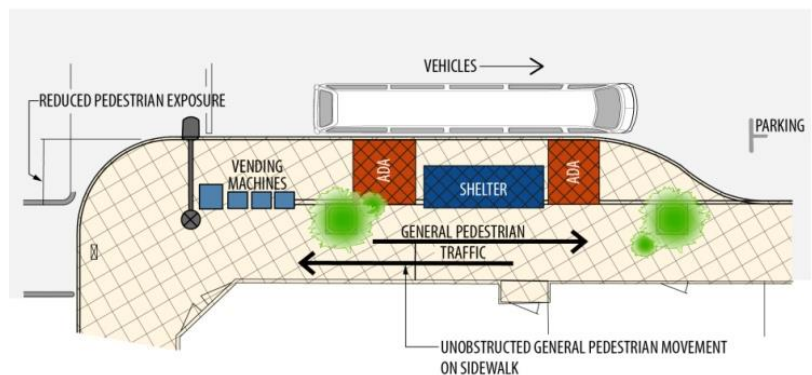


CURB EXTENSIONS

Curb extensions (also known as bulbouts) extend the sidewalk into the parking or travel lane to narrow the roadway. They can be used at corners and at mid-block locations depending on the type of concerns to be addressed. Curb extensions enhance pedestrians' safety by increasing their visibility and reducing their exposure to vehicular traffic with the shortened crossing distance. Bulbouts can be used to slow vehicle turning speeds at intersections, and reduce the overall travel speeds by physically and visually narrowing the roadway. They can provide additional space for landscaping, street furniture, and gateway features. In addition, they can reduce illegal parking such as at crosswalks.



Curb extensions can be lengthened to create public spaces, and transit stops/waiting areas. With the proper design, curb extensions can be less disruptive to emergency vehicles, transit vehicles, and cyclists relative to the use of vertical traffic calming devices such as speed humps.



Curb extensions can also be combined with other traffic calming devices such as center medians to reduce travel speeds and enhance pedestrian safety. Although curb extensions have many benefits, they may not be appropriate in all circumstances. They can be expensive, and reduce flexibility of future roadway changes. Appropriate signage and/or roadway markings consistent with the CA Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) is used to enhance visibility of these road narrowing devices.

