If $G$ is a graph embedded on a surface, then the length of a shortest non-contractible cycle in $G$, is called its \textit{width}. In this context $G$ is said to be \textit{locally planar} if its width is large enough. Locally planar graphs embedded on a surface have properties that mimic those of planar graphs. For example, if $G$ is locally planar, then $G$ can be 5-colored. This talk will discuss definitions of local planarity in other contexts and the extent to which there are results analogous to those for embedded graphs. (Received September 21, 2005)