CITY OF GILROY

DOWNTOWN PASEO DESIGN GUIDELINES

Final Draft
January 2008

Bellinger Foster Steinmetz
Landscape Architecture
What is a Paseo?

- Pedestrian passageway
- Mid-Block connection between the main sidewalks and the alleyways
The Benefits of a Paseo

- Paseos add to the pedestrian interest and overall architectural quality of the downtown
- Expand retail opportunity
- Outdoor space for restaurants and cafes
Public vs. Private Paseos

- Public vs. private defines ownership, not use.
- Private paseos may be gated.
- Encourage businesses that extend use into the evening.
- Security of adjacent buildings.
Long-Term Maintenance

- Strategies for long-term maintenance will need to be established.
Where Should Paseos Be Located?

• First priority: improved access to downtown parking areas.
• Second priority: connections to Downtown plaza, park, or mid-block crossing.
• Third priority: connections to medium or high-density residential projects, or public facilities adjacent to downtown, such as public parks.
Paseo Visibility

- Visibility through the paseo and from adjacent buildings is key.
Minimum paseo width will vary based on property line locations, ownership and building codes.
Paseo Design Elements

Entrances
Paseo Design Elements

Paving

• Enriched paving materials.
• Consider slip resistance, ADA standards, maintenance and long-term wear, and ability to patch/replace if needed.
• Consider porous paving materials and recycled materials.
Paseo Design Elements

Site Furnishings

- Pots
- Benches
- Tables and chairs
- Trash receptacles
- Bollards
- Bicycle racks
Paseo Design Elements

Lighting
Paseo Design Elements

Artwork
Paseo Design Elements

Planting

• Consider visibility
Paseo Design Elements

Drainage
Paseo Design Elements

Facades

- An extension of Monterey Street architecture.
- Balconies and façade detailing are encouraged.
- Maintain visibility.
Paseo Design Elements

Public Restrooms

• Visibility!
• Operations and maintenance plan
• Security considerations
Paseo Design Elements

Utilities and Trash Enclosures

- No overhead utility lines.
- Place above-grade utilities at the alley where feasible.
- If in the paseo, provide enclosures.
- Consider trash compactor to serve multiple users.
City of Gilroy

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