Sidewalk Infrastructure Improvements Design for Calhoun, TN

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In conjunction with,
CE 400 Senior Design Project.
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Retherford

Sidewalk Infrastructure Improvements Design
for Calhoun, TN
May 2, 2016

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The senior design project that formulated my honors thesis experience was part of the Smart Communities Initiative (SCI). The Smart Communities Initiative is designed to connect faculty and students to counties, cities, districts, or other governmental organizations to benefit an area through service learning. Many of the projects help to enhance the economy, society, or environment of the location. This year, the Smart Communities Initiative partnered with the Southeast Tennessee Development District (SETDD). The University of Tennessee, Knoxville partnered with twenty-two projects this year which included projects in the following areas: architecture, engineering, agricultural economics, educational psychology and counseling, economics, graphic design, law, history, and geography. This is the second year that the Smart Communities Initiative has taken place. The first year UT partnered with the City of Cleveland, Tennessee, and next year, SCI will be partnering with Lenoir City, Tennessee.

As part of the Smart Communities Initiative, my Civil and Environmental Engineering senior design team partnered with Calhoun, TN. The purpose of the senior design project was to develop sidewalk infrastructure to increase pedestrian connectivity throughout the City of Calhoun. The City of Charleston is adjacent to the City of Calhoun, south on Highway 11, and has existing sidewalk infrastructure that stops north of the bridge on Highway 11. The team worked with Greg Thomas, Cleveland MPO Coordinator, to determine the needs and goals of the project. As a city planner, Greg really wanted the team to focus on connecting Calhoun to the existing sidewalk infrastructure in Charleston, see Figure 1. Resolute Forest Products Paper Mill is located on Highway 11, and the owners advocated for sidewalk infrastructure on Highway 11 in order to benefit the plant’s employees. Another important stakeholder in determining the goals for the project was the City of Calhoun’s government. Calhoun’s government wanted the sidewalk to connect S.R. 163 to Highway 11, and for the sidewalk on S.R. 163 to establish pedestrian infrastructure to the city’s town hall which houses the library, post office, and police department. Calhoun officials also wanted to connect S.R. 163 to Calhoun Elementary School, possibly creating a Safe Routes to School network. The team considered all of these goals and worked to incorporate each goal into the final design.

Figure 1: Overview of Charleston and Calhoun connected by the Highway 11 Bridge

![Diagram](image)

Several challenges existed in achieving each of the desired goals. One challenge was determining a way to transport pedestrians through an underpass that is located on S.R. 163. The underpass is 27 feet wide with 12 ft lanes and 1.5 ft shoulders, making it difficult to
accommodate pedestrians. Another issue the team dealt with was designing the sidewalk along S.R. 163 west of the underpass as the road has narrow shoulders which are bordered by guardrails since the topography immediately slopes down to the flood plain. The road was not wide enough to add pedestrian sidewalks; therefore, another method had to be introduced to get pedestrians over the segment of road. As sidewalks were designed, crosswalks became necessary, and the sight distances of drivers approaching the crosswalks became a concern.

In order to address the goals of the project, the team decided to construct new sidewalk along the following route: north on Highway 11 from the bridge to S.R. 163 and east on S.R. 163 stopping 500 feet east of Lyncrest Ave., see Figure 2. A loop was formed by designing new sidewalk south down Main St., east down Sherwood Ave., and north on Highland Ave. and Lyncrest Ave. By choosing the specified route, each goal for the project was met. Charleston was connected to Calhoun by the sidewalk on Highway 11. The town hall was connected to other parts of Calhoun, including Resolute Forest Products Paper Mill and Calhoun Elementary School. Neighborhoods were connected to the sidewalk providing accessibility to the school. The network increases pedestrian connectivity, allowing pedestrians to have more access to important town features.

**Figure 2: Sidewalk Network**

Several methods were investigated to address the project’s underpass challenge, and five options were discussed. Two options were identified as the most feasible based on pedestrian safety and cost. One option was to reduce the traffic to one lane through the underpass by incorporating traffic signals and creating an elevated sidewalk on the north side of the underpass. Reducing traffic to one lane would increase vehicular safety as vehicular conflicts would be reduced since vehicles would be time separated by the traffic signal. The other method investigated was to mark a 5 feet wide bike and pedestrian lane to the left of the pavement’s edge on the north side of the underpass. This method would incorporate two traffic signals which would stop all traffic whenever a pedestrian is present. The signals would be pedestrian actuated so that the flow of
traffic would only be inhibited when a pedestrian is present. Three other options were presented and analyzed in the report.

One of the other challenges, the narrow portion of S.R. 163 west of the underpass, was addressed by designing a segmental retaining wall. The wall is 350 feet long, 16.5 feet high, and is offset 15 feet from the edge of the road. The edge of the retaining wall furthest from the road has a 3 feet high parapet with a fence located on top to provide a protective barrier for the pedestrians. This was an unexpected challenge that was discovered and overcome as the project progressed.

The transportation portions of the projection included geometric design and traffic operations. For geometric design, the sidewalk, curb, and shoulder were designed according to the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines. Sight distance was evaluated for crosswalks and locations where new traffic signals were introduced. Traffic operations for the project included markings, signs, pedestrian signalization, and warning beacons. The project required other engineering disciplines, besides transportation. For the retaining wall, a geotechnical analysis was performed. In addition, stormwater infrastructure was designed to handle the changes made by the new sidewalk. Calculations were performed to modify the swales and design stormwater inlets.

For my portion of the Honors Thesis Project, I designed the traffic operations infrastructure for the sidewalk improvements. The traffic operations portion of the design included determining: crosswalk location and dimensions, sign type and placement, pedestrian actuation requirements, timing, and placement, warning beacon design and placement, and traffic signal design and placement. In addition, I analyzed the traffic operations of the underpass options and discussed where ADA requirements were not met due to underlying terrain.

The remainder of this report contains the full project report which covers other transportation, water, and geotechnical engineering portions of the project. The attached appendix only contains the calculations performed for the traffic operations design. The remainder of the appendix is available upon request. A set of AutoCad drawings were designed to supplement the report, and they are also available upon request.

I would like to acknowledge my team leader, Liam Weaver, for his work on the project and the other members of my team, Mark Nichols, Trenton Smith, Brian Walker, and Marquise Webb.
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1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Trlimamababr Consultants Group was consulted regarding the design of appropriate sidewalk infrastructure improvements in Calhoun, TN. A stakeholder meeting helped to specify the primary goals and various needs of the surrounding community. Figure 1.1 illustrates the town of Calhoun with the location of the infrastructure improvements identified, separated into three components to address three primary needs: a connectivity loop within Calhoun, a feasibility analysis for a railway underpass, and a link to Charleston. An introduction to the goals and broad design considerations of these components is within this section, with further details and design work included in the remainder of the report. The report is structured by civil engineering discipline, not by component, for ease of reference by a peer engineer. Priority was given to safety, cost, and accessibility as indicated by the client.

Figure 1.1: Identification of Key Project Components
Component I: Connectivity Loop within Calhoun. Calhoun’s city center consists of the following community entities: a Methodist Church, an Elementary School, an existing historic sidewalk (formerly the original path of the Trail of Tears), a baseball field, and the City Hall and Public Library, all throughout a quaint neighborhood atmosphere. The objective of this component is to link the community and provide a safe and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible pedestrian route between these local points of interest. Design considerations for this component of the overall project include safety concerns for crosswalks across a heavy-traffic highway, the need for expansion of currently narrow shoulders with existing swales immediately along Highway 163, and several high-grade slopes alongside the road that lead up to private properties, which limit constructible area and require re-grading.

Component II: Feasibility Analysis for Railway Underpass. Highway 163 continues out of the heart of Calhoun and west towards the Bowater Paper Mill. West of the baseball field, the road descends into a railway underpass. The narrow shoulders provide limited vertical and horizontal clearance for truck traffic, leaving no current safe route for a pedestrian to traverse the railroad, shown in Figure 1.2.
Five alternatives for developing a safe route are investigated for feasibility within this report:

**Option 1:** Reduce the total number of lanes from two to one under the underpass, providing horizontal clearance for an elevated sidewalk on the north side (right side as oriented in Figure 1.2). Design considerations include disruption of traffic flow, safety clearance for pedestrians, and stopping sight distance (SSD) for vehicles.

**Option 2:** Widen the Highway 163 railway underpass to simultaneously accommodate safe passage of truck traffic and pedestrian traffic. Design considerations include limitations of right of way to railway-owned parcels, geotechnical stability analysis, cost, and proper safety clearance for both vehicles and pedestrians.

