



Department of Public Works  
Administration

Jerrel Kruschke, P.E.  
Interim Commissioner of Public Works

June 30, 2022

**From:** Interim Commissioner Jerrel Kruschke  
**To:** DPW Staff  
**Re:** Adoption of NACTO Design Guidance

The work we do as employees of the Department of Public Works (DPW) has an incredible impact on the design and operation of streets and public spaces throughout Milwaukee. Our work ensures streets are safe and enjoyable places, provides equitable opportunity for healthy and affordable transportation choices, and helps combat climate change. DPW also plays a significant role in achieving Vision Zero – Mayor Johnson’s goal of eliminating traffic fatalities on our City’s streets.

To ensure we are designing, maintaining, and operating modern streets that prioritize the movement and enjoyment of people, and not just throughput of motor vehicle traffic, **I am excited to announce that the City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works (DPW) has adopted the [National Association of City Transportation Officials \(NACTO\)](#) design guidance as the City’s official street design standards.**

[NACTO guidance](#) will provide the vision and flexibility needed at a time when people are demanding we reimagine our streets and create a City that is safe, welcoming, and livable for all – regardless of where one lives, how they get around, or their physical ability. Guides such as the [Urban Street Design Guide](#), [Urban Bikeway Design Guide](#), [Transit Street Design Guide](#), and [Urban Street Stormwater Guide](#) will transform how we approach our work and will help us achieve our goals of reducing motor vehicle speeds and making our streets more enjoyable and safer places to walk.

**All work going forward should first consult NACTO design guidance, regardless of funding source.** The recently passed Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) [explicitly grants cities permission to use federally-recognized design guidance of their choice when implementing federally-funded projects on city-owned streets](#). While some projects may ultimately require that other design guidance take precedence, design should start with the goals, guidance, and creativity that is only found in the many NACTO documents. Using the NACTO guides in conjunction with other documents you’re already familiar with – the MUTCD, AASTHO, the WisDOT FDM, and others – will ensure we deliver projects that create safe, vibrant, and enjoyable streets.

We are also applying to become a NACTO City, which will open up opportunities for all of us to attend trainings, webinars, and workshops on how to best utilize the NACTO guides, hear from colleagues around the country on street design best practice, and network with peer cities that are also reimagining their streets.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss please let me know.