

Portuguese Design Standards for Urban Roads

Sandra Vieira

LNEC, Lisbon, Portugal

Website

www.lnec.pt

Contribution Summary

This abstract aims to provide an overview of the new Portuguese design standards for urban roads, with a particular focus on the pedestrian infrastructure. Walking, as one of the most fundamental traffic modes, emphasizes the importance of thoughtful and inclusive urban road design that effectively meets the mobility needs of all citizens.

The development of the pedestrian infrastructure must consider the heterogeneous characteristics of pedestrians and their varying levels of vulnerability, thereby adopting a universal and inclusive urban design. In line with the objectives set out by PENSE 2020 and following the principles of the Safe System, these standards are devised to enhance road safety, particularly for vulnerable users, and to integrate knowledge of road safety in urban settings within the Portuguese context of urban design.

Pedestrian pathways are defined within the territorial public domain and cater to individuals traveling by foot, in wheelchairs, or with personal mobility aids. The document focuses on the formal network of pedestrian pathways, including sidewalks, paved pedestrian routes, and crossings, while also acknowledging the spontaneous nature of pedestrian movement along unpaved routes.

Design considerations are comprehensive, addressing the dimensions needed to support various pedestrian activities and the interface with urban elements that affect street furniture placement and pedestrian circulation. The typology of sidewalks chosen is also dependent on the road hierarchy, with distinct recommendations according to the varying levels of interactions between pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

The new standards further advocate for pedestrian safety through various traffic calming measures, such as segregated zones and shared spaces, with speed regulation forming a core component of the design approach.

Additionally, the standards highlight accessibility and inclusivity, ensuring that urban roads cater safely to all pedestrians, including those with disabilities. They emphasize the integration of pedestrian infrastructure within the broader urban fabric, aiming to create cohesive, aesthetically pleasing urban environments that promote walking as a sustainable and healthful mode of transportation.

The ultimate goal is to facilitate a shift towards more livable cities, where safety and the human experience are at the forefront of urban design — a step towards a more sustainable and inclusive future for all city dwellers.

SESSION DETAILS

Roundtables 1

📍 Room C1.04
14:00-15:30
Tuesday, 15 October, 2024

IN THIS SESSION

- Walk if You Can: “Mapping” Challenges and Opportunities Towards Spatial Inclusivity
- Building an International ACTIVE Mobility Community: Integrating Walking Expertise and Funding
- Mixing pedestrians and cyclists
- Portuguese Design Standards for Urban Roads**
- Bats walking in all weather conditions - a sustainable travel choice all year round