

Recommendation

Create pedestrian nodes that provide shade, comfort, and water, as well as public art where appropriate, to encourage pedestrian activity along the corridor.

What Are Pedestrian Nodes?

Pedestrian nodes are points where pedestrian-related amenities are grouped to increase the perception of an active, urban corridor and to encourage more walking, bicycling, and transit use. Amenities may include shade-oriented bus shelters, seating, drinking fountains, landscaping, public art, information displays, and bicycle rest stops. Not all locations require all amenities.

Pedestrian nodes serve the following important functions:

- Strengthen the emphasis on alternative mode use in the corridor.
- Contribute to the “greening” of the corridor.
- Provide “true” shade during the hottest months.
- Contribute to the overall vibrancy, safety, and desirability of the area.

These nodes should occur where single uses or a combination of uses lead to higher levels of pedestrian activity, such as the Amphitheater High School, Pima Community College Downtown Campus, student housing adjacent to Stone Avenue, and bus stops.



Examples of pedestrian nodes and related elements.

Pedestrian Nodes

What Is in a Pedestrian Node?

This drawing illustrates elements that might be found in a pedestrian node. This particular node incorporates a high-use bus shelter as a central feature. Not all pedestrian nodes, however, need to include a bus stop.

Drinking Fountain

Drinking fountains provide an important enhancement for the pedestrian, bicyclist, or waiting bus rider, particularly in the hot summer months. The drinking fountain should be incorporated in a prominent location within the node and should include a chiller where possible.

Seating

Seating, beyond that offered in the bus shelter, is provided as benches, walls, or some other form consistent with and complementary to the overall design of the node.

Lighting

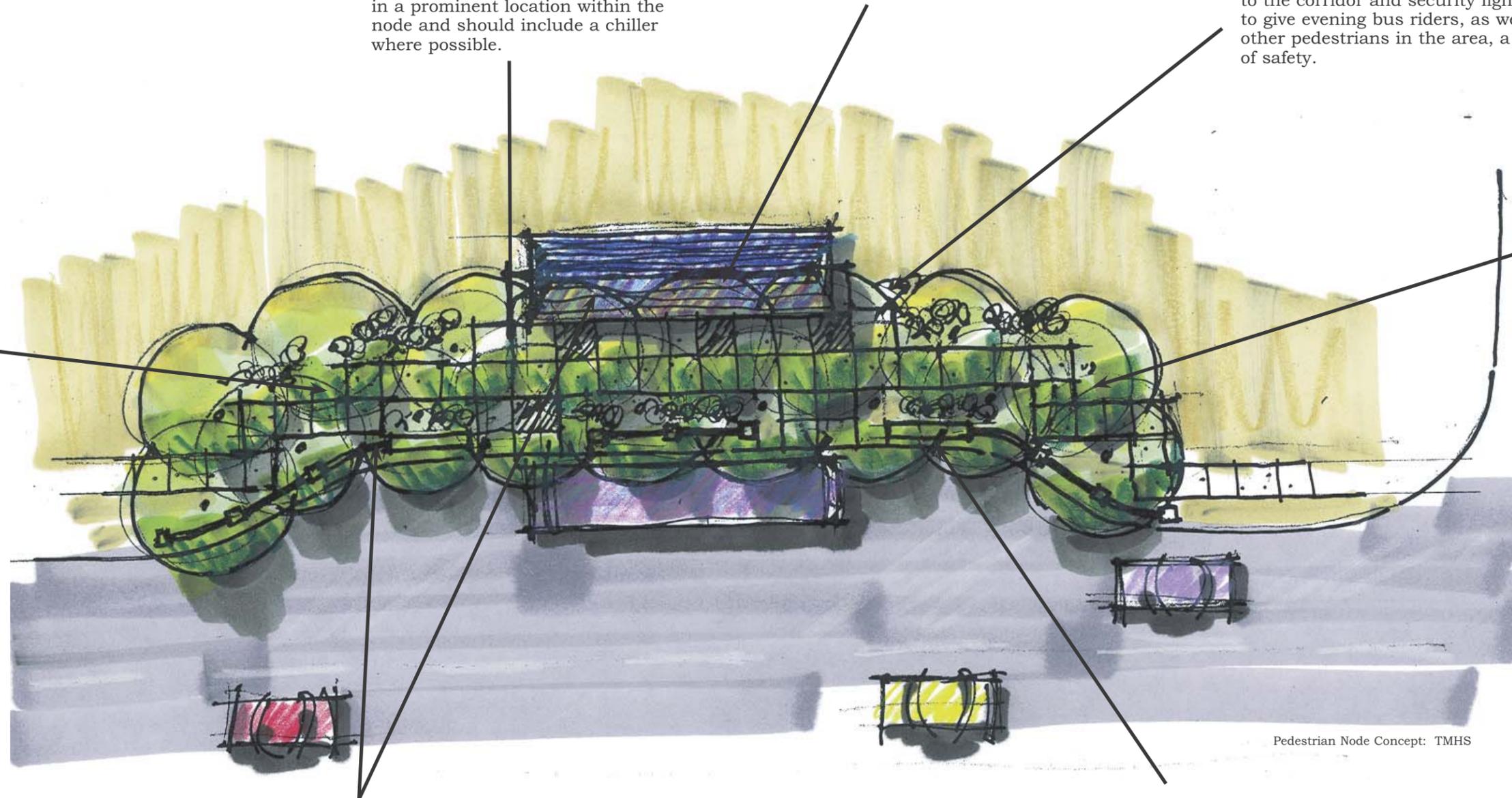
Node lighting includes both accent lighting to provide nighttime interest to the corridor and security lighting to give evening bus riders, as well as other pedestrians in the area, a sense of safety.