**Option 3:** Maintain two active lanes of traffic, but design a signalized pedestrian walkway parallel to the flow of traffic. The designed system would allow pedestrians to press a button to turn traffic signals in both directions to red. The pedestrian could then enter the road in a modified bike lane, traverse the underpass, and connect back to the sidewalk on the opposite side. Design considerations include safety, user familiarity with unique signalized system, warranting and permitting guidelines, and SSD.

**Option 4:** Design a pedestrian tunnel that cuts through the embankment below the railroad, adjacent to the road. Design considerations include soil stability, infiltration rates, disruption of railway foundation, and cost of similar projects.

**Option 5:** Use an at-grade crossing south of railroad, and construct a trail through the surrounding woods and floodplain that reconnects to Highway 163 west of the railway underpass. Design considerations include flood zone risk, accessibility to crossing, added distance to route, and requirements to purchase right of way from private landowners.

**Component III: Link to Charleston.** West of the railroad, Highway 163 connects to Route 11, which continues alongside the Bowater Paper Mill and connects to a bridge for pedestrians to access shopping centers in Charleston, TN. Design considerations for this component include modifications to existing slopes from the road surface along Highway 163 down to a wetland zone below, the need for a crosswalk between the Paper Mill and the parking lot on the opposite side of the road on Route 11, connection to the existing sidewalk on the west side of the bridge, and a potential buffer between pedestrians and the rapidly moving traffic along Route 11.
2.0 INITIAL SITE SURVEY

Since there was no existing survey data available for the proposed 2.0 mile sidewalk development as shown previously in Figure 1.1, a topographic survey was required before any detailed design work could be done. The purpose of this survey was to locate existing features in Calhoun including but not limited to: pavement, sidewalks, slopes, culverts, storm drains and surveying monuments. Locating the existing infrastructure in the town is necessary for determining the placement of the sidewalk route, slopes that require re-grading and stormwater facilities that need to be relocated. Because of the length of the proposed route, the roadway survey was divided into 4 major components: Sherwood Avenue & Main Street, Etowah Road, Lynncrest Avenue & Highland Avenue, and Route 11. Five total survey trips were required culminating in over 112 dedicated person hours.

The portions of Sherwood Avenue, west of Highland Avenue, and Main Street between Sherwood Avenue and Route 163, were surveyed on February 5, 2016. The topographic survey was performed with a Topcon Hiper V GPS unit to facilitate the use of an arbitrary coordinate system. The survey was initially established on an arbitrary coordinate system due to the inability to use the GPS system to locate the USGS control point in an area with abundant tree coverage. The edge-of-pavement, existing sidewalks and swales were located during this survey to allow the team to begin the preliminary design work for the sidewalk network. In order to establish surveying benchmarks to reference in a subsequent survey, a fire hydrant and a water valve at the northeast end of Main Street were also located.

On February 12, 2016, State Route 163, commonly known as Etowah Road, between Main Street and the Calhoun United Methodist Church, was surveyed using a Topcon Total Station. Due to the large amount of tree coverage, use of the GPS receiver was not feasible. While referencing the fire hydrant and water valve from the previous survey, three control points were established along this route to facilitate future survey work of the existing culverts, slopes, and Lynncrest Avenue. A topographic survey was performed on the edge of pavement, sloped easement, and concrete channel located on the north side of Etowah Road, adjacent to the baseball field. The USGS control point was located using the total station, which allowed the
survey data for the proposed route to be placed on Tennessee State Plane Coordinates. A week later, on February 19, 2016, the sections of Lynncrest Avenue and Highland Avenue connecting Etowah Road and Sherwood Avenue were also surveyed to complete the existing edge-of-pavement and sidewalk data for Component I in downtown Calhoun. The survey network for Sherwood Avenue & Main Street, Etowah Road, and Lynncrest Avenue & Highland Avenue is shown in Figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1: Map of Roadway Survey for Sherwood Avenue & Main Street, Etowah Road, and Lynncrest Avenue & Highland Avenue
Lastly, U.S. Route 11 between Etowah Road and the bridge crossing the Hiwassee River was surveyed on April 8, 2016, highlighted in **Figure 2.2**. The portion of Etowah between Route 11 and the railway underpass, as well as the slope adjacent to the floodplain culvert were located. The two intersections connecting Route 11 to the Paper Mill were surveyed extensively to allow the transportation designers to begin evaluating the crosswalks at these locations. Furthermore, the road profile was captured to provide the water resources designers with the roadway elevation data necessary to design the proposed storm drain.

![Figure 2.2: Map of the Completed Roadway Survey for Route 11 and remaining stretch of Etowah Road](image-url)
3.0 HYDROLOGIC ENGINEERING

A hydrologic analysis was performed to identify existing stormwater measures and determine the necessary modifications to accommodate a pedestrian sidewalk. **Figure 3.1 and Figure 3.2** show the existing stormwater infrastructure for the entire network and include four swales, two ditches and a gravel-lined channel. Since the grassy swales are the primary drainage system for the town and provide the area with a notable amount of green space, the sidewalk layout is designed to minimize the disruption of existing stormwater management facilities. The proposed curb and gutter system along Etowah Road and Route 11 will have a noticeable impact on Calhoun’s hydrology and will required upgrades to the existing stormwater management. It is also recommend to extend the swale near Calhoun Elementary to replace the existing eroded natural channel while regrading is being performed in the area. Since the existing swale meets TDOT requirements, using this profile to replace the existing natural channel will prevent future erosion issues. The existing swales and ditches adjacent to Etowah Road will need to be removed and replaced with a storm drain to accommodate the proposed curb and sidewalk system and the increased impervious coverage. A storm drain beneath the proposed sidewalk adjacent to Route 11 will also be required to convey the runoff from the added curb and inlets. These stormwater infrastructure improvements are analyzed in the following sections.
Figure 3.1: Existing Stormwater Management

A grassy swale is recommended to extend southwest along Sherwood Avenue to replace the existing natural channel that is heavily eroded, due to the shallow concentrated stormwater flow. Replacing this shallow channel with a larger, grassy swale will prevent erosion by increasing the cross-sectional flow area, and decreasing the flow velocity and shear stress imparted on the channel. Extending the existing swale near the elementary school will also enhance the aesthetics of the neighborhood while catching localized particulates from runoff and promoting infiltration and groundwater recharge.

Section 438 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA) mandates that the pre-development hydrology be upheld during and after the development of a site to prevent stream erosion from the increased stormwater runoff. Consequently, the hydrologic implications of the new sidewalk infrastructure and the stormwater improvements, such as increased impervious coverage and alteration of flow characteristics, need to be assessed prior to construction to prevent erosion and ecological impacts. It is imperative to preserve the health of the existing

Figure 3.2: Existing Stormwater Management, Highway 11

3.1 Sherwood Avenue Swale Improvements
streams, including the swale that runs southwest along Sherwood Avenue as well as Etowah Road.

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) Drainage Manual outlines several standards and suggestions for designing roadside ditches and vegetated swales. These standards highlight the appropriate equations and design storm to determine the discharge, capacity, location and geometry of newly constructed or retrofitted roadside channels. The Rational Method and a 10-year design storm, and maximum erosion resistance were selected based upon the criteria outlined in Section 4 of the TDOT Drainage Manual. The maximum shear stress that a sod-lined swale without turf reinforcement matting (TRM) can accommodate is 2 lb/ft². The following paragraph summarizes the calculations performed to ensure the proposed swale extension meets TDOT’s capacity and erosion requirements.

The Rational method yielded the post-construction percent increase in the peak storm flow during a 10-year storm to be 1.84%. Additionally, Manning’s Equation was used to determine the shear stress imposed on the swale by performing iterations to match the design flow to the corresponding flow depth, as shown in Table 3.1. The calculated shear stress applied to the swale during a 10-year storm is 1.42 lb/ft².

### Table 3.1: Swale Flow Depth Calculations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trial Depth (ft)</th>
<th>Flow Area (ft²)</th>
<th>Wetted Perm (ft)</th>
<th>R (feet)</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>Q (CFS)</th>
<th>V (FPS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>11.25</td>
<td>15.30</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>39.82</td>
<td>3.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>8.45</td>
<td>13.26</td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>25.15</td>
<td>2.98</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>4.49</td>
<td>9.67</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>8.72</td>
<td>1.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>8.19</td>
<td>13.05</td>
<td>0.63</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>23.91</td>
<td>2.92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[ \tau_{\text{max}} = 1.42 \text{ lb/ft}^2 \]

According to the Drainage Manual, the capacity of the swale still well exceeds the peak discharge from a 10-year storm event and can accommodate the applied shear stress from the stormflow. While the added impervious surfaces do not significantly affect the peak stormflow
through the swale, it is recommended to replace the eroded channel during the construction and grading for the sidewalk to control further ecological impacts. Furthermore, it would be most cost effective to upgrade the eroded channel while the surrounding topography is being regraded. The calculations for determining the peak discharge of the grassy swale in front of Calhoun Elementary School before and after construction of a sidewalk are included on Page 1 in **Appendix A**. The parameters used in these calculations as well as the results are summarized in **Table 3.2** and **Table 3.3**.

