

Temporary Pedestrian Streets (a.k.a. “Weekend Walks”) Request for Expressions of Interest

In keeping with Mayor Bloomberg’s PlaNYC goal of expanding the amount of open space available to New Yorkers and consistent with our commitment to creating world-class streets and a more attractive public realm, the New York City Department of Transportation seeks to expand its temporary pedestrian street program in 2011.

If you are interested in organizing and hosting a pedestrian street in your neighborhood, please complete the following form. Doing so does not bind you or your organization to any particular proposal for any particular date, but will mark the starting point in a dialogue with NYC DOT to develop a successful plan.



Background

Over the last three years DOT assisted businesses and community groups in all five boroughs to host temporary pedestrian streets, by closing streets to motor vehicles on weekend days and opening them to people and local businesses. To see photos and learn about the 2008, 2009 and 2010 Weekend Walks program please visit www.nyc.gov/weekendwalks.

DOT has identified good practices and guiding principles that we will use to select new sites and assist with the development of new temporary pedestrian streets. The Weekend Walks program is a community-based initiative. If your site is selected, DOT will assist with securing a street closure and provide technical assistance to navigate relevant City permitting processes.



DOT does not provide an event planner for these events. It is DOT’s intention that these events will be conceived of, planned, organized and executed by BIDs, local merchants associations and/or community-based groups.

Guiding Principles

What a Weekend Walk is:

- A pedestrianized street
- Multi-day
 - Occurs on regularly recurring dates (e.g. every Sunday in July or every Saturday over the winter holidays). This schedule creates a regular public space, which is the aim of the program
- Led or co-sponsored by local merchants association, Business Improvement District, Community Board, or civic group, with a general local consensus in favor of the plan.
- Supported by the local Community Board
- Engaged with local businesses and organizations
- Held in an area such as a commercial main street or another area that connects sites frequented by pedestrians, where existing uses and activities could be positively enhanced by more space for walking and outdoor activity and the temporary suspension of motor vehicle access.



What a Temporary Pedestrian Street is not:

- A street fair (i.e. no vending in the streets by commercial interests from outside the community)
- A block party (i.e. a one-day/one-block event)
- A race or other sporting event requiring public participants to pre-register
- A parade that fills the space vacated by motor traffic
- An initiative that results from a battle of competing local interests

What Works:

- Building support in merchant and residential communities
- Engaging local merchants, community-based organizations, artists and musicians to provide programming
- Marketing the event
- Meeting regularly with your partners and NYC DOT to refine the event



Expression of Interest to Organize a Weekend Walk

Please complete the following form with as much of the requested information as possible. This form is not binding and if your site is selected will be considered as a starting point for further developing your temporary pedestrian street. NYCDOT will call to further explore your proposal with you. If you need additional space for description please attach additional sheets to this form. First priority will be given to proposals outside of the Manhattan core (below 110th St.) and should be submitted by email to weekendwalks@dot.nyc.gov by November 5, 2010.

First name:

Last name:

Organization:

Your title:

Street Address:

City:

Zip:

Phone:

Email Address:

Proposed dates of the Temporary Pedestrian Street (tentative):

Proposed Location of the Temporary Pedestrian Street (tentative)

First choice

Street Name:

From (street):

To (street):

Second choice

Street Name:

From (street):

To (street):

Third choice

Street Name:

From (street):

To (street):



Please describe the character of the proposed site and indicate if it is mostly commercial, residential or mixed (2-3 sentences):

Why do you think this would be a good site for a temporary pedestrian street? (2-4 sentences):

Are there any potential challenges to selecting this site e.g. bus routes, hospitals, fire houses, etc. (note: these challenges do not disqualify your site, but are helpful to take into account during pre-planning):

Have you or your organization ever planned any events in your community before? If so, please describe, if not, please explain other experience or partners you believe will assist you in organizing a temporary pedestrian street.

If you have potential organizing or programming partners in mind please list them here (optional):

Is there anything else you wish to share about your proposed Temporary Pedestrian Street?

Signed: _____

Dated: _____