







## Street Elements – Glossary of Terms

These terms are used throughout the lessons to describe different parts of a street. You and your students will need to use these terms as you explore the design of streets and how they can be made safer and more comfortable for people walking along and across the street. Please refer to the descriptions below to ensure that you and your students are working from a common definition.

The following page shows a street scene labeled with most of these terms.

### **Bike lane**

a portion of the street with stripes and symbols indicating separate space for bicyclists to travel. A bike lane can be placed against the curb of the sidewalk or against a vehicle parking lane.

### **Crosswalk**

indicates the preferred location for people to walk across the street. Crosswalks also warn drivers to look for people crossing. Crosswalks can be installed at intersections and across the middle of a street between intersections (i.e., midblock). Crosswalks can be marked a few different ways from curb ramp to curb ramp—they can be two parallel lines or have a style that looks like piano keys or a ladder. Not all legal crosswalks are marked with paint, but for the purposes of these STEM lessons, we will always be talking about marked crosswalks.

### **Curb extension**

(not shown on pg. 4) extends the sidewalk or curb line out into the parking lane to reduce the street width and shorten the crossing distance for pedestrians. Curb extensions can be used at intersections or at a crosswalk in the middle of the street. They should not block bike lanes.

### **Curb ramp**

provides easy and safe access between the sidewalk and the street for all people, especially people who are using wheelchairs, strollers, crutches, or have a difficult time stepping up or down. Curb ramps include a bumpy area (often yellow) that alerts people who have vision impairments to the sidewalk and street edge.

### **Median**

the area that separates opposing vehicle travel lanes. These can be marked using paint or be raised with curbs and landscaping (as shown). Not all streets have medians.

### **Pedestrian refuge island**

can be used on its own, or as part of a median, to protect pedestrians while crossing streets with multiple vehicle travel lanes. These spaces allow people to cross part of the street and safely wait for an opportunity to cross the rest of the street. They can be used at intersections or at crosswalks in the middle of the road.

### **Sidewalk**

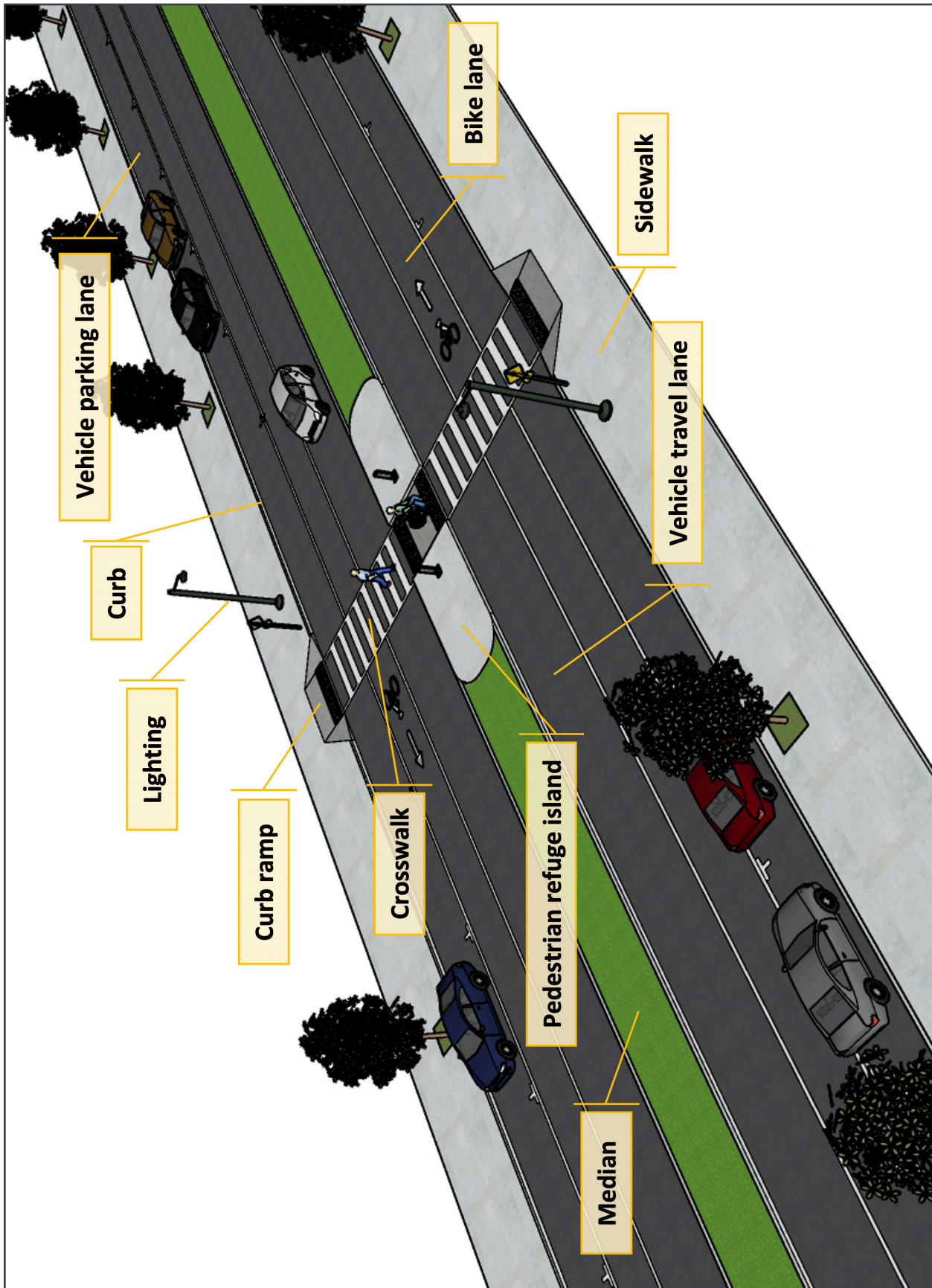
space for people to travel that is separate from cars. Sidewalks also provide places for children to walk, run, skate, ride bikes, and play.

### **Vehicle parking lane**

space in the street for drivers to store their cars when they have arrived at their destination. The vehicle parking lane is sometimes referred to as on-street parking. Not all streets have, or need, vehicle parking lanes.

### **Vehicle travel lane**

a portion of the street that is marked for a single line of vehicles to travel (i.e., cars, buses, trucks). They can also be used by bicyclists. Travel lanes are separated by yellow or white paint that runs in dashes or solid lines depending on whether vehicles are allowed to change lanes. Streets range from one, one-way travel lane to multiple lanes traveling in each direction. Generally, more travel lanes and wider travel lanes are less safe for pedestrians.



# STREET ELEMENTS