Public Realm Study

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Agenda

• eDEN Vision

• Public Realm Study Findings
• Extensive network of streets closed to thru traffic, punctuated by outdoor dining areas, lined with productive landscapes, and features public art
• Within 1 mile of every resident
• Community engagement is a critical
Bayaud Street

Residential
Low Density
Why Now?

- Transportation Barriers - Connect communities through nature, art, and decision making
- Climate Change - Bring more green infrastructure to the city
- Climate Change - Provide more mobility options
- COVID-19 has given planners the opportunity to test open and shared streets
Denver’s Public Realm Response to COVID

- In April 2020, Denver began creating these open and shared streets.

  Commercial: 2.2 miles
  Park: 2.5 miles
  Neighborhood: 7.09 miles
Public Realm Study – Guiding Questions

• What makes a successful open and shared street?
• Who is using the street?
• How are people responding to the open and shared streets?
• When are people using these streets?
Public Realm Study Terminology

Commercial
- Streets that are closed entirely to vehicle traffic
- Jersey barricades block beginning and end of street

Park

Neighborhood
- Streets that are limited to local traffic only
- Jersey Barricades placed at intersections
Findings

1. The urban environment of the street must be considered to create successful streets
2. Comfort and safety allow people to reclaim the street

Commercial
1. Key Finding 1 – A diversity of activities and uses attract people to the street.
2. Key Finding 2 – Key Amenities create a vibrant and inviting space.

Parks
1. Key Finding 1 – More people enjoy park streets and want to keep them permanent.
2. Key Finding 2 – The open streets attract diverse modes of travel to use the street.

Neighborhood
1. Key Finding 1 – Traffic/Automobile use affect how people using the street.
2. Key Finding 2 – Signage is used to make peds feel safe.
Commercial Streets Key Findings

Key Finding 1: A diversity of activities and uses attract people to the street.

Key Finding 2: Key Amenities create a vibrant and inviting space.
Key Finding 1: A diversity of activities and uses attract people to the street

Larimer Square - Destination

40 Door fronts on the block

Glenarm Patio – Moving Through

2 Door fronts on the block
Key Finding 1: A diversity of activities and uses attract people to the street

Amount of People Staying in the Street by hour

- Larimer Square
- Glenarm
Key Finding 2: Key Amenities create a vibrant and inviting space.

Larimer Square
45+ options for public seating

Glenarm Patio
0 options for public seating
Key Finding 2: Key Amenities create a vibrant and inviting space.

Larimer Square

- Public seating
- Gazebos for shade
- Trees
- Misters for comfort from heat
- ADA ramps
- Umbrellas
- Plants/flowers

Glenarm Patio

- Trees for shade
- Shade sails
- Misters for comfort from heat
Key Finding 2: Key Amenities create a vibrant and inviting space.

Larimer Square: 67% of people stay
Glenarm Place: 25% of people stay
Key Finding 2: Key Amenities create a vibrant and inviting space.

Larimer Square - Destination

Glenarm Patio – Moving Through
Park Streets Key Findings

Key Finding 1 - More people enjoy park streets and want to keep them permanent

Key Finding 2 – The open streets attract diverse modes of travel to use the street
Key Finding 1 - More people enjoy park streets and want to keep them permanent

- **Average of How Safe People Feel on Each Street Typology, 10 Being the Safest**
  - Commercial: 6
  - Neighborhood: 8
  - Parks: 9

- **Would Citizens Like to See These Park Streets Become Permanent?**
  - Yes: 203
  - Maybe: 31
  - No: 17
Key Finding 2 - The open streets attract diverse modes of travel to use the street

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Commercial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Park</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roll</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roll</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The images show people walking, running, and biking in the park and commercial areas.
Neighborhood Streets Key Findings

Key Finding 1- Traffic/Automobile use affect how people using the street.

Key Finding 2 – Signage is used to make peds feel safe.
Key Finding 1 - Traffic/Automobile use affect how people using the street.

16th Ave

- Average on road per day: 201
- Average per day: 259.33
- Average and per day: 141.96
- Percentage of people who use road vs. sidewalk: 46%

Bayaud

- Average on road per day: 355
- Average per day: 101
- Average and per day: 169
- Percentage of people who use road vs. sidewalk: 25%
Key Finding 2 - Signage is used to make peds feel safe.
Summary

• COVID provided the opportunity to see our streets differently

• Our study found:
  1. The urban environment of the street must be considered to create successful streets
  2. Comfort and safety allow people to reclaim the street

![Bar chart of overall satisfaction of each street typology]

- Commercial
- Neighborhood
- Park
Thank you!

Questions?
How eDEN is acceptable Now

- Transition SLide potential: eDEN wouldn't be possible without it.
- When the city shut down the streets, it gave every denver resident the opportunity to experience these ROWs in a different light,
- In the past if we ever said that we wanted to create a network of open and shared streets, people would think we were crazy, however, because of COVID, open and shared are being implemented.
- People are more open to the idea of eDEN because of the open and shared streets in response to COVID.
- Idea: show newspaper article/blogs of open and shared streets in Denver.
- and it gave us researchers the opportunity to study these shifts in ROWs to see how people's perceptions and behaviors change over time.
Why the Public Realm Study matters

• What's working and what's not
• So eDEN can create open and shared streets that work for the community
• So when they are permanent, we have more informed designs