STREETS FOR VOTING
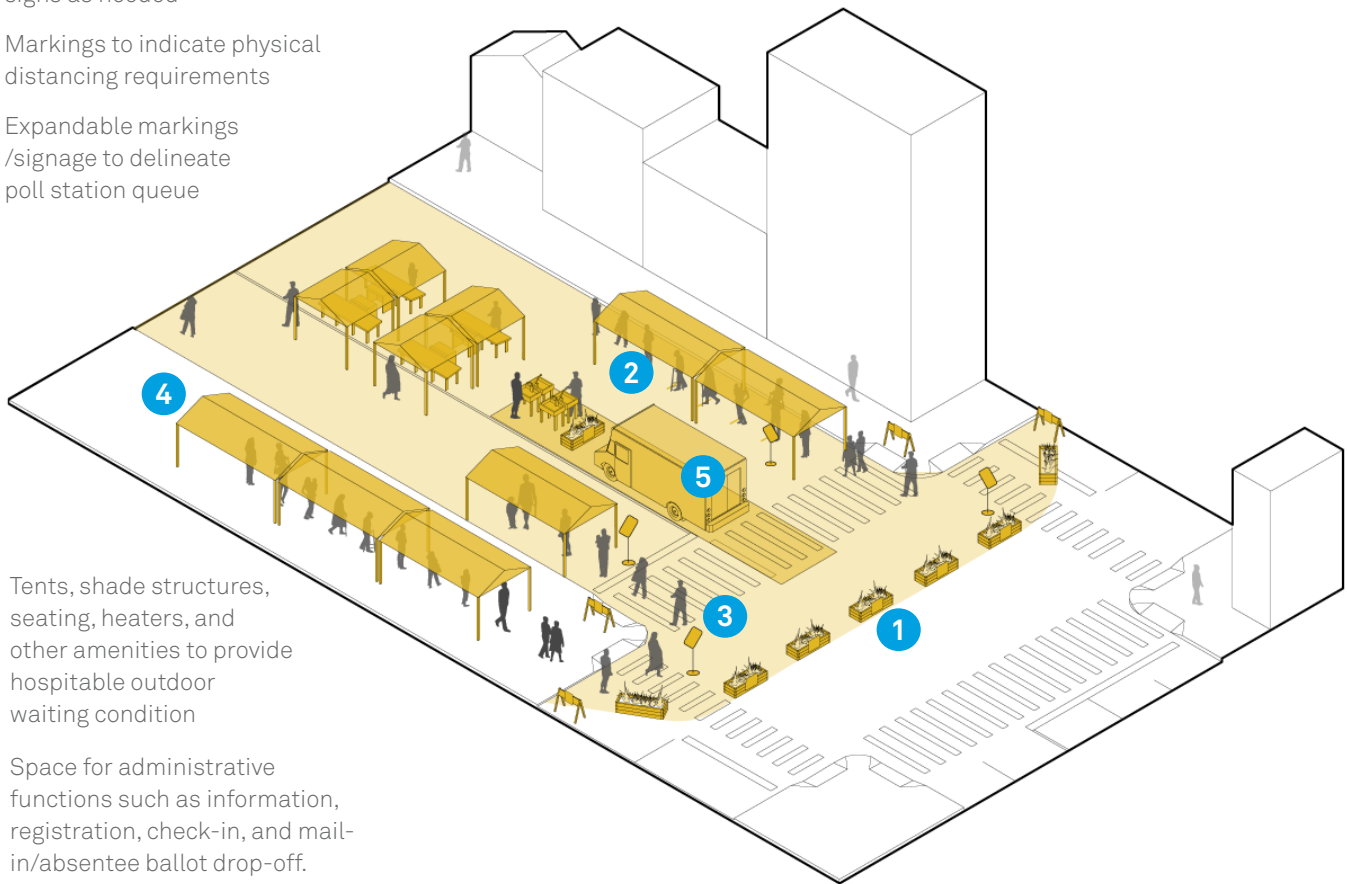
1. Signs and barriers at entry points indicate "Road Closed"; detour signs as needed

2. Markings to indicate physical distancing requirements

3. Expandable markings /signage to delineate poll station queue

4. Tents, shade structures, seating, heaters, and other amenities to provide hospitable outdoor waiting condition

5. Space for administrative functions such as information, registration, check-in, and mail-in/absentee ballot drop-off.

Use street closures and open spaces to enable distancing during election activities.

CONTEXT
- Streets without transit service that are adjacent to polling locations
- Poll location parking lots (schools, libraries, city halls, municipal lots etc.)
- Parks, playgrounds, or other public spaces adjacent to poll locations

KEY STEPS
- Install temporary traffic barriers, and signs.
- Identify agency and election volunteers to install and manage barricades / queuing activity.
- Provide amenities such as shade/shelter/heating as needed
- Ensure access for emergency vehicles.

TIMELINE: Weeks

DURATION: One day to weeks, depending on local voting regulations, eg early voting, drop-off, etc.

Credit: Genie Godula

Paris, France

Plazas and public spaces are already being used to extend socially distant queuing areas, such as this Paris schoolyard.

NACTO

Global Designing Cities Initiative

Planning

- Partner with local election boards/departments and relevant city agencies to develop location prioritization and site plan criteria that includes sanitation, disabled access, weather protection, signage, etc. for voters, poll workers, and elections observers.
- Estimate maximum turnout to determine space needs; depending on context, identify overflow locations for walk/bike &/or drive-up voters.
- Identify which aspects of the voting process (eg registration, queuing, filing ballots, dropoffs, etc) can be accomodated outside and which require electricity and/or indoor facilities.
- Allocate staging space and align staffing schedules to allow for safe loading and drop-offs; separate parking areas from voters queuing on foot.
- Consider additional access and safety improvements, including Safe Crossings, Pick-Up & Delivery Zones, Sidewalk Extensions, Transit Stops & Access, and Critical Services.

Engagement

- Develop an expansive communication plan to broadly publicize pandemic polling protocols and election-day amenities offered. Partner with cultural groups, nonpartisan civic associations, schools, etc to publicize options and logistics.
- Station polling 'ambassadors' throughout the queue to answer questions, field concerns etc.
- Contact community groups to identify key obstacles or issues affecting design, programming, or street segment selection.

Design + Implementation

- Use temporary "Local Traffic Only," "Road Closed," or "New Traffic Pattern Ahead" signs, which can be attached to barricades or A-frames if necessary.
- Install removable surface markings and/or cones and signs to delineate physical distancing; provide sanitation stations throughout the site (bathrooms, voting machines, etc.)
- Ensure that queue markers can be easily expanded in real-time to ensure that everyone on line is able to vote, even after polls close.
- Where partial or full street closures prove difficult, utilize sidewalks, parking lanes, parking lots, or other open spaces adjacent to polling stations for queuing.
- Consider a range of possible weather conditions and plan election day infrastructure for voters, poll workers, and election observers.
- Use temporary signage, in multiple languages as needed, to communicate estimated wait time and queuing, voting, and sanitation protocols.

Monitoring

- Ensure design and operational guidance complies with overall local, state, and national health and election laws and standards.

Credit: P.E. Jemming

Burlington County, NJ, USA

Burlington ballot drop boxes are clearly marked in multiple languages, accessible to pedestrians and drivers.

Credit: Sanika Bhargaw

Madison, WI, USA

Madison's mobile libraries double as voter registration and ballot drop-off site.