



## PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLICATION

This document provides background, guidance and application forms for the Dover/Kent County MPO Parklet Pilot Program Mini Grants.

## PARKLET PILOT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Parklets are public seating platforms that convert curbside parking spaces into vibrant community spaces. Most parklets have a distinctive design that incorporates seating, greenery, and/or bike racks and accommodate unmet demand for public space on thriving neighborhood retail streets or commercial areas. Parklets are typically applied where narrow or congested sidewalks prevent the installation of traditional sidewalk cafes, or where local property owners or residents see a need to expand the seating capacity and public space on a given street.<sup>1</sup>

Parklets repurpose two to three parking stalls along a block as a space for people to relax, drink a cup of coffee, and enjoy the city around them. Parklets do this by building out a platform into the parking lane so that the grade of the sidewalk gets carried out into the parking lane. On the platform, benches, planters, landscaping, bike parking, café tables and chairs come together to provide a welcoming new public space.<sup>2</sup>

Since parklets occupy space in the public roadway, suitable locations are those where traffic flow is relatively calm and sidewalk conditions are adequate for pedestrians. Not

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<sup>1</sup> National Association of City Transportation Officials. "[Urban Street Design Guide](#)." New York, NY.

<sup>2</sup> Perkins+Will Consulting Team. "[SF Parklet: Modular Kit of Parts - Phase I](#)." Innovation Incubator, Perkins+Will, San Francisco, CA.

only do parklets offer a relatively easy urban solution to open space, they also have enormous potential to improve the safety and experience of pedestrians and bicyclists.<sup>3</sup>

Recently, some US cities have started to rethink the use of street space and convert formerly automobile-occupied spaces into multi-use spaces for pedestrians in the form of parklets. While converting large swaths of land in central and inner-city neighborhoods is often unfeasible or very expensive, an advantage of parklets is their low installation and maintenance costs for cities. This is due in part to their relatively small size, less permanent nature, and partnerships with adjacent businesses.<sup>4</sup>

Parklets symbolize the desire to create a more communal, enjoyable, healthy, and vibrant public realm. Transforming excess street space into a cost-effective, small park can have a big impact. Overall, these installations are re-imagining small portions of the urban landscape from ordinary car-storage spaces into beautiful public space assets for all to enjoy.<sup>5</sup>

The Parklet Mini Grant program allows Kent County municipalities to apply for and receive partial reimbursement for parklet implementation (purchase of equipment, site preparation, signage, etc.). Reimbursement will only be provided if the municipality meets certain transportation use requirements.

A Parklet How-to Guide, specific to Kent County, will be available to assist municipalities seeking to adopt a parklet program. Technical assistance from MPO staff will also be available.

## GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

To be eligible for a Parklet Pilot Program grant, applicants must be a municipal or county government located in Kent County, DE.

Parklet(s) must meet one or more of the following transportation use requirements:

- Improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists;
- Provide multi-use spaces for pedestrians;
- Provide bike-friendly amenities;

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<sup>3</sup> Perkins+Will Consulting Team. "[SF Parklet: Modular Kit of Parts - Phase I](#)." Innovation Incubator, Perkins+Will, San Francisco, CA.

<sup>4</sup> Brozen, Madeline, & Loukaitou-Sideris, Anastasia. "[Reclaiming the Right-of-Way: a Toolkit for Creating and Implementing Parklets](#)." UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, Transportation Research Board 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

- Create traffic calming;
- Serve as a multi-modal access point;
- Accommodate an unmet demand for public space on thriving neighborhood retail streets or commercial areas;
- Expand the seating capacity and public space on a given street;
- Reduce congestion on narrow sidewalks;
- Encourage revision of the roadway.

Special attention will be given to parklet projects that demonstrate cooperative efforts with private sector partners.

Applicants must show that allowable expenditures have already been made and certify that the applicant is seeking all/partial reimbursement for said expenditures.

Maximum allowable grant award is \$3000.

A link to the online application is available at [www.doverkentmpo.org/](http://www.doverkentmpo.org/)

#### APPLICATION DEADLINES

Applications for Parklet Mini Grant funding will be accepted on a continual basis through May 31, 2022.

Only one application will be accepted from each municipal and county government.

Awards will be made as soon as possible following review of submitted application and supporting documentation.

If any funds remain after May 31, 2022, additional applications will be accepted until all available funds are expended. Prior recipients may submit a second application.

## PARKLET MINI GRANT APPLICATION

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Municipality: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Requested (\$3000 maximum): \_\_\_\_\_

Total Parklet Cost: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Parklet: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Parklet (please attach a photo if available): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Transportation goals and objectives met by this parklet (check all that apply):

Improve safety

Traffic calming

Improve multi-modal access

Reduce vehicle traffic

Enhance bicycle and/or pedestrian infrastructure

Create open space

Other (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Did you utilize the MPO Parklet How-to Guide?      Yes    No    Unsure

Did you seek technical assistance from MPO staff?      Yes    No    Unsure

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_