Rebalancing Streets for People

Credit: Sergio Ruiz, flickr
Credit: AFP via Getty Images
Presenters

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President

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Engineer II
Agenda

- Introduction
- Rebalancing Streets for People
- Next Steps
- Questions and Answers
Introduction

From Me to All panelists and attendees:
Hello everyone! Here is a similar example of what we did in our city.

Your text can be seen by panelists and other attendees

What is the best thing cities can do right now to help?

☐ Send anonymously

Cancel  Send
Equity, Ethics, and Empathy

Sadly, during the last 100 years, people have become an afterthought.
NASA Earth Observatory images by Joshua Stevens, using modified Copernicus Sentinel 5P data processed by the European Space Agency.
Riding A Bike - Not Cancelled
Taking Hikes - Not Cancelled
Walking The Dog - Not Cancelled
Chalking Your Sidewalk - Not Cancelled
Enjoying The Breeze - Not Cancelled
Watching A Sunset - Not Cancelled

Let's embrace what we can do Outdoors

Credit: @HealthyTJHD
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board announces riverfront parkway and road closures to help trail users maintain social distancing

West River Parkway closes between Plymouth Avenue and 11th Avenue S, one lane remains open to provide access to Stone Arch Bridge Parking Lot and 200 2nd St. S. Main Street SE closes between Hennepin Avenue and 3rd Avenue SE, one lane remains open between 3rd and 6th Avenues.
Thank you @bcgp and @PhillyOTIS for providing much needed breathing room in Philly on MLK Drive!

Honkyrulespools
@honkyrulespools

Replying to @stolte4ward4 @Chris_Ariens and 2 others

I am sure city staff resources are limited. Not sure if this is a priority
Working from home...
COVID-19: Be Smart. Do Your Part.

Sligo Creek Parkway • April, Friday to Sunday
Piney Branch Road to New Hampshire Avenue
Closed to vehicles • Open for pedestrians

Respect the Radius: Keep six feet or more between you and others at all times.

MontgomeryParks.org
Traffic Data Implications

- Traffic volumes are down
- Speeding is still up
- Bike crashes (in NYC) up 43% though motorist and pedestrian crashes down across the country

**Daily Change in Traffic Volume, Select Areas, March 14 – March 20**
*(Each day compared to the same day the week of February 22, 2020)*

- **Nationwide**
  - Saturday March 14: 18%
  - Sunday March 15: 24%
  - Monday March 16: 15%
  - Tuesday March 17: 21%
  - Wednesday March 18: 26%
  - Thursday March 19: 30%
  - Friday March 20: 30%

- **Seattle**
  - Saturday March 14: 24%
  - Sunday March 15: 24%
  - Monday March 16: 14%
  - Tuesday March 17: 22%
  - Wednesday March 18: 27%
  - Thursday March 19: 29%
  - Friday March 20: 29%

- **San Francisco**
  - Saturday March 14: 26%
  - Sunday March 15: 39%
  - Monday March 16: 26%
  - Tuesday March 17: 39%
  - Wednesday March 18: 50%
  - Thursday March 19: 50%
  - Friday March 20: 51%

- **New York**
  - Saturday March 14: 20%
  - Sunday March 15: 30%
  - Monday March 16: 24%
  - Tuesday March 17: 34%
  - Wednesday March 18: 34%
  - Thursday March 19: 43%
  - Friday March 20: 43%

*Photo credit: INRIX*
Bill Schultheiss @schlthss · Mar 27
People are walking in the streets because our society gave too much space to cars leaving sidewalks too narrow...it is time to take that space back.
@tooledesign @SmartGrowthUSA
Lane Closures – Ideas & Considerations

- 4-lane roads can be reduced to 2-lane roads in the current pandemic
- Where retail is closed, can repurpose parking lanes
- Identify your inventory of existing cones, barrels, posts, or on-call contracts to supply materials
- Helps to keep vehicle speeds lower