**Table 3.2: Rational Method Design Parameters**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drainage Area (Acres)</td>
<td>6.711</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curve Number (Unitless)</td>
<td>0.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storm Intensity (in/hr)</td>
<td>2.36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 3.3: Rational Method Design Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Development Peak Discharge (ft³/s)</td>
<td>8.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Development Peak Discharge (ft³/s)</td>
<td>8.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Increase (%)</td>
<td>1.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity (ft³/s)</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.2 Stormwater Drain Design Infrastructure

To manage the additional stormwater runoff created by the construction of a curb and sidewalk system, storm drains are necessary for sections along both Etowah Road and U.S. Route 11. The placement of the storm drain inlets and the sizing of the reinforced concrete pipe that will transport the runoff follows Section 7 of the TDOT Drainage Manual and is outlined in the following sections.

#### 3.2.1 Etowah Road

A storm drain will be placed beneath the proposed sidewalk between Lynncrest Avenue and Main Street. The primary design considerations for inlet placement according to the Drainage Manual are roadway geometry and gutter flow spread. Inlets should be placed before intersections and at the bottom of sag curves, with a maximum spacing of 400 feet. Furthermore,
the inlets must be placed to ensure that the spread of the gutter flow does not exceed 8 feet. Considerate of these constraints, a total of 8 inlets are necessary along Etowah Road. Locations of these inlets are identified in the project construction drawings.

The Drainage Manual also recommends using the rational method and Manning’s Equation for calculating the size of the reinforced concrete pipe that will convey the stormwater. The runoff from each drainage area, the section of roadway between the inlets, was calculated and summed to produce the design flow rate for the storm drain. Based on the design flow rate, a 13” diameter pipe is sufficient. Due to the Drainage Manual’s minimum storm drain sizes however, an 18” diameter pipe was selected. A summary of relevant calculation results for the storm drain calculations is featured in Table 3.4.

Table 3.4: Storm Drain Calculation Summary for Etowah Road

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drainage Area (Acres)</th>
<th>1.82</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Design Flow (ft³/s)</td>
<td>8.502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storm Intensity (in/hr)</td>
<td>5.484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipe Diameter (in)</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2.2 U.S Route 11

Seven inlets are required for Route 11, with the calculated placement of each highlighted in the project construction drawings. The max spacing for the first inlet was calculated using an allowable gutter spread of 8 feet and determined to be 682.44 feet. However, an inlet will be placed at a shorter distance since the entrance to the Bowater Credit Union intersects Route 11 before the maximum spacing for the first inlet. Furthermore, inlets are required at least every 400 feet due to the specifications outlined by the drainage manual. An extra inlet was placed before the crosswalk connecting the Paper Mill to the auxiliary parking lot to limit the gutter flow in an area with high pedestrian traffic. An extra inlet was also placed at the bottom of the sag curve as recommended by the drainage manual. The design flow rate and required pipe diameter were also determined using the Rational method and Manning’s equation, and are reported in Table 3.5. Due to a shallower longitudinal roadway slope, the time of concentration for the drainage area of Route 11 is about 10 minutes longer than for Etowah Road. As a result, the storm intensity value for Route 11 is noticeably smaller and produces a smaller design flow rate. A 13”
diameter pipe would be acceptable for this storm drain, but an 18” diameter pipe was selected to comply with the TDOT Standards.

Table 3.5: Storm Drain Calculation Summary for U.S. Route 11

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drainage Area (Acres)</td>
<td>1.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design Flow (ft³/s)</td>
<td>5.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storm Intensity (in/hr)</td>
<td>3.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipe Diameter (in)</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.3 Flood Plain Considerations

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a portion of the proposed sidewalk just west of the railway underpass intersects with the Zone AE 100-year flood plain, illustrated in Figure 3.3. Federal law requires that any new infrastructure improvements in a Zone AE flood plain must be properly elevated and documented as such. Before all the proposed sidewalk infrastructure improvements can be constructed, a Professional Engineer or Professional Land Surveyor must prepare a FEMA elevation certificate. Additionally, a city permit is required by Section 14-2 of the Calhoun City Municipal Code to document that the hydrologic impacts of new construction on flooding are properly addressed.
4.0 TRANSPORTATION ANALYSIS

The transportation scope of the project includes designing new sidewalks, crosswalks, warning signs, pedestrian signalization, and traffic signals to support the new sidewalk infrastructure. The existing sidewalks, shoulders, and intersections are evaluated to ensure pedestrian safety and identify any required modifications. Design adheres to guidelines from the following associations: the Federal Highway Association (FHWA), United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), the United States Access Board (USAB), and the Transportation Research Board (TRB). The key components of transportation analysis for pedestrian infrastructure are described further in the following sections: sidewalk design, shoulder and curb design, sight distance determination, and crosswalk design.

4.1 Sidewalk Design
AASHTO pedestrian facility guidelines dictate that an access route intended for pedestrians must meet ADA requirements. Sidewalks should be accessible, have an adequate width, and allow pedestrians to have a sense of safety, continuity, clarity of routes and convenience to the users. The Calhoun sidewalk dimensions are designed according to ADA requirements and remain consistent throughout the entirety of the route with a 6 inch concrete thickness, 5 foot width, and 2% cross slope. However, since the sidewalk is an extension of the road, the grade of the sidewalk must maintain the same elevation as the existing grade of the road. All grading along the proposed sidewalk route meets ADA requirements of 8.33% grade except for a segment of sidewalk located on Lyncrest Ave. around 500 feet south of the Methodist Church (between Station 7+00 and Station 10+00 in the project construction drawings) where the grade was measured at 11%, pictured in Figure 4.1. The United States Access Board (USAB) acknowledges that existing physical constraints make the requirements for new construction infeasible at certain locations. Since the sidewalk is added to existing infrastructure with driveway entrances located throughout the 200 ft portion of the roadway, modifications to accommodate the appropriate grade are infeasible without hindering drivers’ access to driveways. The USAB mandates that, “compliance is required to the extent practicable within the scope of the project”. This portion of the walkway makes up only 1.85% of the total walkway and can be avoided through an alternate route by continuing south and then west onto Sherwood Ave.

Figure 4.1: Site Conditions with 11% Grade
4.2 Shoulder and Curb Design

An analysis of current shoulder and curb radii is required to determine appropriate safety measures and modifications when incorporating new pedestrian infrastructure into the system. Current shoulder widths of 2 ft of asphalt on the entirety of the sidewalk route, with the exception of 6 ft concrete on Highway 11 due to its higher classification of traffic volume, were all determined to provide a safe and acceptable distance of separation and required no need for modification. However, installation of a 6 inch concrete barrier curb, shown in Figure 4.2, is recommended to provide drainage control, delineation of the pedestrian walkway, and assistance in roadside development. This barrier curb in addition to the existing shoulders increases the separation from the traveled roadway and the pedestrian walkway and thus increases pedestrian safety.

![Figure 4.2: Barrier Type Curb](image)

To analyze the safety for pedestrians traveling alongside intersections, the existing curb radii for each intersection were measured and calculated using Google Maps images, demonstrated in Figure 4.3 with supporting figures and calculations in Appendix B. Measured curb radii ranged
from 20 to 140 feet and were in most cases inconsistent, unclear, or didn’t exist. To slow traffic speeds, a small effective curb radius of 16 feet is recommended from AASHTO’s range for all intersections except for where Highway 11 intersects the Paper Mill. The larger radii here can be maintained to allow for the necessary vehicle deceleration and acceleration lanes. The modifications to curb radius require constructing the curb into the road, with a schematic of general effective radius shown in Figure 4.4. In addition to slowing traffic speeds, these modifications allow perpendicular curb ramps to be positioned parallel to the crosswalk path of travel, decrease crossing distances for pedestrians, and enhance the distinction between perpendicular and parallel traffic for people with vision impairments.
To accommodate ADA accessibility, curb ramps must be included where crosswalks intersect the curb. Common curb ramp types of perpendicular and parallel were considered, but parallel was ultimately chosen because the perpendicular curb ramp is intended for 8 ft sidewalks and would not allow for sufficient landing area. Figure 4.5 illustrates how the parallel curb ramp runs in line with the thinner sidewalk and maximizes use of space to meet grading requirements.

The width of the parallel curb ramp is designed as 5 feet to match the width of the sidewalk, exceeding the minimum AASHTO requirements of 4 feet. To mark the street edge for the vision
impaired, detectable truncated-dome warnings 2 feet in width are provided at each curb ramp, pictured in Figure 4.6.

