consideration by the Director or his designee.

Deviation from the standard street cross-sections may continue to be accomplished through a variance or a planned development procedure as permitted in the zoning and development code.