Photo credits: @foeniculum @LeLievre_Adrien @MikeLydon @Canada_Bikes
Lane Closures – Ideas & Considerations

- Consider at stores where people queuing on the sidewalk force people walking into the street
- Consider pop-up event locations and where you frequently do lane closures
Lower Volume Streets – Local Traffic Only

Ideas & Considerations

- Prioritized for people walking and biking
- Minimal cones or barricades
  - Potential for DIY closures with online permitting
- Maintain access for local trips
- An important strategy where sidewalks are narrow and parking will not be removed

Photo credit: @bblytherss & City of Winnipeg
Find opportunities for parallel routes

Ideas & Considerations

- Many paths are too narrow for mixed pedestrian and bicycle traffic
- Using Lane closures, attempt to separate bicyclists and pedestrians

Photo credit: Maddie Meyer / Getty
No Push Buttons
Ideas & Considerations

- Put signals on pedestrian recall
Other Signalization
Ideas & Considerations

- Consider nighttime signal timing (shorter cycle lengths)
- Ensure that signals are not placed in flash
- Adjust signal timing for slower speed progression along active transportation routes
Some other ideas?

- Move on-street parking to existing lots and garages to make space for walking
- Reduce speeds through 'work zones'
Planning Considerations & Messaging

- Routes aren't destinations
  - intended to provide space to move, not gather
- Consider localized loops with the messaging that 1 loop is a 30-minute walk and 4 loops is a 30-minute bike ride @ 12mph
- Consider access to essential services
- Providing active transportation routes can provide space for people to disperse in parks
Planning Considerations and Messaging

- Rebalance the Park Frontage Roads
- Communicate the purpose and intended operations
  - Light exercise, not time trials
  - Consider space for pedestrians

Photo credit: @StreetsblogMASS @BCGP
Planning Considerations & Messaging

- Consider inequities
  - lower income neighborhoods less like to have yards, parking within walking distances, or tree-lined street
- Ensure active transportation routes are provided in lower income neighborhoods

Photo credit: WHYY Philadelphia
Messaging

- Think about phases of implementation, but need at least basic routes for all communities
- Provide guidance
- Seek feedback
  - hashtags to help monitor usage and identify needed changes

Photo credits: @SheaMichaelA @SuperHamden @MplsParkBoard
Back on the bike?
Top tips for cycling during the coronavirus crisis

How much distance should you leave to the cyclist ahead in a time of pandemic?
Planning for the Future

- This too shall pass, but when?
- This may be cyclical
- A return to *normal* will likely be more gradual
  - Some people may telecommute more
  - Monitor use of temporary facilities and traffic as conditions change
- Prepare for the future

Social Distancing Might Stop. And Start. And Stop. And Start. Until We Have A Vaccine.

“We need to figure out how we are going to live in a time of plague,” said one doctor.

Dan Vergano
BuzzFeed News Reporter

Posted on April 1, 2020, at 4:15 p.m. ET

The race for a COVID-19 vaccine: Fast, but fast enough?

*A vaccine within 12 to 18 months is "probably not going to happen."*
Rapid Implementation Strategies for the Future

- Requires Public Engagement
- Not a complex, multi-step design process
  - Limited capital required
  - Can be done as part of resurfacing projects
- Complete networks quickly
- Support for permanent projects for the future
Community Engagement

- How do you ensure the public has a voice in any decisions made now?
  - Transparency around decisions
  - Solicit public input
  - Apply changes consistently across communities
Community Engagement
Ideas & Considerations

- Set up an online map for residents and businesses to share ideas
- Identify a toolkit of treatment options possible to implement
Community Engagement
Ideas & Considerations

- Utilize existing data sources to evaluate and identify high demand areas needing additional space
- I.e. Converting on-street parking to pick-up only outside of restaurants

Photo credit: Seattle DOT Blog
Community Engagement
Ideas & Considerations – Community Meetings

- Zoom and other tools have polling and chat features to do live engagement.
Community Engagement
Ideas & Considerations – Community Meetings

- Small group breakouts allow more people to engage
- Use virtual whiteboard for live notetaking
As #NewOrleans responds to the COVID-19 pandemic, the city is still moving forward on crucial infrastructure improvements to make roads safer and less stressful for everyone.