![Detectable Truncated-Dome](image)

**Figure 4.6: Detectable Truncated-Dome**

### 4.3 Sight Distance

Intersection Sight Distance (ISD) was determined to ensure minimum requirements for the distance immediately after a driver is able to spot an object or individual to make a decision before the vehicle arrives at the specific intersection or crossing point. There are 8 critical intersections in the Calhoun sidewalk network where pedestrians will cross routes that vehicles enter and exit: Main Street & State Route 163, Sherwood Avenue & Church Street, State Route 163 & Lynncrest Avenue, State Route 163 & College Street, State Route 163 & Crockett Avenue, U.S. Highway 11 & Bowater Paper Mill entrance, and U.S. Highway 11 & State Route 163. All of these roadways have a speed limit of 35 miles per hour. According to AASHTO Guidelines, this 35mph speed limit corresponds to a minimum ISD of 390 feet. The ISD for each critical intersection was measured and calculated manually on site with a rolling tape measurer, demonstrated in Figure 4.7 with further calculations in Appendix B. The ISD’s for each critical point are show in Table 4.1, with distances that didn’t meet the minimum requirement highlighted in yellow.
Figure 4.7 ISD Measurement Method

Table 4.1: Intersection Sight Distances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intersection</th>
<th>Direction of Travel</th>
<th>ISD (FT)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main Street &amp; State Route 163</td>
<td>vehicle traveling west on State Route 163 towards the crosswalk intersecting State Route 163</td>
<td>918.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Street &amp; State Route 163</td>
<td>vehicle traveling east on SR 163 towards the crosswalk intersecting SR 163</td>
<td>597.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Street &amp; State Route 163</td>
<td>vehicle traveling south on Main St towards the crosswalk intersecting Main St</td>
<td>708.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Street &amp; State Route 163</td>
<td>vehicle traveling north on Main St towards the crosswalk intersecting Main St.</td>
<td>524.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherwood Avenue &amp; Church Street</td>
<td>vehicle traveling west on Church St towards the Crosswalk intersecting Church St</td>
<td>498.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Route 163 &amp; Lynncrest Avenue</td>
<td>vehicle traveling west on SR 163 towards the crosswalk intersecting SR 163</td>
<td>502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Route 163 &amp; Lynncrest Avenue</td>
<td>vehicle traveling east on SR 163 towards the crosswalk intersecting SR 163</td>
<td>341.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Route 163 &amp; Lynncrest Avenue</td>
<td>vehicle traveling north on Lynncrest Ave towards the crosswalk intersecting Lynncrest Ave</td>
<td>357.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Route 163 &amp; College Street</td>
<td>vehicle traveling south on College St towards the crosswalk intersecting College St</td>
<td>361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Route 163 &amp; College Street</td>
<td>vehicle traveling east on SR 163 making a left turn onto College St</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Two critical points did not meet minimum distance required for ISD: State Route 163 & College Street and State Route 163 & Lynncrest Avenue. Additional warning signs are therefore required for vehicles traveling south on College St, traveling east on SR 163 making a left turn on College St, traveling east on SR 163 towards the crosswalk intersecting SR 163, and traveling north on Lynncrest Ave towards the crosswalk intersecting Lynncrest Ave. With these additions, the designed sidewalk network will be clear of sight distance conflicts.

### 4.3 Crosswalk Design

The Calhoun pedestrian infrastructure improvements lead pedestrians to cross roads at 13 locations across the route, calling for the design of 13 total crosswalks. The following comprehensive crosswalk design incorporates all necessary components of markings, signs, pedestrian signalization, and warning beacons.

#### 4.3.1 Markings
Crosswalk markings are designed to delineate safe paths for pedestrians, alert road users, and legally establish the sidewalk. According to the MUTCD, stop lines must be between 12 and 24 inches wide, and crosswalk lines must be between 6 and 24 inches wide. To enhance driver perception, the width of the lines is differentiated throughout the project: the stop lines are 24 inches wide and the crosswalk lines are 18 inches wide. A team-constructed traffic survey yielded a 10% heavy vehicle percentage, relatively high for a small road. Since the crosswalks may be unexpected and heavy vehicles obstruct sight distance, the crosswalks are marked with white lines at 45-degree angles to increase visibility rather than marking the crosswalk with transverse lines. The dimensions and placement of each crosswalk are located in the project construction drawings.

4.3.2 Signs

USDOT specifies that non-vehicular warning signs are to be used to warn vehicles in cases where conflicts with pedestrians may occur. Warning signs are to be located 500 feet in advance of the crosswalks on Highway 11 and S.R. 163 and at each crosswalk location. The pedestrian warning sign is used along with supplemental warning plaque, 500 ft, to indicate the distance the approaching vehicle is from the crosswalk. At the crosswalk line, the pedestrian warning sign is used along with a diagonally pointed arrow plaque with the arrow oriented in the direction of the crossing. Each of the warning signs to be used are illustrated in Figure 4.8.

![Figure 4.8: Non-Vehicular Warning Sign and Warning Plaques from USDOT.](image)

4.3.3 Pedestrian Signalization

In cases where there is not sufficient vehicle signal guidance to indicate when pedestrians should start crossing the roadway, crossings should be pedestrian signalized to reduce vehicle-pedestrian conflicts in compliance with USDOT standards. Pedestrian signal heads are required for four crosswalks throughout the project: at the intersection of Highway 11 and the Paper Mill entrance, the crossing from the overflow parking lot to the northwestern island, the crossing from the southwestern island to the northwestern island, and the two crossings at the intersection of
Highway 11 and S.R. 163. Pedestrian pedestals are located between the edge of the crosswalk line and the curb ramp, and the pushbutton detector is located between 1.5 and 6 feet from the edge of the curb for safety and efficiency. Pedestrian actuation signs are located above each pushbutton detector unit with the arrow pointing in the direction of the crosswalk. See the project construction drawings for the pedestrian signal head, the pedestrian pedestal, and the pedestrian pedestal locations.

The following signal and countdown timings are required for the pedestrian signalization operations. As seen in Figure 4.9, a one-section pedestrian head is used to illustrate the walking person, upraised hand, and change interval countdown indications. The start of the walk interval coincides with the conflicting vehicular green interval and is followed by the pedestrian change interval. The buffer interval starts at the beginning of the conflicting vehicular yellow interval, and the pedestrian change interval countdown counts down the remaining 10 seconds in the change interval to add safety and transparency to this system. Two modifications were required of vehicular green intervals to accommodate pedestrian crossing time and phase intervals and are located in Appendix B. A summary of the crosswalk locations and features can be found in Table 4.2.

Figure 4.9: One-section Pedestrian Signal Indications, USDOT.

Table 4.2: Crosswalk Locations and Features

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intersection</th>
<th>Number of Crosswalks</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Pedestrian Signals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Highway 11 and Paper Mill Entrance</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Overflow Parking Lot to NW Island, NW Island to Existing Sidewalk, SW Corner to SW Island, SW Island to NW Island</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.3.4 Warning Beacons

In addition to pedestrian crossing warning signs, warning beacons will be mounted at both unsignalized crossings on S.R. 163. The flashing beacons will be pedestrian actuated so that pedestrians pushing the button will cause a single section of signal face to flash yellow at a rate of 50 times per minute and therefore warning drivers of a pedestrian crossing. Because over thirty percent of first harmful events in highway fatalities each year are caused by roadside obstacles and 20 percent of most harmful events are caused by roadside obstacles, the luminaire supports for flashing warning sign supports are breakaway supported. The breakaway part of the support is designed to release when the support is loaded in shear instead of bending stress when the force is applied at a bumper height of 20 inches.

5.0 RAILWAY UNDERPASS DESIGN AND OPTION EVALUATION

An accessible pathway is required for pedestrians to traverse the railway underpass along S.R. 163 and gain access to western Calhoun and shopping centers in Charleston. The dimensions of the existing railway underpass were evaluated to ensure all standards are currently met for underpass design based on AASHTO Guidelines. With a height of 14.5ft, total width of 27 ft, which is separated into 12 ft wide lanes and 1.5 ft shoulders, the current underpass meets all safety guidelines and does not pose a threat to vehicle traffic safety. Several options for a pedestrian traverse have been identified and are evaluated with respect to safety, cost, and accessibility.

5.1 Traffic Lane Reduction Design (Option 1)

Although the existing underpass dimensions pose no threat to vehicle traffic safety, the limited dimensions provide no available space for a sidewalk to maintain the current lane configuration.
One method of transporting pedestrians through the underpass is to reduce the total number of lanes from two down to one. The 27 foot wide underpass provides room for a travel lane, extended shoulders, and an elevated pedestrian sidewalk. Elevating the pedestrian walkway increases pedestrian safety by reducing vehicle–pedestrian conflicts since the pedestrians and vehicles are space separated. In the event a vehicle crossed into the pedestrian walkway portion of the underpass, the vehicle would be prevented from hitting a pedestrian by the concrete walkway which enhances pedestrians’ perception of safety. Traffic through the underpass would be regulated by a traffic signal on each approach. Vehicle safety would be maintained as vehicles would be time separated by the traffic signal.

