



## City of Montreal, QC



Population: 1,705,000  
Project duration:  
2015-ongoing

## TRANSPORTATION: CITY OF MONTREAL'S PEDESTRIAN AND SHARED STREETS PROGRAM

*This guide is designed to help municipal staff and decision makers understand how excellent sustainability projects are developed, and help them adopt best practices in their community. Read the guide to learn more about award-winning strategies, then use the guiding questions to kick-start your sustainability initiative.*

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

- The City of Montreal implemented the Pedestrian and Shared Streets Program to create shared public spaces that encourage walking, cycling and active transportation and reflect the distinct character of the surrounding neighbourhood.
- The program made changes to streets near existing public gathering places, including shops, schools and markets, to improve pedestrian access and experience. The City created 12 shared and pedestrianized streets between 2015 and September 2017, and more are being developed using a phased rollout.
- The City uses a participatory and phased design process for the projects. Temporary measures are implemented in the first year, followed by modified temporary measures in year two and permanent measures in year three. Citizen and user feedback is solicited to improve each project throughout the three-year implementation stage.
- Each pedestrianized or shared street is the result of partnerships between boroughs and the municipality. Citizens co-design the shared spaces, each of which is unique and includes measures to improve pedestrian and cyclist experience, mobility and safety.

### How does this initiative benefit the environment?

- The program creates **green spaces and urban agriculture projects** to enhance the beauty of local streets, reduce the urban heat island effect and promote natural stormwater management through absorption and retention on-site.
- The program **calms traffic, improves pedestrian safety and promotes active transportation such as walking and cycling**. The result is reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

### How does this initiative benefit the community?

- New and interactive **recreational structures** (e.g., musical bicycles, obstacle courses, urban furniture) encourage outdoor activities and create shared community spaces. These amenities benefit citizens by encouraging **physical activity** and **social interaction**.
- **Free sports and cultural programming** improve access to neighbourhood amenities for all citizens.

## How does this initiative benefit the local economy?

- The increased foot traffic on converted streets encourages window shopping and showcases neighbourhood appeal, which **promotes local businesses**.

## What are some of the successes of this project?

- This program is in line with the City's Sustainable Development Plan, Pedestrian Charter and Transportation Plan, harmonizing **city-wide mandates and objectives** for sustainable development.
- The program's **collaborative approach** through various partnerships encourages innovation, accelerates project implementation and builds internal capacity for future initiatives.
- A phased and flexible approach allows for **public input and adaptability** throughout project rollout, providing valuable insights about best practices in street transformation.

### Want to create shared streets in your community?

#### To get started, answer these questions:

Which transportation modes are most popular in your community (walking, biking, bus, train, etc.)?

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What existing bike and walking paths are in your community? Where are they located (downtown core, residential/commercial areas)? How are they used (for recreation, commuting or both)?

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Where are the public gathering spaces in your community? Why do people go there? Who uses them? Are they accessible to most of the population (in terms of transportation, affordability, hours of operation, physical accessibility)?

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How could you measure the success of a shared streets program in your community (e.g., percentage of pedestrians before and after the changes, number of community activities)? Can you set a baseline before you start?

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Consider how you could engage two or three partners or stakeholders in this project. Consider both internal stakeholders (e.g., transit operators, municipal departments, councillors) and external stakeholders (e.g., community groups, business owners, schools). What could their roles be in the planning, development and rollout of the project?

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