

Open Streets Montgomery:

Opening Streets for Non-motorist Use during COVID-19

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Open Streets Montgomery

Open Streets Montgomery is a coalition of community advocates and organizations, working toward the goal of further activating roadway and adjacent space for non-motorist activities, during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

We strive to do this in a strategic manner, that achieves the following objectives:

- *Community and Network Connectivity*
- *Economic Development and Empowerment*
- *Safer and More Plentiful Outdoor Recreation Options*



More Space for Walking, Biking, Rolling...
More Opportunity for Exercise, Dining, Shopping, Commuting!
Overarching focus on equity across the County.

Community and
Network
Development

- COVID-19 Miles and Shared Streets Projects: connecting central business districts and neighborhoods.

Economic
Development and
Empowerment

- “Streateries” and Outdoor Dining: Helping small businesses attract and sustain business, using excess street capacity.

Safer and More Plentiful
Outdoor Recreation
Options

- Open Parkways, Temporary Street Permits, Greenways: All contribute not only to connectivity and development, but recreation.

Advocacy Approaches

Partnering:

- Individual Community Activists
- Organizations
- Government Agencies – County and State

Flexibility, Problem Solving, and Support:

- Contribute to developing solutions
- Applaud and “cheerlead” fledgling solutions

Communications:

- Augment “Official” project communications
- Outreach, outreach, outreach – to build awareness and communicate benefits

Successes to Date

- Montgomery Parks and Planning Open Parkways: Worked with Parks and Planning staff to help support open parkways (Sligo, Beach) during COVID-19
- Montgomery County Department of Transportation “Shared Streets” Program: Worked to MCDOT to support “streateries,” implementation of neighborhood greenways, and implementation of new streamlined permitting process for neighborhood shared streets projects.
- Maryland State Highway Administration, University Blvd Bike Lane Pilot: Supported SHA in the development of a project plan for over 1 mile of protected bike lane along University Ave in Wheaton – coming June 2021.



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Coming Soon!

SAFER WALKING AND BIKING IN WHEATON

A bike lane for University Boulevard

Residents have asked for a safer way to walk and ride bikes in Wheaton, and the State Highway Administration has agreed to make one lane in each direction for bikes ONLY.

Go from Arcola to Amherst this summer to get to work, go food shopping, visit friends or out to restaurants.

Opening
June 2021

Info:
openstreetsmontgomery.com



University Blvd. Project:

- Allows safety for bikes and pedestrians, by creating a buffer
- Provides connectivity between Sligo Parkway, neighborhoods, Wheaton Central Business District, and transit.
- Includes data collection, as part of a FHWA research grant.



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What's Next?

- Continued work throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic
 - Monitoring results of the SHA bike lane pilots, gathering support for similar projects along other corridors
 - Continued work with MCDOT on the evolution of their Shared Streets projects
 - Continued advocacy for additional Open Streets concepts and opportunities
- Work **beyond** the COVID-19 Pandemic
 - Principles are extremely vital during COVID-19, but there is continued need to develop these solutions beyond the pandemic
 - We have a long-term vision to continue building community, connectivity, and equity on a multitude of upcoming projects

Contact Us... Join us!

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