The signalized approach, while ensuring safety for pedestrians, could potentially cause a disruption in traffic flow. Typical average annual daily traffic (AADT) averages around 50,000 for urban routes. A TDOT traffic study reported an AADT of 6,269 for Route 163, significantly lower than this average count. An underpass and signalized approach similar to the one in Calhoun exists on Blount Avenue along the South Knoxville Waterfront, with a lower but comparable AADT of 3,196. In order to accommodate pedestrian traffic, the underpass was reduced to one vehicle lane with an elevated sidewalk, pictured in Figure 5.1 with a signalized approach illustrated in Figure 5.2 (KRTPO, 2014). Traffic flows for volumes as recorded on both Blount Avenue and Route 163 can be reasonably maintained and thus warrant the implementation of a lane reduction. Walkway, signal, and timing design were required to complete the design and are detailed in the following sections.
5.1.1 Pedestrian Infrastructure Design through Underpass

AASHTO Guidelines mandate grading and elevations for leveled walkways. The raised pedestrian walkway is recommended to be constructed of concrete and will align to the interior face of the underpass abutment wall. The ramps leading up to the leveled walkway under the underpass must not exceed 8% and the height of the walkway must not exceed 30 inches. This maximum height of 30 inches is recommended throughout the central portion of the walkway to maximize separation between vehicles and pedestrians, and the maximum 8% grade on the incline and decline on either side was maintained to limit the total distance of walkway needed. The cross measurements of the walkway follow specifications of the rest of the proposed sidewalk network with a width of 5ft and the cross slope of 2%. Hand railing will be attached to the walkway as specified in AASHTO Guidelines for any grade exceeding 5%. The traveled lane width for this design option will result in 13ft and a shoulder on both sides of 4 feet can be provided. A traffic signal is to be placed 50ft away from the underpass on both sides to alternate between green for westbound vehicular traffic and green for eastbound vehicular traffic.
5.1.2 Traffic Signals

In order to accommodate the modification to one-way traffic beneath the railroad underpass for this design option, cantilever supported traffic signals are to be installed at each approach according to USDOT standards. The vertical positions of the sections follow common MUTCD specifications of circular red, circular yellow, and circular green, from top to bottom. Two signal faces are installed at each approach, with backplates on signal faces to eliminate confusing backgrounds from the underpass. Dimensions and placement for each traffic signal are located in the project construction drawings, supported by calculations in Appendix B. Breakaway supports will not be used for the traffic signal supports since a fallen signal post support may be a vehicle obstruction. Instead, the signal supports are located outside of the clear zone for S.R. 163 at 14 feet from the edge of the traveled way.

5.1.3 Traffic Signal Timing

The distance between the outside edges of the stop lines at the traffic signals under the underpass is 135 feet to provide adequate clearance of the wingwalls. Slightly over 5 seconds are required for vehicles to clear the underpass based on vehicles’ average rate of acceleration. The average time to clear the underpass was calculated in Appendix B and combined with the headway to ensure the queue would clear without decreasing the level of service. To ensure the intersection operates at a minimum Level of Service of C, vehicle arrival rate during peak hour was used to design the signal timing. The total cycle length is designed to ensure conflicting delay is lower than 35 seconds. Interval length calculations are found in Appendix B and signal timing intervals are summarized in Table 5.1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Green Interval (s)</th>
<th>13.1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Interval (s)</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Clearance Interval (s)</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Cycle Length (s)</td>
<td>20.1 &lt; 35.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.2 Widening of Railway Underpass (Option 2)

Another design alternative identified to safely allow pedestrians through the underpass is to lengthen the railway span over State Route 163. The purpose of lengthening the span would be to create a wider passage below the bridge which would maintain two vehicle lanes and allow for a safe pedestrian traffic route to connect the east and west portions of 163. The criteria for the feasibility study contained herein evaluates feasibility of this option with respect to demolition and construction costs and impact to traffic flow during the construction process.

Before any detailed design was considered, a representative from Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure, Inc. with experience in bidding similar projects was contacted to determine practicability in relation to similar projects. The representative referenced two projects in which they participated in the bidding process. The most similar of these projects was a equal span bridge with two 45 foot span lengths. This project required the stabilization of existing abutments and replacement of the bridge spans with an upgraded design. This project was bid on a six month time schedule with bids ranging from $1 million to $1.75 million, inclusive of the cost of construction only. While this bridge design is of a larger scale than the bridge being considered for this feasibility study, it did not require demolition or reconstruction of the bridge abutments, activities that would significantly increase the financial investment necessary for this option. With a maximum target budget for the pedestrian connection project in Calhoun of $750K, the cost incurred by lengthening the bridge span over 163 would be prohibitive.

A possibility exists to attempt to warrant widening of the railway underpass due to a risk of vehicle safety. However, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, no fatalities have occurred in 2012, 2013, or 2014 through the underpass on S.R. 163. There have only been two crashes located on public property between 2014 and 2016. One collision occurred in February 2016 between a left turning vehicle traveling southbound on Highway 11 and a northbound vehicle on Highway 11. Another crash occurred November 2015 between a left turning vehicle on Lyncrest Ave. and a westbound commercial vehicle on S.R. 163. The damage was minimal and the crash was reported as property damage, $400-$1500. Since there have been no reported crashes in the underpass in the
last two years, the underpass cannot be identified as a safety concern for vehicles and widening
the underpass is not warranted due to vehicular safety.

5.3 Signalized Pedestrian Walkway (Option 3)

To avoid reducing the underpass to one lane as in Option 1, two lanes could be maintained with a
5 foot wide bike and pedestrian lane marked from the right edge of the northbound travel lane.
The marked bike and pedestrian lane could be accessed through a pedestrian actuated signal.
Pedestrian detector pushbuttons could be placed at each pedestrian approach to the underpass.
When the pushbuttons are pressed, the vehicular traffic signals at each approach will transition
from a green to a red signal indication, temporarily stopping traffic to allow pedestrians and
bikes to travel through the underpass without vehicles. The vehicular signal indication will
change from red to green after 23 seconds which accommodates pedestrian walking speed and a
red clearance interval to ensure pedestrian safety, with supporting calculations shown in
Appendix B. This option effectively reduces traffic delay by stopping traffic only when
pedestrians are present. However, a negative aspect of this option is that separate designated
pavement area does not exist for each mode of travel; instead, vehicles, bikes, and pedestrians
travel in the same lane. Bikes and pedestrians are instead time separated from vehicles by the
signals. Familiarity with road conditions is a key factor for driver perception time. This option
opposes standard driver behavior since drivers must drive through the bike lane, which could
reduce vehicle safety as drivers are confused on what action to take.

5.3.1 Traffic Control

In order to accommodate the proposed pedestrian walkway, a defined pavement marking
and guidance signs are necessary to indicate the bike and pedestrian travel lane. The bike
lane pavement marking is a six inch wide, white line offset five feet from the edge of the
travelled way. The bike lane shall be 70 feet long, starting at the base of each wingwall on each
side of the underpass approach. Pedestrian pedestals will be located at the start of the bike lane
from both directions. Bicycle and Pedestrian Permitted signs will be used at each approach to the
bike lane to guide users to walk on the road following MUTCD Section B guidelines, picture in
Figure 5.3  The location of the pedestrian pedestals and signs are indicated in project construction drawings.

![Image: Bicycle and Pedestrian Permitted Signs (USDOT, 2009)]

**Figure 5.3**: Bicycle and Pedestrian Permitted Signs (USDOT, 2009)

### 5.3.2 Traffic Signals

The traffic signals and traffic signal timing for Option 3 are the same as designed in Option 1, except for the Signal Timing Interval. The green interval is indefinite since the light is pedestrian actuated. The yellow interval lasts 5.0 seconds, and the red interval lasts 23.0 seconds.

### 5.4 Pedestrian Access Tunnel (Option 4)

A concrete pedestrian tunnel was identified as a fourth alternative as it would eliminate conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians by completely isolating pedestrians from the roadway. This would require boring through the adjacent slope perpendicular to the railroad tracks and excavating the soil from beneath the north side of the underpass. During construction, temporary shoring is recommended as the site conditions do not contain soil material with sufficient capacity to maintain the open cut. Options for construction include either precast or cast-in-place concrete as a structural liner for the tunnel. Several factors are considered for the construction of this specific pedestrian tunnel, including: maintaining adequate drainage, avoiding excessive bearing stresses on the soils, accommodating the weight of the railcars traveling over the underpass, and providing sufficient lighting for the pedestrians traveling through the tunnel. Shallow tunnels such as this one would require the implementation of a ‘top-down’ modified method of a cut-and-cover technique whereby contiguous bored piling help to construct support
walls and capping beams to carry the load of the railway. Although this would allow for a reasonably quick reinstatement of the railway, the disruption in rail traffic would still be significant. This method would be much less costly if it were to be considered at the initial construction of the railway underpass and not as a modification. Similar projects to this pedestrian tunnel range from $700,000 to well over $1,000,000. This would require significant funds for only a small portion of this overall infrastructure project and is thus considered cost prohibitive.

