

50-23 CONNECTIVITY AND CIRCULATION.

50-23.1 Applicability and exemptions.

This Section 50-23 shall apply to all new subdivision, replatting, registered land surveys (RLSs), development and redevelopment applications after November 19, 2010. General circulation requirements are listed in Section 50-23.2, but additional circulation requirements apply in some circumstances. Sites that are (a) located in any zone district other than the RC, RR-1, RR-2, MU-B, I-G, or I-W districts, and (b) larger than three acres, and (c) will contain more than one development parcel shall meet the connectivity index requirements of Section 50-23.3. All new subdivision, replatting, development, and redevelopment applications shall meet the requirements of Section 50-23.4, and those containing more than one principal building shall meet the requirements of Section 50-23.5. (Ord. No. 10044, 8-16-2010, § 6.)

50-23.2 General circulation requirements.

Applications for subdivision, replatting, RLS, development, or redevelopment shall meet the following standards:

- A. Where adopted city plans show a bicycle or pedestrian path or trail or sidewalk, the site design shall provide connections to those paths or trails or sidewalks;
- B. Any requests by the city for designation or dedication of land for bicycle or pedestrian trails within a proposed development shall comply with the provisions of Section 50-33.8, *Land for public purposes*;
- C. Unless the city engineer waives the requirement in writing based on concerns of public safety, or site/ topography constraints:
 1. Each proposed street within a new subdivision, regardless of zoning designation, shall be public and designed and constructed to city engineer construction standards;
 2. Each proposed public or private street within the R-1, R-2, R-P, MU-P, MU-N, MU-C, MU-I or MU-W districts shall include a sidewalk at least five feet wide or a multi-use trail at least eight feet wide on at least one side of the street, as determined by the City Engineer. The sidewalk or multi-use trail shall be set back from the edge of curb by at least five feet to allow room for snow storage and/or landscape features;
 3. Each proposed public or private street within the MU-B, I-G or I-W districts shall include a sidewalk at least five feet wide or a multi-use trail at least eight feet wide on one side of the street;
 4. Proposed public or private sidewalk and multi-use trails shall use the most direct path practical;

D. Whenever cul-de-sac streets are created, one ten foot wide pedestrian access/public utility easement shall be provided, between the cul-de-sac head or street turnaround and the sidewalk system of the closest adjacent street or pedestrian sidewalk or pathway, unless the city engineer determines that public access in that location is not practicable due to site or topography constraints (refer to Figure 50-23-A);

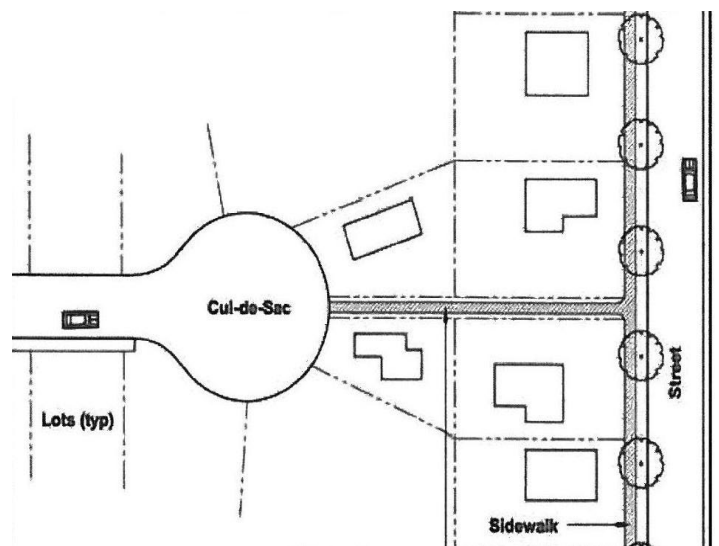


Figure 50-23-A: 10 ft. access easement from head of cul-de-sac to nearest street or path

E. A pedestrian way at least ten feet in width shall be provided near the middle of any block face longer than 800 feet in order to provide connections with streets on either side of the block;

F. Any use requiring vehicle access from a public street or alley shall be referred to the city engineer for review before any permits are issued. The city engineer shall consider, but not be limited to, the following factors when determining whether to approve the proposal:

1. The consolidation of curb cuts shall be encouraged, and new curb cuts shall be discouraged whenever appropriate, considering safe traffic flow, the objectives of this chapter, and access points needed for the proper function of the use;
2. Functional classification of the road where the curb cut is proposed;
3. The location of driveways shall be at least 100 feet from an intersection. The city engineer may permit driveways closer to an intersection due to limited lot frontage or site/topography constraints;
4. The location of driveways relative to other existing uses is such that street traffic shall not be seriously disrupted and no unnecessary hazards shall be established for pedestrians. (Ord. No. 10044, 8-16-2010, § 6; Ord. No. 10096, 7-18-2011, § 25; Ord. No. 10458, 7-11-2016, § 1; Ord. No. 10733, 1-11-2021, § 4)

50-23.3 Connectivity index for larger non-exempt developments.

