

LID Workshop – March 15, 2011

STREETSCAPES AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY

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Question

Response Summary

1.

Ask the group to provide an accounting of where we are:

- a. **Inventory of existing processes, resources, regulations, facts, ideas, activities on-the-ground.**
- b. **Regulations that are forthcoming.**

I. Where are we now?

What is a ROW?

- All “non-private” holdings?
- Including drainage, slope, and other easements? (Not confined to “streets”)
- Limited by “ROW” legal descriptions
- Differing models Urban and Rural

Existing Conditions:

- Utilities
 - Confine limits of LID in ROW
 - Height of trees – site visibility limit where can plant in ROW
- Planning and Zoning Regulations/restrictions
 - e.g. Walkways both sides?
- Many streets are overly wide
- Regulations – can only divert water into ROW, not private parcel
- Retrofit is a special problem. No existing stormwater infrastructure in many existing neighborhoods
 - Street is the conveyance system
 - Have to assume no further obstruction OR do hydrology study
- MS4 Permit
 - strategy for water quality
 - unfunded mandate
- Pavements decompose
 - water quality issue

- Pavement maintenance
- No shared values yet “Competing” Values –
 - Safety vs. Water Conservation
 - Lots of demands on common areas
 - District/separate organizations
 - Pro-car, high speed
 - Stormwater only a “problem” - ?
- Current DES standards focus on design safety for transportation modes (not cars)
Environmental - ?
- Green Infrastructure incorporates other modes (e.g. trees will shade)
- Jurisdictional Issues
 - Differing vision(s)/agendas
 - Agencies “competing”
- No LID design standards appropriate to arid environments. Lack of data/science on LID in arid areas.
- Non-stationary climate

Need to:

- Develop LID solutions that overlap functions – Address flooding, water harvesting, water quality and Urban Heat Island.
- Determine how to address special maintenance needs of LID – requires landscape maintenance in the ROW. Needs to be sustainable.
 - Need \$
 - Institutional framework
- Stormwater quality a concern - ? e.g. Wash DOT
 - “TMDL”
 - allocation to every land use
 - DOT a contributor
 - Sediment – might upset balance in system
 - Perennial vs. ephemeral streams
 - Need to get more information out publically
- Need to develop shared values based on this information.
- Do research on LID in arid environments. What works?

Question

Response Summary

2. As the community moves forward, what are the group's:
- Concerns?
 - Ideas for areas of flexibilities and opportunities? Where does community support exist?

2. Opportunities

- New MS4 requirements might allow new platting processes to hold runoff in ROW
- ROW with multiple uses/benefits – e.g. multiple use stormwater basins.
- Should we reevaluate building for “ultimate” traffic loadings?
 - Alternative transportation modes?
 - Might free up space for LID
- Consider performance based codes/ordinances/standards. Encourage Green Infrastructure
- Integration of utility management Putting utilities back under street would free up space for LID
- Neighborhood scale projects
 - “easier” fewer institutional impediments
 - New construction must have hydrology report, grading and drainage plans, which provides a basis for design in new construction.
- Partnerships needed (e.g. maintenance)
- Consider a stormwater utility to bring drainage, water quality and flood control under one “roof” (i.e. a broad mission) Watershed based management
 - Stormwater
 - public safety
 - trails
 - water harvesting/management
 - Eco-restoration etc.
- Identify folks who will “fight”!
- How to provide information which will show benefits.
- Incentives to Develop Community - ? Make it attractive!!!
- Integrate with codes (not just “paste on”)
- Target “stakeholders”
- Eliminate “disconnect” between citizens and responsibility to care for things (role of government-?)
- Research is needed. Lots of questions!
- Grant funds available?
 - Pooled resources e.g. City/County/PAG/UA/Non-profits
 - pervious pavements

- Corporations
- FEMA
- EPA
- COE
- Partner with UA to develop an LID research effort.

Question	Response Summary
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3. What can we do to be agents of change?

3. Draft Action(s)

Policy/Institution

- Need research/submit a Grant Application? Partner with UA to develop an LID research effort (UA Hydrology Water Resources?)
 - Utilities
 - BMPs – for arid environment
 - Asphalt stability/how to maintain?
 - Alternatives to asphalt/pervious pavements?
- Need an Institution to integrate Stormwater needs (i.e. flooding, water quality, beneficial use of stormwater, maintenance of LID BMPs and Urban Heat Island mitigation).
 - Stormwater Utility
 - Virtual Stormwater Utility (e.g. effort coordinated by PAG).
- Public Outreach
 - Have to reduce “Silos”!
 - Consistent/unified message.
 - Need catalyst/drivers (e.g Money saver to development community)

Components (Pilot Project)

- Find a retrofit pilot project to demonstrate GI (GI is a retrofit concept, while LID applies to new development)
 - Project – “Proof of Concept”
 - leverage planned investments
 - Flooding Water Quality Recharge (e.g. Bronx or Columbus Wash)

- New development – rezoning could allow requirement to implement LID.
- Ideal would be retrofit (existing development) and/or redevelopment (side by side with New Development)
- Multiple benefits
 - Environmental ethic
 - Trails/paths
 - Livability
 - Safety
 - Water Conservation
 - Economic
 - Education?
- Need “Sweat Equity” – Active citizenry (HOA or NA Assoc.?)

Question		Response Summary	
4.	What actions would you like the entire workshop group to accomplish in the future?	4.	No time to discuss