Landscaping

Varied and prominent landscaping is important in making the node a strong visual element in the corridor, as well as a comfortable setting from which to observe urban life, wait for a bus, or catch one's breath. The landscaping includes street trees, node trees, and accent shrubbery.

Shade-Oriented Elements

This node is designed to provide generous protection from the afternoon sun through a bus shelter with broad overhangs and closely spaced nodal trees on the west and south sides of the shelter. Wherever possible, seating is oriented to the north and south.



Pedestrian Node Concept: TMHS

Public Art

The pedestrian node includes artistic expression through a variety of means, including creative identification and information display, choice of materials, art rails, and sculptural elements that may be incorporated within a structure or be free standing.

Bus Shelter Identification

Naming a bus stop helps make the facility a more integral part of the neighborhood and can provide a sense of ownership. Bus stop names should be based on neighborhood names, prominent destinations such as Amphitheater High School or Pima Community College Downtown Campus, or other names as appropriate. The name may be included on a sign wall, a kiosk, or an appendage to the bus shelter. Other information could also be displayed, including bus routes, schedules, and maps depicting, for instance, the location of the node within the corridor and other points of interest along the corridor.

Pedestrian Nodes

What Are Key Guidelines for Designing Pedestrian Nodes?

A team, consisting of a landscape architect, an engineer, an artist, and representatives of adjacent neighborhoods, businesses, and appropriate city departments should be formed to undertake the design of an individual pedestrian node. Following are some key guidelines the team should consider.

1 Pedestrian nodes should be located where higher pedestrian densities exist or are forecasted. Such locations may include high-use bus stops or transfer points, schools, larger multi-use complexes, and active retail areas.

2 Pedestrian nodes should include a combination of street trees and node trees to create a dense canopy of shade. This is more than an amenity in the southern Arizona climate, it is a necessity.

3 Pedestrian nodes should incorporate shrubs and groundcovers. These shrubs and groundcovers should be protected from pedestrian traffic, either by their location or by a strong definition of pedestrian spaces vs. plant spaces.

4 Where possible, pedestrian nodes should combine uses to increase the density and activation of the space. For instance, in the vicinity of a school, a pedestrian node might combine a bus stop, rest area for bicyclists, and a place in which friends meet. High use and extended hours of use of these pedestrian nodes will increase the perception of Stone Avenue as an active urban corridor.

5 Pedestrian nodes should include such furnishings as drinking fountains, trash cans, and benches to increase the users' sense of comfort. Seating should be arranged to accommodate groups of 2-4 people and should be shaded from the afternoon sun.

Careful thought should be given to the amount of seating provided because too much unused seating may detract from the goal of creating an active urban area.

6 Pedestrian nodes should incorporate "art rails" (i.e., customized guardrails), walls, and other elements as needed to meet engineering safety standards. These elements should be designed to accentuate a neighborhood's identity and contribute to the overall sense of a cohesive corridor. (See Study Card titled *Landscape Islands* for more information on the "art rail.")

7 All pedestrian nodes and related facilities should be accessible to people with disabilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

8 All plants should be selected from the recommended Stone Avenue plant palette. (See Study Card titled *Plant Palette*.)

How Can Pedestrian Nodes Be Installed and Maintained?

Pedestrian nodes can be developed for specific locations and can be installed once a design is completed and funding is secured. Pedestrian nodes should be developed in conjunction with uses that generate high numbers of pedestrians, such as high-use bus stops, schools, and large private developments. In some cases, pedestrian nodes might be implemented through a partnership between the city, Sun Tran, and a private developer of a

high density use, such as a mixed-use development.

Nodes associated with bus stops or other street frontage would generally be located in city right-of-way and, therefore, would be maintained by the city. However, cooperative efforts for maintenance could be established between owners of properties that generate pedestrians most likely to take advantage of these nodes.

Maintenance of a pedestrian node with a bus shelter might be undertaken in association with the adopt-a-bus shelter program. This program is being recommended as a way to increase the care of future bus shelters along the Stone Avenue Corridor.

**Have questions about the study results?
Contact the City of Tucson
Comprehensive Planning Task Force
at 791-4505.**