5.5 At-grade Crossing and Extended Sidewalk (Option 5)

Option 5 recommends the design of a pedestrian crossing 0.27 miles south of the underpass at an at-grade crossing, as shown in Figure 5.5. A private road crosses the railroad tracks 0.04 miles west of 3rd Street. Sidewalk infrastructure would be required from S. Main St., crossing the at-grade crossing and extending northwest 0.27 miles to connect to the sidewalk on S.R. 163. Pedestrian safety is concerning as pedestrians would be required to cross two lanes of railroad tracks. In addition, the topography is steeply sloped towards the floodplain to the west. ADA’s Accessible Routes Guidelines requires cross slope to be 2.1% or less, which would be difficult to maintain across the site. Since the elevation as the route becomes closer to S.R. 163 is much lower than the elevation of the road, the ascent to the road would be greater than 5.0% which would not meet ADA’s standards. The route would increase pedestrians’ travel length by 0.61 miles to travel around the underpass which according to AASHTO would inhibit pedestrians’ decision to travel as most pedestrians limit their routes to 0.25 miles.
5.6 Design Recommendations

After analysis of the 5 available options for traversing the railway underpass, recommendations for option selection follow primary objectives of safety, accessibility, and economic feasibility. Options 2 and 4 have projected costs beyond the scope of the project and cannot be justified by pedestrian or vehicular safety requirements. Option 5 extends the route in length and through high grade into a flood plain, all significantly limiting accessibility of the route to pedestrians. Options 1 and 3 were determined feasible through the engineering analysis and design described above. Although Option 1 demands a slightly higher cost and partially disrupts traffic flow, the team determined this as the safest design for both pedestrians and vehicular traffic. Option 3 is a unique design, which decreases the familiarity level of drivers and thus increases the safety risk of the system. Option 3 is still included as an alternative and could serve as a trial run if appropriate permitting was obtained from TDOT. However, the solution that optimizes all three primary objectives is Option 1.

6.0 RETAINING WALL DESIGN
A portion of S.R. 163 is currently restricted because of a steep slop adjacent to the road, making sidewalk construction unviable. In order to accommodate the necessary shoulder and sidewalks without disturbing the floodplain below, a segmental retaining wall is recommended. The front face of the wall is to be offset 15 feet from the existing roadway. The wall will be required to span 350 feet parallel to the road and will have a maximum height of 13.5 feet. A 3 foot segmental parapet is required at the top of the wall and a fence is recommended to improve pedestrian safety. The wall will require backfill comprised of free-draining #57 stone. The base of the wall shall be embedded into the existing soil at an average depth of 2 feet with a 6 inch crusher run leveling pad for structural support.

The brand *Stone Strong* was chosen as commercially available product suitable for such installation. This product was also chosen because its local availability makes it an economical choice. The design of the wall was completed using a proprietary design software offered through *Stone Strong* which conforms to the International Building Code. A sample of the block element configuration is shown in **Figure 6.1**, with full calculations and modeling provided in **Appendix C**. A detailed profile view can be found in the project construction drawings.

![Figure 6.1: Retaining Wall Block Elements](image)

7.0 CONSTRUCTION
To aid in developing a construction plan and cost estimation, the project was broken up into phases of similar cost that allowed for logical sequencing of funding and construction. The resulting three phases are illustrated in Figure 7.1. The first phase of the project is the west side of Etowah Road from the railroad bridge to the intersection of Etowah Road and Highway 11 and from Highway 11 to the bridge connecting Calhoun and Charleston. The second phase of the project encompasses the railway underpass on Etowah Road to the Calhoun United Methodist Church. The last phase of the project involves connecting downtown Calhoun to the local shops around the town. This component involves construction on Main Street, 3rd Street, Sherwood Avenue, Highland Avenue, and Lynncrest Avenue. Outlined in the follow construction plan is a summary of the scope of work, the scheduling of work, and the cost estimation.

Figure 7.1 Phase Separation Diagram

7.1 Scope of Work
Each phase of the project, while similar, contains unique components to be considered during construction and cost estimation. Phase 1 of the project consists of installing a Redi-Rock retaining wall, sidewalks, curb and gutters, concrete pipe culverts, traffic control, and light clearing and grubbing. Phase 2 consists of installing signalization of the one lane underpass, sidewalk, curb and gutters, concrete pipe culverts, hand railing, and traffic control. Phase 3 of the project consists of sidewalks, curb and gutters, concrete pipe culverts, and traffic control. The
overall traffic control plan that is suggested is to have two flaggers with signalized signs along with barriers to prevent any civilians from entering the construction zone. Professionals from Brian Sitton Construction and PCL were consulted regarding their experience in estimating similar pedestrian infrastructure projects to help validate the estimation process.

7.2 Scheduling of Work
Due to potential corporate funding from the nearby Paper Mill, Phase 1 was expected to commence first. The scheduling of work is to start on Etowah road due to the retaining wall being the time critical aspect of this phase. The retaining wall was estimated to take 14 days to complete, while remaining times for excavation, culvert installation, grading, curbs, gutters, inlets, and sidewalks are summarized in Figure 7.2 with supporting information in Appendix D. Highway 11 was scheduled in conjunction with Etowah road to reduce the overall duration of the phase. Highway 11 is scheduled to start 9 days after Etowah road has commenced with excavation and culverts scheduled to take 40 days due to the length of Highway 11. The overall duration for phase 1 is 43 days for Etowah road and 38 days for Highway 11. Simultaneous construction lead to an overall time of 44 working days to complete phase 1.

Figure 7.2 Phase 1 Scheduling
The scheduling of work for Phase 2 begins with installation the signalization of traffic lights. The large duration due to this work includes pouring a foundation for the signal poles and allowing the concrete to cure for 7 days to come up to strength as well as installing the electrical components. The durations of this phase have been estimated to be much longer than a typical section due to the large swells and traffic control needed on this phase. The work of this phase was scheduled so that work on the signalization of the underpass and work near the Calhoun Church begin at the same time so that the two crews will not interfere with each other’s work. Construction on Etowah road from the church to the underpass is 35 days, with an overall duration of phase 2 of 39 days.

Phase 3 scheduling is planned to start on Main street and continue down to 3rd street, Sherwood Ave, Highland Ave, and then Lynncrest Ave. The durations of Phase 3 are fairly similar with respect to Sherwood Ave and Highland/Lynncrest Ave due to the lengths of the segments. Main Street is scheduled to take 22 days while Sherwood Ave. and Highland/Lynncrest Ave. are scheduled to take 33 and 28 days, respectively. Complete scheduling for three phases can be found in Appendix D.

7.3 Cost Estimation

The three phases of construction estimates for the Calhoun sidewalk project were developed based on a cost range of $750,000 to $1,000,000 contracts. This range was selected because it increases the chance of the City of Calhoun to be granted the contracts based on information given by the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) rather than combining the entire project into one lump sum. Initially, the costs were estimated manually with supporting calculations in Appendix D. However, to ensure accuracy and relevance to the project’s construction, TDOT’s estimation tool was used in determining final costs.

The first phase of the project was estimated at $953,000, idealized at $1,000,000, with a summary in Table 7.1 and complete project breakdown costs located in Appendix D. This phase had a lump sum price of erosion and silt control of $2,500. Since the project site is relatively small a 0.2 quantity was added to the construction stakes, lines, and grades for a total value of $9,687.71. The retaining wall unit price that was selected was $57.27 per sf. This was selected
due to Mike Bevin’s from Rembco quoting us a price of $50.00 per sf for a Redi-Rock retaining wall. The traffic control quantity for this phase was also modified to 0.5 for a total price of $10,858.52. This was also due to the relatively small size of this phase. A 0.2 quantity was also added for clearing and grubbing because of the small shrubs near the retaining wall area. Since this phase had a lot of risk factors with the unknowns of the retaining wall, a 10% other items cost and a 25% construction contingency is included in the overall price.

| Route: | Highway 111 / Etowah Rd. |
| Description: | Component 1 |
| County: | McMinn |
| Length: | 3,159 ft |
| Date: | April 27, 2016 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Construction Items</th>
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<td>$130,400</td>
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<td>Clearing and Grubbing</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Prelim. Eng. (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Const. Eng. &amp; Inspec. (10%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Project Cost** $1,000,000
Trilamababr Consultants Group

The second phase of the project was estimated at $795,000 as shown in Table 7.2. This phase used a quantity of 0.5 for the erosion control because the length of the phase was sufficient for a $1,250 erosion control cost. The construction stakes, lines, and grades quantity was determined to be 0.1 because of the length of the phase was around half the length of phase 1. This phase included the installation of traffic signals and after talking to Mike from Progression Electric who installed a similar one lane railroad underpass on West Blunt Ave. in Knoxville a quantity of 1 for the traffic signal at a cost of $120,000 was used. This phase also requires a significant amount of traffic control so a quantity of 0.5 was estimated. Due to the complexity of traffic control system, an ‘other items’ amount of 25% was used and a construction contingency of 15%.

