



Possible streetscape improvements include pedestrian scale lighting as well as a planting area to provide a buffer between vehicles on the street and people on the sidewalk.

7.3.1 Mobility, Streetscape and Infrastructure Enhancements

This two-mile corridor of Long Beach Boulevard has the opportunity to connect people with a multitude of uses through several forms of transportation. Enhancements to infrastructure for bicycles, pedestrians, and transit riders will provide improved access to Midtown, while still adequately accommodating automobiles.

Additionally, adding open space areas such as parklets will increase parkland while providing a place for the community to gather. Parklets will complement mobility enhancements by offering bicyclists and pedestrians a shady place to rest as well as safer crossings along the corridor. A summary of enhancements to improve mobility, the streetscape, and general infrastructure are provided below. More detailed information can be found in corresponding chapters of this Plan.

Parks and Parklets. Midtown's neighborhoods are in need of open space and park areas. Open space opportunities in Midtown include:

- Creating 11 new "parklets" (street parks about a quarter acre in size).
- Introducing more active programming in Veterans Park.
- New requirements for other off-site and on-site open space as development occurs.

Mobility and Streetscape. Proposed infrastructure enhancements will create safer environments for pedestrians and bicyclists while encouraging healthy alternative transportation options for people living and working in the area. Improvements include:

- Designating bikeways and boxes along Long Beach Boulevard.
- Adding curb extensions to create space for the new lanes by reducing on-street parking and right turn pockets.
- Planting new canopy trees in the landscaping zone between the existing palm trees to create a buffer along designated sections of the bike lane and in bulb-outs.
- Building a pedestrian bridge across Long Beach Boulevard connecting Long Beach Memorial Medical Center to Veterans Park and the Willow Transit Station.
- Adding new pedestrian scale lighting along the sidewalk of Long Beach Boulevard.

Transit. This Plan creates three Transit Node Districts to foster multi-modal transportation in Midtown. Transit-related improvements complement pedestrian and bicycle enhancements as well as station improvement plans that the City is already implementing, these include:

- Adding bicycle racks and lockers to existing Metro Blue Line Stations.
- Encouraging bike rental or sharing programs.
- Improving bicycle and pedestrian access at each station.