People Spots Design Guidelines

Design Guidelines

Platform
- The platform shall not be longer than 80 feet long and 6 feet wide
- The platform shall be supported by a system that provides structural stability and water resistance. Deck surface should be level and flush with existing curb to the extent possible.
- A diamond plated, stainless steel, industrial grade, t-profile transition may be used to provide wheelchair access. All mechanical connections shall occur on the decking surface and not the curb to preserve curb integrity. Number of connections as well as connection type to be approved by CDOT.
- A perimeter containment frame shall be built as part of the platform and bolted to the pavement, using expansion bolts. It should be attached with an adjustable stainless steel L Bracket (using ½” bolts). The Perimeter boards should be attached to the L bracket such that they are even with the surface of the deck on all sides. Penetrations into the pavements shall be minimal and approved by CDOT prior to construction.
- The platform must be load-bearing, per the City of Chicago’s Department of Building’s deck design manual.
- A People Spot must include a continuous physical barrier along the street facing perimeter while maintaining clear visual sightlines to the street.
- The sidewalk-facing side of a People Spot should be open to pedestrians
- A People Spot must not be wider than 6 feet
- People Spots are not permitted in front of a fire hydrant, and restricted access to any public utility company or city utility covers, valves, etc must be approved by the city
- Curbside drainage must not be impeded
- CDOT will assess each site and will determine necessary traffic safety improvements, including but not limited to, traffic markings, flexible bollards and wheel stops
- People Spots must be designed using high quality and durable materials

All People Spot design proposals are subject to CDOT review and approval. Applicant is responsible for completing any required design changes.

Landscaping
- The platform shall include planters that are a minimum 4 foot long and maximum 1 foot wide by 32 inches high – spaced 8 feet OC, to be attached to perimeter decking.
- Each planter shall be filled with gravel at the base to provide stability, topped by a layer of packing peanuts to take up volume but not add weight, finally a layer of soil is added near the top of the planter for plants
- The planters shall contain a mixture of plants from the CDOT roadway approved plant list.
- Plant variations shall be submitted to CDOT for approval
- Proper drainage of planter shall be provided
- The planters shall be connected via a railing, where required, to provide protection from pedestrians walking into the roadway.

Accessibility
- The platform shall be as flush as possible with the sidewalk and curb. A minimum dimension along the platform at its transition with the sidewalk shall provide wheelchair access, as outlined below:
  - 40’ Deck – 8 feet of ADA access
  - 60’ Deck – 10 feet of ADA access
  - 80’ Deck – 12 feet of ADA access

Maintenance & Operations
- The platform shall allow for easy access to the space underneath for regular cleaning.
- A People Spot must be publicly accessible – a placard must be provided declaring the public nature of the space, and that alcoholic consumption is not allowed.
- The proposed number of tables and chairs shall be approved by CDOT.
- Tables and chairs are to be stored and removed from the public right of way when People Spot is not in operation.

Application Submittals
- A site plan showing the footprint of the proposed People Spot.
  - Please show property lines, sidewalk width, People Spot length and width, existing parking stalls, and all surface obstructions within 10 feet of the occupied area.
  - Please provide accurate dimensions.
  - Fire hydrants, streetlights, parking meters, parkway trees, planters and any other streetscape elements should be provided on the drawing.
  - A survey must be provided showing elevations from the top of curb to the crown of the street at 2 ft. intervals along length of People Spot.
- A professionally certified set of drawings showing People Spot layout, tables and chairs and construction details, survey and structural calculations shall be provided, after preliminary approval. Professional must be certified in Illinois. CDOT reserves the right to require additional calculations, as required.