

PROJECT: Main Street between Bayfront and Five Points (D 8)

OBSERVATION: The section of Main Street between Five Points and the Bayfront is one of the most heavily traveled pedestrian corridors in the entire Downtown Proper. In particular, the intersection of Main Street and Palm Avenue has the potential to create one of the few truly urban corners in the Downtown Proper; the absence of any structures on the northeast corner of the intersection prevents this from occurring. In addition, despite the high level of activity, the streetscape and sidewalk design of this area merit further study and improvement.

DISCUSSION: Currently, road and curb geometries are larger than ideal for an intense pedestrian environment. The gentle curve of curbs at intersections induces drivers to continue moving and increases the distance pedestrians must cross to go from one side of the street to another.

At present, the streets include an excessive variety of trees, shrubs and other forms of landscaping. The combined effect is chaotic; landscaping interrupts the flow of pedestrian traffic, pushes pedestrians away from building facades and prevents the easy use of the sidewalks for street cafes and other pedestrian friendly social activities.

RECOMMENDATION: The recommendations presented here for this particular situation are general directions for creating a more urban character throughout the Downtown Proper, particularly along "A" Streets. Future development and redevelopment should adhere to these guidelines as much as possible.

Provide a single, primary pedestrian route across each roadway, in all four directions at each intersection. These routes should include the use of materials with different textures and patterns from the streets themselves; paver blocks are recommended but if necessary the effect can be created with only the use of paint.

As much as possible, align the streets so that all four corners of an intersection have the same (or similar) geometry.

Provide just enough shade trees to create a pleasant pedestrian environment; too many trees obscure sight lines for both walkers and drivers and make it difficult to see activity inside shops.

Reduce the use of shrubs and bushes to a bare minimum. (Further discussion of recommended varieties of trees and shrubs is provided in the Landscape Standards included in this Master Plan.) Provide a variety of opportunities for sitting, including increased seating in outdoor cafes.

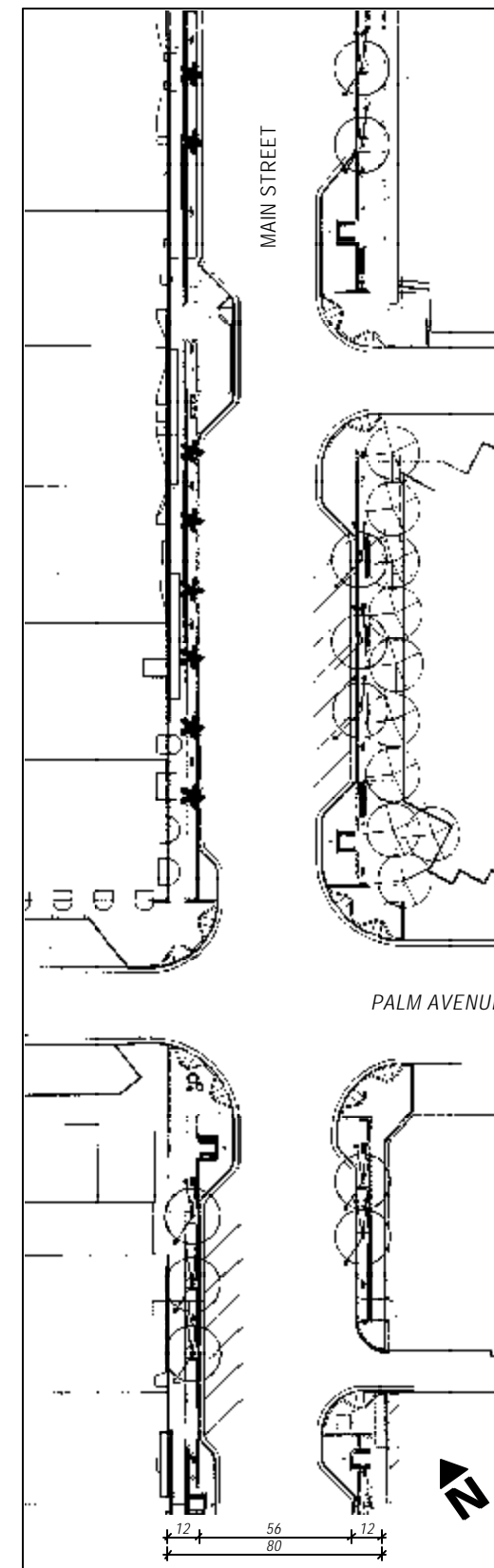


View of Main Street Looking South-West

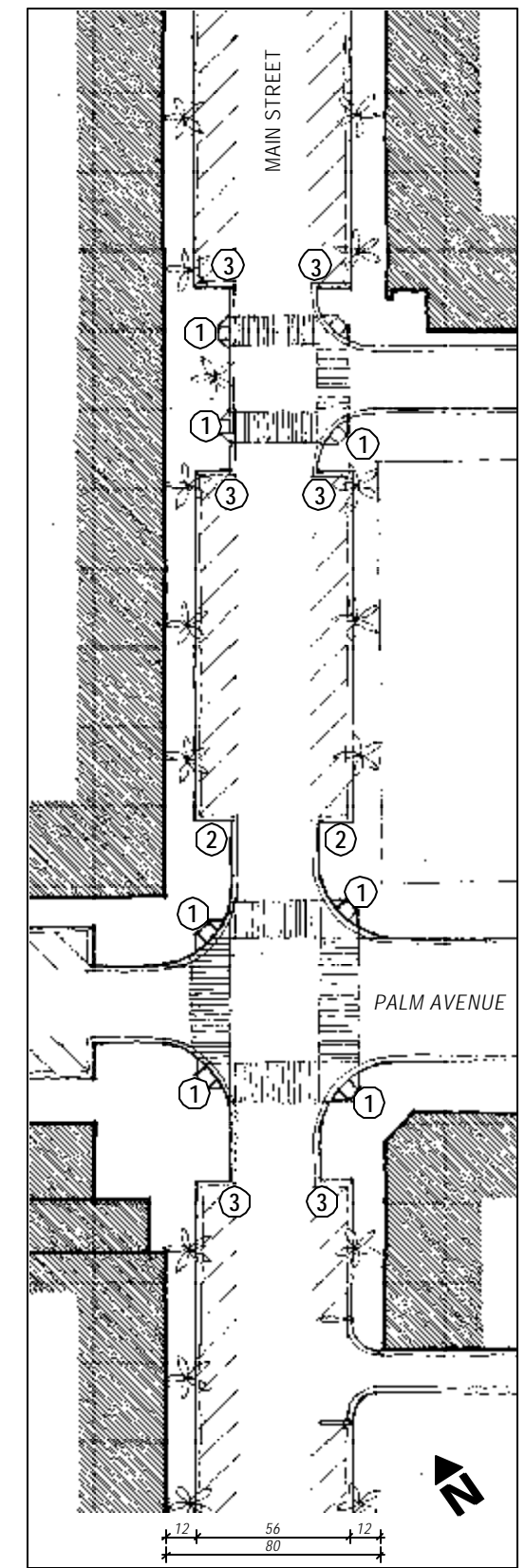


View of Main Street East of Five Points

- ① REDUCE NUMBER OF RAMPS
- ② STRAIGHTEN THE GEOMETRY OF THE BULB-OUTS TO BE 90° ANGLE WITH THE SIDEWALK
- ③ ALIGN THE STREET CURB AT ALL INTERSECTIONS



EXISTING CONDITIONS



ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL - PROJECT D 8