**Table 7.2 Phase 2 Construction Cost Breakdown**

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Items</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Const. Contingency =</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Construction Estimate</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Construction Estimate</strong></td>
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**Preliminary & Construction Engineering and Inspection**

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<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Const. Eng. &amp; Inspec. (10%)</td>
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</table>

**Total Project Cost**

$ 795,000

The final phase of the project was estimated at $783,000 and is pictured in Table 7.3. Phase 3 used a quantity of 1 for the erosion control due to the route of the phase and the length. The construction stakes, lines, and grades quantity that was estimated was 0.6 also due to the amount of swells, route, and length. The traffic control quantity that was used was 0.2 due to the phase being in a neighborhood with low traffic volumes. The other items cost that was estimated was 15% due to these swells and the length. The construction contingency was estimated at 20% for these reasons as well.
Table 7.3 Phase 3 Construction Cost Breakdown

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<td>Earthwork</td>
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<td>Other Items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction Estimate</td>
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<td>Prelim. Eng. (10%)</td>
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<td>Const. Eng. &amp; Inspec. (10%)</td>
<td>$65,200</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Project Cost</strong></td>
<td>$783,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total amount of #57 stone under the sidewalk was calculated by determining the cubic feet of the sidewalk and dividing it by 27 to convert to cubic yards. The resulting value was then multiplied by 1.5 to convert to tons. A waste factor of 5% was then added to that number for the final tonnage of #57 stone. The curb and gutter cubic yards were calculated by a provided TDOT formula of 0.598 per linear foot.

The assumptions that were made using the TDOT estimation tool were that the sidewalk unit price included vapor barrier, wire mesh reinforcing, saw cuts, formwork, and sealing and curing. The unit price of the concrete culvert was also assumed that the cost of excavation was included. These three cost estimates are a realistic representation of construction costs if the proposed sidewalk infrastructure is to be constructed, and can be implemented as separate phases to aid in grant application success.
References


Officer Joseph P. Maus. Calhoun Police Department. (phone call, February 24, 2016).


Starting at bridge

1st cross walk at signal for plant

2nd signal at Hardee's

3rd to main st. or buildings w/connecting sidewalk

depends which side across Lyncrest 1 or 11 across to Methodist church or not

1st Cross Walk

Signalized Cross Walk

Island thing for yield

R10-2

Pedestrian actuation

For pedestrians mounted on push button sign

W11-2

Non-vehicle warning signs

For cars located x-distance away from

W1U-2M

Post at crossing w/arrow W1U-7P plaque

Warnings:

Shorten the yellow plate holder lane to even with the stop bar.

Start the cross walk 4 ft from the existing stop bar.

Width = 6-24 inches measure 12''.

(longitudinal lines are 1 ft apart)

Cross walk markings located so that curb ramps are within extension of cross walk markings (look up ADA)
2nd Crosswalk

Move existing stop bar back and 4' wide gap exists.
Stop bar 23' from edge of pavement
Gutter curb intussuscepted

Actuation (dE)
4 signs (11 for each side of both crosswalks)

W11-2
W10-2ap
500'
W11-2
W10-7p

Post on 103 facing westbound cars
and eastbound cars from plant
for southbound & northbound

Not sure how crosswalk marking would
interfere w/ existing intersection markings
back up stop bars 4' start crosswalk
with 12' wide longitudinal lines
where they started that are 6' apart

3rd Crosswalk 103 at Main:
W11-2
W10-2ap
500'
W11-2
W10-7p

> 2 for east & west bound drivers
on 103

> 11

R10-25 Warning Beacon 41.03 actuated by pedestrian
push for warning lights

Cross only at cross walks

Possible traffic signal if peds experience exc. delay from
labeling intersection.
Crosswalk Calculations:

Crossing for Employee parking on Hwy 11

MUTCD signs:

- **R10-3a** Pedestrian Actuation sign mounted on push button.
- **W11-2** Non-vehicle warning sign warning cars of pedestrians distance away from vehicle crosswalk.
- **W11-2a** Non-vehicle warning sign warning vehicles of pedestrians at crossing with mounted arrow.
- **W11-10**

Distance to cross is 45 feet from edge of pavement to median clearance.

\[
\frac{45'}{3.5'} = 12.857 \text{ seconds}
\]

Sum of pedestrian change interval + buffer interval \( \geq 13 \text{ seconds} \)

Traffic exiting crossing time:

\[
\frac{45'}{3.5'} = 13 \text{ seconds}
\]

Green interval for people exiting Plant = 9 seconds

Walk Interval = 40 seconds, MUTCD Section 4E.06
Ped. Change Interval = 10 seconds
Buffer Interval = 3 seconds

Walk | Ped Change | Red
--- | --- | ---
Traffic exiting plant.
Walk + Ped Change = 14 sec; therefore green interval for exiting plant must change to 14 sec.

Pedestrian Detector:

- Between edge of crosswalk line and side of curb, ramp, but not greater than 5 feet from crosswalk line.
- Between 1.5 and 6 feet from edge of curb, shoulder, and pavement (see Figure 4E-3).
- Face of pushbutton parallel to crosswalk.
- Mounting height of 3.5 ft above sidewalk.
The pedestrian actuation sign, R 10-3b, should be placed above the pushbutton detector units. The finger and arrow should point in the same direction as the crosswalk.
South Western Island to Northwestern Island

Crossing Distance = 30 ft

\[
\frac{30' \text{ sec}}{3.5'} = 8.57 \text{ sec}
\]

Ped change interval + Buffer interval ≥ 9 seconds

Safety factor for walk interval

\[
\frac{30' \text{ sec}}{3'} = 10 \text{ sec}
\]

Assuming green interval for vehicles on Hwy II equals 120 seconds. Signal is partially actuated by vehicles exiting plant.

Walk Interval = 110 seconds
Ped Change Interval = 7 seconds
Buffer Interval = 3 seconds

Intersection of Highway II and S.R. 1U3

Hwy II crossing:

\[
\frac{70' \text{ sec}}{3.5'} = 20 \text{ sec}
\]

Ped change + Buffer ≥ 20 sec

Existing green interval for vehicles on S.R. 1U3 = 20 s

\[
17 + 4 = 21 \text{ s}. \text{ New green interval on S.R. 1U3}
\]

Walk Interval = 4 sec

Buffer Interval = 3 seconds
Ped Change Interval = 17 sec

S.R 1U3 crossing:

\[
\frac{84' \text{ sec}}{3.5'} = 24 \text{ sec}
\]

Ped change + Buffer ≥ 24 sec

Walk Interval = 4 sec

Buffer Interval = 3 sec
Ped Change Interval = 21 sec

Green interval for Highway II vehicles = 210 s

Assuming green interval for vehicles on walk interval = 120 seconds.
<table>
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<th>Existing Intersection of Parking Lot and Hwy 11</th>
<th>New Intersection of Parking Lot and Hwy 11</th>
<th>Existing Intersection of Hwy 11 and S.R. 163</th>
<th>New Intersection of Hwy 11 and S.R. 163</th>
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<td>Vehicular Signal Phases</td>
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85th percentile = 39 mph
TDOT Data

COVERAGE COUNT DATA WITH 24 HOUR TOTALS

Station Number: 000159  County: 54 McMinn
Start Date: 09/14/15  End Date: 09/15/15
Start Time: 12:00  End Time: 12:00
Direction: 0 (Coverage)

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<th>:30</th>
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Total: 6,269

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<th>Peak PM</th>
<th>Peak Total</th>
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Vehicular Traffic Signal: (Underpass SR 163)

- Vision, perception—reaction time, ability to process information, warning speed, and observer's ability to read comprehensible English.

