

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For the last three years we tested the concept of pedestrian-only street closures by temporarily closing off certain city blocks to vehicles in the Pike/Pine neighborhood and opening them up for pedestrian access, business engagement, and community activation. In 2015 and 2016 we worked with the community to test a variety of configurations, dates, and times based on feedback from businesses and the public as well as findings from the ongoing program evaluation. After these two years of street closures we heard overwhelmingly positive feedback, with 79% of survey respondents supporting the continuation of the program.

For 2017 we worked with the community to develop a program that responded to feedback from the previous two years, and developed a program that was consistent and predictable with the following goals:

1. Provide a pedestrian environment in Pike/Pine that is comfortable, safe, accessible, and responsive to the needs of the local community
2. Enliven the street and increase public space vibrancy through community and business-led activities
3. Create a balance of pedestrian mobility, vehicle access, and streetscape activities.

In order to understand the performance of the program we developed a data collection plan to evaluate the pedestrian street based on our program goals. Based on this evaluation we learned that the people street concept proved to be effective at providing an environment that is comfortable, safe, accessible, and responsive to community needs while balancing the needs of pedestrian mobility, vehicle access, and streetscape activities.



Pike people street 2017 closure signage

After testing this pedestrian street program for three years in the Pike/Pine neighborhood we heard consistently positive support the people street concept through our evaluation tools. From the in-person survey, over 90% of people reported that they liked the pedestrian street and would like to see more in the future. In busy commercial districts throughout Seattle, a people street could provide space to accommodate outdoor cafes, community and arts activation, and space for people to walk and gather. The program provides an opportunity to enliven our streets and increase public space vibrancy through community and business-led activities.

For the next phase of we are looking for communities who want to host a people street program in their neighborhoods to increase access to public space, provide opportunities for community interaction and activation, support neighborhood economic success, and encourage vibrant Seattle communities.