

MAKE WAY FOR PEOPLE

ACTIVATING THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

People Spots

People Streets

People Plazas

Janet Attarian, AIA, LEED AP
Project Director
Streetscape & Sustainable Design

People Spots

People Spots (aka: parklets, pop-up cafes) are platforms built in the parking lane next to sidewalks in neighborhoods with narrow sidewalks or high pedestrian volumes.



People Streets

People Streets convert “excess” asphalt into hard-scape public spaces with the purpose of creating safer intersections and/or the addition of open space in neighborhoods with open space deficits.

People Plazas

People Plazas will activate existing CDOT Malls, Plazas and Triangles with the introduction of new programming and retail/marketing opportunities with private partners.



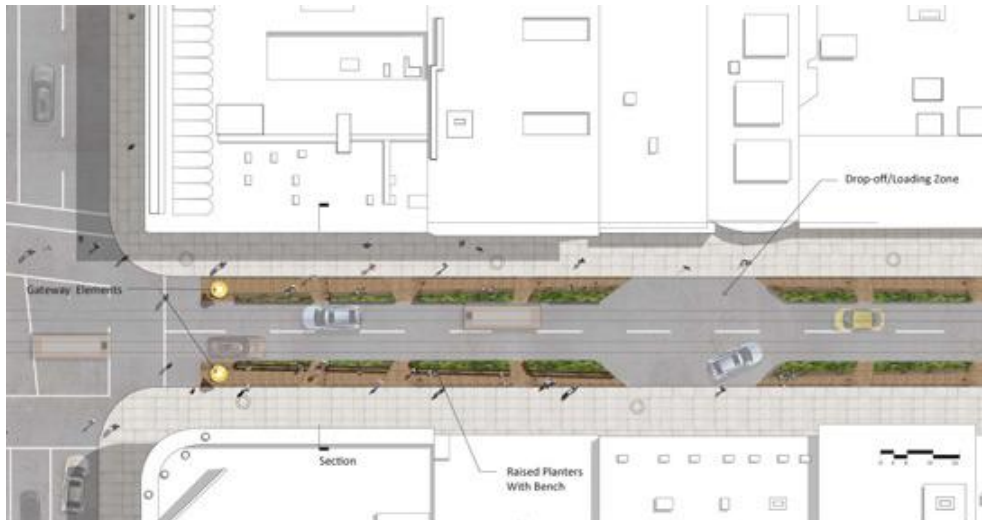
MAKE WAY FOR PEOPLE

WHY MAKE WAY FOR PEOPLE?

- Create spaces that cultivate community and culture
- Economic Development
 - Increase property values for Chicago residents
 - Economic benefit to local merchants
- “Improve street safety” (#18 from Transition Plan)
- “Increase Access to Open Space” (#28 from Transition Plan)
- Create a strong public health agenda for Chicago (#20 from Transition Plan)
 - Encourage pedestrian activity

MAKE WAY FOR PEOPLE

Best Practices



- San Francisco Parklets
 - Began as a public way use permit for local merchants
 - Now an RFP process, with a limit on allowed parklets per year
 - 37% increase in pedestrian activity on weekday evenings – 13% increase overall



Best Practices



- NYC Plaza program
 - Competitive process for local NPO's, near proposed plaza
 - NYC DOT provides capital improvements and concessionaire kiosks
 - All revenues to be used for plaza maintenance w/ any excess going to city coffers for DOT use
 - Yearly audit required to ensure funds are being allocated properly

Best Practices



- NYC Pop-up Cafe program
 - Permitted via NYC DOT and Dept. of Business Affairs
 - Paid for and maintained by local merchants
 - Construction for pilot location provided by NYC DOT and volunteer labor
- Merchants reported a positive change in revenues due to pedestrian activity
- Must remain open, public space. Merchants not allowed to have servers for pop-up cafés

Best Practices



- Dallas Plaza Program
 - One pilot location, used as public space
 - Temporarily delineated with paint and site furnishings
 - Recently proposed for permanent street closure and plaza creation – TIF funded



Chicago



- Integrated performance space
- Permanent street closure
- Stormwater BMP's

MAKE WAY FOR PEOPLE

People Spots



Goals:

- 1-3 temporary pilot locations – Spring 2012
- Funded by SSA's, maintained by strong local merchant partners
- Along/adjacent to strong retail corridors
- Ability to measure success of program via increases in revenue/pedestrians

MAKE WAY FOR PEOPLE



People Streets

Goals:

- 1-3 pilot locations - Spring 2012
- Create public space at dead end streets, cul-de-sacs or areas of excess pavement at intersections
- Use recycled or overstocked CDOT materials and paint to delineate People Streets
- Temporary People Streets can be turned into permanent street closures with pedestrian priority over time, as funding allows

MAKE WAY FOR PEOPLE

People Plazas



Goals:

- Year-round operation & activation of plazas
- Infrastructure upgrades, ie. power, water, wi-fi
- Maintenance costs offset & possible revenue generation
- Spur local economic development via local merchant partners
- Equitable geographic distribution
- Arts Integration

MAKE WAY FOR PEOPLE

PROGRESS

- Interviews conducted with the following SSA's - potential locations for People Streets and People Spots as well as strong local merchant partners
 - #33, Wicker Park/Bucktown
 - #27, Lakeview
 - #29, Westtown
 - #25, Little Village
 - #47, Cottage Grove
 - #8, Lakeview East
 - #22, Andersonville
 - North Center Chamber of Commerce
- Traffic Engineering has reviewed and approved potential sites for People Streets and People Spots
- Civic Consulting Alliance has agreed to attempt to find a pro bono private partner to assist in structuring People Plazas RFP – Currently assisting in the completion of an Innovation Loan Fund application
- Prioritized for an FHWA Transportation, Community & System Preservation Program Grant
- Law, BACP and CDOT coordinating ordinance amendments

MAKE WAY FOR PEOPLE

Thank You!

People Spots

People Streets

People Plazas

MAKE WAY FOR PEOPLE