- Length of Underpass = 11.1 m
- Distance to Traffic Signal (West) = 11 m
- Distance to Traffic Signal (East) = 14 m

**Total Distance** = \( 41.1 \times \frac{3.28}{1} + 134.843 \)

\[
\begin{align*}
    s(t) &= a_0(t)^2 + v_0(t) + s_0 \\
    v(t) &= a_0(t) + v_0
\end{align*}
\]

- Average rate of acceleration = 3 m/s²

- 85 percentile = \( \frac{39 \text{ mi}}{\text{hr}} \), \( \frac{1609.34 \text{ m}}{1 \text{mi}} \), \( \frac{1 \text{hr}}{3600 \text{s}} \) = 17.4 m/s

\[
17.4 = 3(t) + 0
\]

\[ t = 5.8 \text{s} \]

To get up to final speed, it takes 5.8 s.

\[
\begin{align*}
    s(5.8) &= 3(5.8)^2 + 0 + 0 \\
    &= 50.46 \text{ m} > 41.1 \text{ m}
\end{align*}
\]

- The vehicles won't get up to design speed under underpass.

\[
\begin{align*}
    41.1 &= 3 \frac{t^2}{2} + 0 + 0 \\
    t &= 5.23 \text{s}
\end{align*}
\]

- Time to clear underpass, not including headway

- Queue to East is limited to 55 meters to allow vehicles on main street to enter S.R. 163.

- Queue to West is limited to 48 meters due to drivers.

- Average Queue Space = 7.6 m
- East Queue = 7 vehicles
- West Queue = 6 vehicles
LOS C or D during peak hour is acceptable.

\[ \text{Delay} = \text{Travel Time (actual)} - \text{Travel Time (free flow)} \]

Exhibit 16-2. LOS Criteria for Signalized Intersection

- C: \( > 20 - 35 \text{ s/veh} \)
- D: \( > 35 - 55 \text{ s/veh} \)

Spacing between vehicles in queue = 3.06 m

Design to limit Delay to \( \leq 35 \text{ sec.} \)

Peak Hour Total = 625 vehicles

Daily Dir. Distribution = (65%)

Peak Dir. = 625 \( \times \) 0.65 = 406 vehicles moving in 1-direction during peak hour

\[ 2 \text{ sec} \times 406 = 812 \text{ sec for headway for each vehicle} \]

\[ +5.23 \text{ sec for every interval for each signal cycle} \]

\[ 5.23 + 2n \]

Max time limit = 35 sec. of red interval for conflicting traffic.

\[ 35 = 5.23 + 2n \]

\[ n = 15 \text{ vehicles} \]

\( \therefore \) Queue would empty.

\[ \text{Red interval} = C + Y + \text{Red Clearance} \]

\[ \text{Yellow Interval} = \text{see ITE bk} \]
Yellow Change Interval:

Kinematic Model - Formula 1
ITE's Determining Vehicle Signal Change and Clearance Interval

\[ y = t + \left[ \frac{v}{2a + 2Gg} \right] \]

- \( t \) = reaction time
- \( v \) = design speed (ft/sec): used 85th percentile speed or 39mph
- \( a \) = acceleration rate
- \( g \) = acceleration due to gravity \( (32.2 \text{ ft/sec}^2) \)
- \( G \) = grade of approach \( (\%\%) \)(downhill = negative)

For Westbound Approach,

\[ t = 1 \]
\[ v = 57.2 \text{ ft/sec} \]
\[ a = 10 \text{ ft/sec}^2 \]
\[ g = 32.2 \text{ ft/sec}^2 \]
\[ G = 10\% \]

\[ y = 1 + \left[ \frac{57.2}{(2(10) + 2(-10)(32.2))} \right] = 5.225 \text{ s} \]

For Eastbound Approach,

\[ t = 1 \]
\[ v = 57.2 \text{ ft/sec} \]
\[ a = 10 \text{ ft/sec}^2 \]
\[ g = 32.2 \text{ ft/sec}^2 \]
\[ G = 10\% \]

\[ y = 1 + \left[ \frac{57.2}{(2(10) + 2(-10)(32.2))} \right] = 5.225 \text{ s} \]

Applying formula requires engineering judgement since a long yellow interval could encourage drivers to run it. If formula produces a yellow interval > 5, use the red clearance interval for Time > 5 - p. 912 Traffic Engr Handbook

Red Clearance Interval:

\[ R = \frac{(w + L)}{v} = \frac{(134.84 + 20)}{57.2} = 2.71 \text{ sec} \]

- \( R \) = all red interval (sec)
- \( w \) = width of stop line to far side no-conflict point (ft.)
- \( v \) = design speed (ft/sec)
- \( L \) = length of vehicle

\[ W = 14 + 11.1 = 91.1 \text{ m} \times \frac{3.28 \text{ ft}}{1 \text{ m}} = 139.843 \text{ ft} \]
Green Length for Queue Clearance:

Peak Arrival Rate = \( \frac{40,060 \text{ ven}}{\text{hr}} \times \frac{1 \text{ hr}}{36,000 \text{ s}} = \frac{0.112778 \text{ ven}}{\text{s}} \)

Cycle Length < 35 sec to cause conflicting traffic's delay < 35 sec, which corresponds to a LOS C.

\( \therefore \) # of vehicles arriving in 35 s = \( 0.112778 \times 35 \approx 3.947 \) vehicles

\[ 5.23 + 2n = 5.23 + 2(3.947) = 13.12 \text{ seconds} \]

n = # of cars in queue to clear queue at max arrival rate.

Yellow Interval = \( \frac{5.22 \text{ sec}}{\text{sec}} \approx 5.0 \text{ sec} \)

Red Clearance = \( \frac{2.71 \text{ sec}}{\text{sec}} \approx 2.0 \text{ sec} \)

\[ 35 = 13.12 + 5.0 + 2.0 \]

35 > 20.12 sec \( \therefore \) green, yellow, and red clearance produce a maximum delay, corresponding to LOS C.
Warning Beacons:

\[ x = \text{Flash Rate} \]  \quad 50 \leq x \leq 60 \text{ times/min} \]

\[ L = \text{illuminated period of each flash} \]

\[ T = \text{Total cycle} \]

\[ x = 50 \text{ times/min} \]

\[ 50T = 1 \text{ min.} \]

\[ T = 0.02 \text{ min} \quad \frac{60 \text{ sec}}{1 \text{ min}} = 1.2 \text{ sec} \]

\[ L = \frac{2}{3} T \]

\[ = \frac{2}{3} (1.2) \]

\[ = 0.8 \text{ sec} \]

\[ \text{Not illuminated} = T - L \]

\[ = 1.2 - 0.8 \]

\[ = 0.4 \text{ sec} \]

Each flash lasts 0.80 seconds. Then, the signal is not illuminated for 0.40 seconds before flashing again. The signal flashes 50 times per minute.
Traffic signals for UnderPass:

Lateral Position of Faces
Section 4D.13

Signal Faces must lay along 44' ft line.

Right traffic signal offset 2' left from edge of traveled way.
Left TS offset 10' left from edge of traveled way.

Top of signals mounted 18 feet from pavement, Fig 4D-5 & Section 4D.15.
Sight Distance > 390' which is the minimum sight distance according to Section 4D.12 of MUTCD.
Bike Lane Option:

Pedestrians must walk 70 ft on the bike lane. The 70 ft distance provides clearance of the wingwalls on either side of underpass where sidewalk starts up, again.

\[ \frac{170 \text{ ft}}{3.5 \text{ ft}} = \frac{1}{3.5} \text{ sec} = 20 \text{ seconds} \]

\[ 3.5 \text{ ft/sec} = \text{avg walking speed} \]

20 second delay + 2.0 second red clearance interval

22.0 second delay

\[ 20.0 \text{ sec} \leq \text{cosc} \leq 35.0 \text{ sec} \]

**: The Bike Lane Option would operate at a Level of Service C without a queue**

See Appendix page 13 for yellow and red clearance interval calculations.

Yellow interval = 5.0 seconds

**Pedestrian Actuation Timing**:

Sum of pedestrian change interval + buffer interval \( \geq 20.0 \text{ sec} \)

Walk Interval = 4 seconds, MUTCD Section 9E.0c
Ped. Change Interval = 17 seconds
Buffer Interval = 3 seconds

\[ 17 + 4 = 21.0 \text{ sec} = \text{Red interval} \]

\[ + 2.0 \text{ sec} = \text{Red clearance interval} \]

\[ 23.0 \text{ sec} = \text{Total Red Interval} \]

\[ 5.0 \text{ sec} = \text{Yellow Interval} \]

Indefinite = Green Interval (Pedestrian Actuated)
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Sign Designation and Image:

Pedestrian Warning Sign, W11-2.

![W11-2*]

Supplemental Warning Plaque (500 FT), W16-2aP.

![500 FT](W16-2aP)

Diagonally Pointed Arrow Plaque, W16-7P.

![W16-7P]

Pedestrian Actuation Sign, R10-3b.

![R10-3b]

Bicycle Permitted Signs, D11-1a.

Pedestrian Permitted Signs, D11-2.

![D11-1a]  ![D11-2]