



OREGON

TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS



STREETS ALIVE!

The City of Hood River hosted its first open streets event, Streets Alive!, on September 30, 2018. Open streets events create opportunities for people to walk and bike more with temporary street treatments, such as traffic lane closures or the addition of protected bike lanes, curb extensions, crosswalks, and signs. The event closed 1.5 miles of June Street off to cars—from Wilson Park to the Farm Stand in the Gorge on 12th Street and showcased:

- A protected bike lane loop along 12th Street, Taylor Avenue, 13th Street, and C Street.
- High visibility crosswalks with curb extensions at Pine and 12th Streets, 13th Street and Taylor Avenue, and 13th and C Streets.

Partners

The event was made possible with grants from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and support from six other community partners—Bikabout, City of Hood River, Hood River Chamber of Commerce, Hood River Valley Residents Committee, Livable Hood Rider, and YSM Solutions. ODOT staff helped coordinate the successful effort since some segments of the event took place on ODOT facilities which required consultations, permits, and approvals.

“The businesses that participated enjoyed a banner day. Next year even more businesses want to be part of the event.”

- Hood River Council Member

“Everyone here enjoyed the crowd, and it sounds like it was super fun for all! I love having the improved crosswalks ... and I'll miss them when they go.”

- Clint Harris, Co-Owner Pine Street Bakery

Results

More than 1,000 people attended Streets Alive! and participated by walking, riding bikes, scooters and skateboards, visiting local businesses, creating street art, and playing in newly enhanced public spaces. The crosswalk enhancements remained in place for one week after the Streets Alive event and effectively encouraged drivers to slow down. Local businesses also benefited from the event. Slopeswell, Pine Street Bakery, and Farm Stand experienced a 10% to 30% increase in revenue the day of the event. The City hopes to continue working with ODOT to improve pedestrian safety on 12th and 13th Streets.

Lessons Learned

This was the first time the City of Hood River, community volunteers, and other ODOT team members worked together on this type of event, which made the process challenging. Clarifying timelines and permit requirements and encouraging partners to collaborate earlier would help improve the process in the future.

Looking Ahead

In 2019, ODOT's Transportation Options Program will work on developing a reference guide to help guide the implementation of future efforts.

“I’ve noticed myself driving more slowly even with those pseudo bump-outs and I think others were too. Honestly, I was a little skeptical about the concept at first, but I now hope the city will implement them. In my opinion, it would nicely slow the traffic and make it safer for everyone in the Heights.”

- Hood River Community Member



Source: Streets Alive