City Moves Forward on Rapid Expansion of the Bikeway Network in Algiers. As the City responds to the COVID-19 pandemic, New Orleans is still moving forward on crucial infrastructure improvements to make our...
Community Engagement
Ideas & Considerations – Keeping Projects after COVID
Community Engagement
Resources to Adapt

- Precedent to look to for engagement principles
- Resources will need to be adapted

Pop-Up Diverter; Santa Monica, CA; Photo: Gary Kavanagh
Community Engagement
Resources to Adapt – Examples to pull from

Ash Crescent Limitless Lane;
Fort Worth, TX; Photo: City of
Fort Worth

Sidewalk Extension; Seattle, WA;
Photo: Dongho Chang

Painted Alternative Walkway;
Portland, OR; Photo: Nick Falbo

Curb Extension Made of Tires;
Springfield, MO; Photo: Andrew
Jansen

The sign reads: “The limitless lane
accommodates pedestrians, cyclists, wheelchair
users, skateboarders, and other forms of non-
motorized transportation and gives them their
own space in the street.”
Community Engagement
Resources to Adapt – DOT and Community Guides

Fort Worth, TX

Fayetteville, AR

St. Louis, MO

Minnesota DOT
"Twin Peaks Blvd is closed to cars and its wonderful and easy to keep your distance."
Credit: Liam Foley (San Francisco)
Pre-existing Routes

Road Closures

These roads close at 6:30 pm:

- Dominion Boulevard at Sadler Road; through to Waterfront Place
- Waterfront Drive / Highwoods Parkway; through to Sadler Place
- Sadler Place; from Sadler Road to Cox Road
- Southbound Cox Road – from Nuckols Road to Innslake Drive
- Waterfront Place – from Cox Road to Dominion Boulevard
- Innslake Drive – from Cox Road to Sadler Road

As the last participants pass each point the Police will reopen the roads; also referred to as a rolling opening of the course.
Think big – but also think small

Credit: Brian Patterson
## Resources – Organizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lane County</th>
<th>OR US</th>
<th>Bus</th>
<th>Maintenance &amp; Cleaning, Rear-door Boarding, Fare Suspension, Service Changes</th>
<th>Lane Transit District (LTD) takes COVID-19 precautions 3/30/2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Car, BikeShare</td>
<td>Congestion Pricing Suspension, Free BikeShare</td>
<td>TL suspends all road user charging schemes to help critical workers 3/23/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Bus</td>
<td>Fare Suspension, Rear-door Boarding</td>
<td>COVID-19: Bus rides are free till April 5, but use the back door. London Transit says 3/19/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach</td>
<td>CA US</td>
<td>Bike</td>
<td>BikeShare Suspension</td>
<td>To further the City's efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19, Long Beach BikeShare service has been suspended until further notice. 3/30/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>CA US</td>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>Crossings</td>
<td>@MayorOILA just announced that beg buttons are being disconnected in pedestrianized areas to provide automatic walk buttons. 3/30/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>CA US</td>
<td>Bus</td>
<td>Service Changes</td>
<td>LA Metro rail and bus services will continue to run, some schedules will be adjusted to reflect the reality of the decline in ridership. L A. 3/23/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>CA US</td>
<td>Bus</td>
<td>Fare Suspension, Rear-door Boarding</td>
<td>LADOT DASH Begins Free Service, Backdoor Boarding to Assist Riders During COVID-19 Crisis 3/23/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>WI US</td>
<td>Transit</td>
<td>Service Changes, Crowding Mitigation, Fare Suspension</td>
<td>COVID-19 Updates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Resources – Materials

- MUTCD – Part 6: Temporary Traffic Control
- Tactical Urbanism Guide to Materials and Design
- Bicycle Facility Design – new online course from FHWA
Thank you

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