A. Requirements.

1. A connectivity index is calculated by dividing the number of "links" in the proposed development by the number of "nodes" in the same development;
2. In order to promote walkability and reduce the number and length of vehicular trips both within developments and between new developments and surrounding areas, each development or redevelopment covered by this Section 50-23 shall provide internal junctions and external connections to achieve a connectivity index calculation of at least 1.65;
3. In addition, each street frontage of the development shall include at least one street stub or connection to the external street system every 1,500 feet;
4. The land use supervisor may reduce the required connectivity index, the requirement for external street connections, or the requirement for cul-de-sac access easements if compliance with the provisions of this subsection is impracticable due to site or topography constraints;

B. Example.

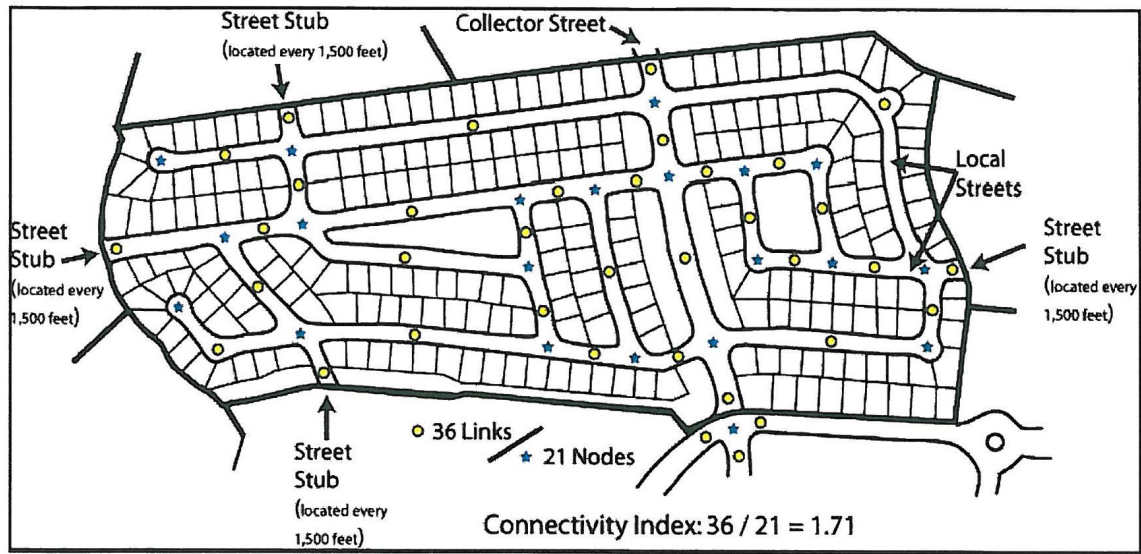


Figure 50-23-B: Example: There are 36 links (circles) and 21 nodes (stars).

(Ord. No. 10044, 8-16-2010, § 6.)

50-23.4 Americans with Disabilities Act.

All “places of public accommodation,” as defined in the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 12101 et. seq.) shall comply with the requirements of that act concerning on-site circulation and access. (Ord. No. 10044, 8-16-2010, § 6.)

50-23.5 Multi-building developments.

Commercial developments containing more than one principal building on a single lot or parcel shall include an unobstructed walkway or pathway providing access between the principal buildings. The walkway or pathway shall be at least five feet wide. (Ord. No. 10044, 8-16-2010, § 6.)

50-23.6 Skywalks.

- A. The location and design of skywalks should not compromise the historic or architectural integrity of existing buildings;
- B. Design of skywalks shall be approved based on their architectural sensitivity, harmony and cohesiveness with the historic/industrial waterfront character of the surrounding area;
- C. New skywalks installed and existing sidewalks remodeled at a cost of more than 50 percent of their assessed value after November 19, 2010, shall be designed so that 66 percent of each vertical side elevation is made of glass or transparent materials. A lower level of transparency can be reduced, but not to less than 50 percent, if a higher level of transparency is technically infeasible due to span length and engineering limitations. (Ord. No. 10044, 8-16-2010, § 6.)

50-23.7 Safe routes to school

Any subdivision approved by the City of Duluth on or after January 1, 2019, shall incorporate Safe Routes to School Infrastructure where applicable. (Ord. No. 10592, 9-24-18, § 1)