

Pedestrian Plazas



Project Description

A pedestrian plaza closes traffic to a redundant or underused portion of a street and turns it into a public space with tables, chairs, and other furnishings. Paint, large planters, and other elements can be used to define the plaza's perimeter.

Photo: SMTC

Closing a street segment, even temporarily, can create confusion for drivers. Pedestrian plazas must be selected carefully and signage and barriers must be used to ensure that drivers can find an alternate route while the project is in place.

Project sponsors are responsible for maintaining plazas while they are in place. Sponsors can also add elements of play, performances, or neighborhood outreach.

Evaluation Topics

- Number of people sitting / standing /socializing in plaza, and
- Length of time spent in plaza.

Quick Notes

- Pedestrian plazas tend to work well when located near commercial uses.
- Plaza planning should include ideas for activating and programming the space during the installation.
- Temporary plazas should only be activated for one day, unless communications from the City allow for more.
- **A street closure or special events permit will be necessary. Please see guidance on Activation on the Community Streets website.**