

Table 1 – Comparison of Sidewalk/Boulevard Materials

Feature	Concrete with Brushed Finish	Coloured and/or Impressed Concrete	Concrete Pavers
Functionality	Provides a smooth functional surface. Expansion and contraction joints are required. Contraction joints can be sawcut for a smoother surface.	Similar to brushed concrete. Impressed Concrete is not smooth due to the impressed grooves.	Designed for both walking area and boulevards. Provides a generally smooth surface when properly installed, but there are seams between individual pavers.
Durability	Very durable.	Very durable.	Moderate durability. Over time some movement or heaving can occur. Surface of pavers can wear.
Maintenance	Easy to maintain with standard equipment.	Maintenance similar to brushed concrete but chipping is a potential problem. Surface of impressed concrete can be slippery, and water can collect in the indentations.	Similar to brushed concrete. More difficult to maintain once any differential movement occurs.
Replacement (when required for spot repairs)	Replaced panels will generally match adjacent, with some variation due to age of materials.	Requires removal with jackhammer and re-placing. Very difficult to match adjacent colour meaning replaced panels will not blend in.	Pavers can be removed and re-set, although difficult to get as smooth as original. Colour match is difficult as pavers change colour as they age.
Aesthetics	Considered least aesthetic due to monochrome grey colour and overall uniformity. Some options available in finish and brushing.	Adds colour to the streetscape, although individual colours are monochromatic. Colour selection is important. Red colouring can appear pinkish in appearance, especially after aging.	Wide variety of colours, sizes and patterns, and blended colouring is available providing more visual variation and avoids monochromatic look.
Accessibility	Meets all accessibility standards. Tactile plates can be set at curb drops.	Coloured concrete same as brushed. Impressed concrete can be slippery and surface is not as smooth.	Generally meets AODA standards when properly installed. Numerous joints between stones make a less smooth surface. Styles with more relief or “cobbled” appearance are not suitable. Not conducive to placement of tactile plates.
Cost	Lowest cost	Higher cost	Cost varies significantly based on style chosen. “Standard” pavers (100x200) on granular base are similar to or only slightly more expensive than brushed concrete. Pavers can be set on a concrete base for more durability, but is the highest cost option.