

# Slow Streets Community Centered Recommendations

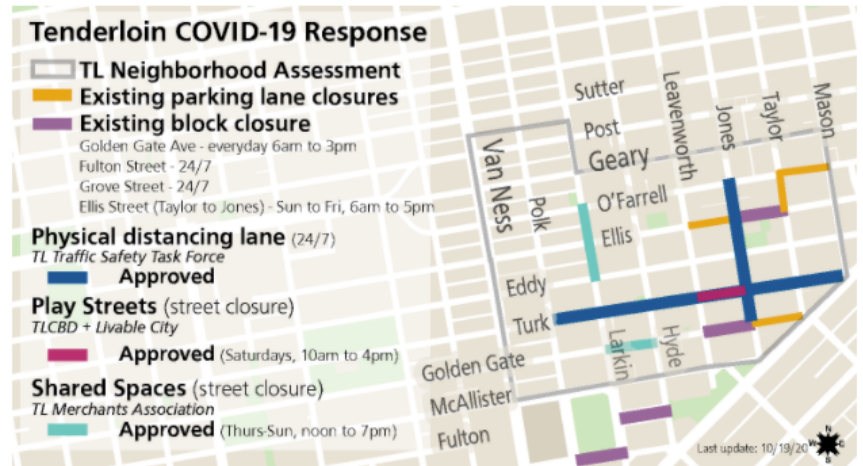
## California Walks Suggestions for Slow Street

### What are Slow Streets?

- Slow Streets are welcoming and accessible space for pedestrians, bikes, scooters, wheelchairs, skateboards, or other forms of non-motorized micro-mobility.
- In response to COVID-19, some cities and counties are implementing Slow Streets to give residents more space to be physically active while maintaining a 6-foot distance. There are two different types of Slow Streets currently:
  - Al Fresco Dining - outdoor dining space extended into the sidewalk, street and parking spaces.
  - Lane Closures - travel lane(s) in neighborhood street closed partially or fully to allow for people to walk, bike, roll with 6-foot social distancing.



Al Fresco street closure in San Jose CA



Slow Street closure in San Francisco CA

## Slow Streets Community-Centered Recommendations

### Equity

- Funds for Slow Streets should not be reallocated from slated permanent active transportation projects;
- Implement Slow Streets in park-poor communities, low-income, and communities of color;
- Collaborate with community organizations and residents to understand pressing needs and concerns;
- Provide funding for community participation in creating a Slow Streets program;
- Let the community define goals and objectives;
- Communicate how communities and neighborhoods are selected for a Slow Streets program and how long the program will last;
- Communicate opportunities to make Slow Streets as well as other safety enhancements permanent;
- Assure that transit stops and hubs receive social distant considerations as businesses do;
- Provide additional space by installing temporary platforms that extend bus stop waiting areas into the roadway to support social distancing for transit patrons at the busiest bus stops.  
<https://la.streetsblog.org/2020/11/17/l-a-should-al-fresco-its-bus-stops/>
- Prioritize community requests and applications for Slow Streets; and
- Eliminate the first-come, first-serve application process since this benefits communities with more resources.

## Community Engagement

- Outreach to and encourage residents and community organizations to apply for Slow Streets;
- Involve residents and community organizations at all levels of the decision making process around implementing Slow Streets;
- Leverage Slow Streets as a demonstration project to gather community input on long-term community needs around walking, biking and accessibility;
- Develop community goals and markers of success in meeting those goals;
- Engage the entire community, not just businesses and downtown districts;
- Conduct outreach in multiple languages; and
- Prioritize messaging that encourages people to play and reclaim non-motorized use of the road, instead of messaging restricting street access to drivers.



Slow Street sign in Long Beach CA



Extended bus ramp in Brooklyn, NY  
StreetsBlog USA

## Accessibility

- Install ramps and ensure sufficient space for people using assisted mobility devices;
- Install parking for bikes, scooters, and skateboards;
- Assure that mobility vehicle parking spaces and loading and unloading zones are not obstructed; and
- Assure that sidewalks are not blocked by businesses, seating or guests waiting to be seated.

## Protect Workers

- Require restaurants applying for the AI Fresco program to have sufficient PPE equipment to keep their workers safe;
- Ensure restaurants participating in the AI Fresco program maintain tables and seating at 6-foot social distancing;
- Designate space for delivery and pick up only; and
- Install designated parking spaces and bike racks for messengers and delivery workers.

## Create & Sustain Jobs

- Pay stipends to community residents if there are Slow Streets requirements by an agency to monitor equipment, signage and temporary infrastructure from being damaged or removed;
- Pay stipends per meeting, if ongoing meetings or check-ins are part of the Slow Streets requirements;
- Include street vendors in the AI Fresco program; and
- Support the implementation of community pop-up bike/skate shops and co-ops to encourage people to stay active and maintain their equipment.

## Get Creative!

- Work with local artists to create art or build community-owned art installations;
- Prioritize opening parks and create creative designated space for people to remain Socially Distant. The City of San Francisco designated space and distance with painted circles on public park lawns;
- Encourage local agencies and community organizations, and businesses to institute “recess” for the community; and
- Encourage socially distant community skate, dance, bike, theater, art, gardening lessons, walking, biking and accessibility;