



What is an “Open Streets” event?

Open Streets are events that allow people to replace automobile traffic for a few hours. Without cars, streets become a massive public space where people of all ages, abilities, and economic backgrounds can come together to exercise, and play. It’s a chance to experience your city in a completely new way.

Most major U.S. cities host one or multiple Open Streets events each year, including:

Location	Event Name	Highlights
Los Angeles, CA	CicLAvia	Over 1 million participants to date.
San Francisco, CA	Sunday Streets	8 separate Open Streets events each year.
New York, NY	Summer Streets	7 miles of Manhattan streets closed.
Boston, MA	Open Newbury Street	Route through one of Boston’s most popular shopping streets.
Atlanta, GA	Atlanta Streets Alive	4 routes, 12.4 miles of open streets.
Houston, TX	Cigna Sunday Streets	Since 2014, 3x a year.
Philadelphia, PA	Philly Free Streets	First-ever event was held this September.
Detroit, MI	Open Streets Detroit	Four miles, twice a year.
Portland, OR	Sunday Parkways	Five different routes each year.
Seattle, WA	Seattle Summer Parkways	Annually since 1968.
Pittsburgh, PA	Open Streets PGH	Third year, three times a year.

There are **more than 130** Open Streets initiatives **held in the United States** in 122 different municipalities.

What are the benefits for local businesses?

Evidence from U.S. cities shows that Open Streets events are popular not just with residents but with businesses as well. Featured neighborhoods benefit from a huge influx of new customers:

- In St. Louis, 73% of Open Street participants patronized a restaurant or store along the route, and 68% of participants became aware of a new store or restaurant.
- In San Francisco, businesses located along the route realized an average net increase of \$466 in revenue compared with a non-Open Streets day.
- In Atlanta, 82% of survey respondents anticipated spending \$10+ during the event.
- In San Diego, 84% of survey respondents who shopped at a local business during the event said they would return.





Why bring “Open Streets” to Washington DC?


- **A MORE *DEMOCRATIC* STREET CLOSURE:** Currently, DC’s largest street closures cater to narrow interest groups (e.g., Marine Corps Marathon, Rock N Roll Marathon). Participants have to pay fees to take part and most residents don’t get to enjoy the car-free opportunity.
- **CELEBRATE PLAYING & CREATE SPACE FOR FAMILIES:** Traditional “festival” events like the H Street Festival cater primarily to vendors. Open Streets events, on the other hand, focus on creating space for exercise and playing. With more and more children & families living in the District these kinds of opportunities are important.
- **SUPPORT DC ARTS & CULTURE:** One of our primary goals is to use Open Streets DC to highlight the city’s rich arts ecosystem. With free music, theater and visual arts performances along the entire route, we aim to create space for and draw attention to some of the city’s best-kept creative secrets.
- **BRIDGE THE ANACOSTIA RIVER:** Our proposal creates a unique opportunity for communities on both sides of the river to play together.





Open Streets Facts


 Seattle, WA held the first known Open Streets event in 1968.


 Today, there are **over 130** documented Open Streets initiatives in North America (according to The Open Streets Project).


 Open Streets events in Los Angeles are visited by 5x more people than **all** the city parks, **combined**.


 Participant surveys indicate that “quietness” is one of the most popular “side-effects” of Open Streets. The city of Brussels reports a **10 decibel** drop in noise during their event.


 **Air quality levels improve dramatically** during Open Streets events. On major thoroughfares, nitric oxide levels drop 5x. Carbon monoxide levels are cut in half.

 36% of individuals in one study indicate that the biggest obstacle to doing more physical activity is the **lack of space**.

 Open Streets are ADA accessible. Riding through the middle of the street is much easier and more fun for wheelchair users than travelling along sidewalks.

 Post-event resident surveys (featuring participants and non-participants) indicate very high rates of satisfaction. Those we’ve seen are all between 80%-90% after Open Streets events.

 In Bogota, Colombia every Sunday the weekly Open Streets event is attended by roughly 1 million people (in a city where the total population is 7M).

 The world’s largest Open Streets event is a 100 mi² zone closure, in Brussels, Belgium, held for the last 16 consecutive years. By comparison, all of Washington DC is less than 70 mi².