

Arlington Shared Streets Pilot Update



Arlington, MA
June 1, 2020

Goals

- Prioritize safety
- Alleviate crowding
- Evaluate impacts





Testimonial



Timeline

| Task | | Project Timeline: Week of | | | | | |
|------|--------------------|--|---|--|---|---|----------|
| | | 4/27/2020 | 5/4/2020 | 5/11/2020 | 5/18/2020 | 5/25/2020 | 6/1/2020 |
| 1 | Project Initiation | ND initial outreach to town | Desktop analysis to select pilot location | Met with Town leadership | | | |
| 2 | Design | | Inventory and order needed materials | | | | |
| 3 | Public Outreach | Met / contacted local resident leaders (EALS) for feedback | Email notifications to local groups | Flyered neighborhood about pilot | Emails with street stewards; Nominate street survey live | Email notifications + flyered neighborhood about post-pilot survey | TBD |
| 4 | Implementation | | | | Approved at Selectboard mtg, DPW dropped materials at site + ND installed 5/20. | DPW / ND removed materials 5/27 | |
| 5 | Evaluation | | | APD collected speed, volume data; hand counts of active transportation | Visited site 2x for hand counts and observations | APD collected speed, volume data; hand counts of active transportation Met leadership 5/29 | |
| 6 | Next Steps | | | | | | TBD |

Outreach and Evaluation Strategies

Outreach

- Flyering neighborhood – pre and post install (400+ flyers)
- Emails
- Social Media
- Survey – nominate street
- Installed 5/20-5/27 Wed – Wed
- Video testimonial

Evaluation

- Public Comments
- APD Speed Volume before and after data
- Hand counts of active transportation (walking/biking/scooting) before and after + general observations
- Post-pilot survey live 5/27

General Observations

- No crowding or opportunities for crowding
- Lots of families and young children in street, runners/joggers as well
- Signs are confusing
- Need for midblock traffic calming – “21 mph is too fast”
- Cars at gateways (Lake @ Brooks especially) go slow
- Overall supportive and curious neighbors

Speeds and Volumes

| | Before | After |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Start | 11AM 5/13 | 11AM 5/26 |
| End | 9AM 5/20 | 12PM 5/27 |
| Total Duration | 46 hrs | 25 hrs |

| | Speeds | | Change |
|---------------------|--------|----|--------|
| # Vehicles > 25 MPH | 115 | 25 | -90 |
| # Vehicles > 30 MPH | 20 | 6 | -14 |
| % Vehicles > 25 MPH | 16% | 9% | -7% |
| % Vehicles > 30 MPH | 3% | 2% | -1% |

| | Volumes | | Change |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----|--------|
| Average Daily Traffic (ADT) | 378 | 278 | -100 |

Active Transportation Counts

| | Before | During | During |
|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Date | 5/14/2020 | 5/24/2020 | 5/26/2020 |
| Day | Thursday | Sun Memorial weekend | Tuesday |
| Weather | Sunny, 70 degrees | Sunny, 60 degrees | Sunny, 75 degrees |
| Start | 2:45pm | 3:26 PM | 2:45 PM |
| End | 4:15pm | 4:27 PM | 4:15 PM |
| Duration | 1.5 hrs | 1 hr | 1.5 hrs |
| Total People | 94 | 96 | 55 |
| Children (<13) | 15 | 22 | 12 |
| Older Adults (>60) | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| Average people per hour | 63 | 96 | 37 |
| % On Sidewalk | 64.89% | 33.33% | 52.73% |
| % In Street | 35.11% | 66.67% | 47.27% |
| % Wearing Masks | 90.43% | 81.25% | 83.64% |

Public Comments Before Pilot

| Summary of responses | Totals |
|---|--------|
| Total Responses | 50 |
| Total in Support | 44 |
| Total Opposed | 6 |
| Comment Themes | Totals |
| Increase in people walking/biking - need for safe space | 18 |
| High number of kids - need shared streets | 11 |
| Wants less cars cutting through | 10 |
| Expand to other areas of Arlington | 9 |
| Interest in making program permanent | 8 |
| Need traffic calming | 5 |
| More communication sooner | 5 |
| Confusion - who can drive on / what the rules are | 5 |
| When schools in session - concerns with traffic | 3 |
| Fear of crowding | 3 |

Post Pilot Survey

- Flyered neighborhood and survey went live Wednesday 5/27
- 189 responses as of 6/1 (morning)
- 76% want it to stay on Brooks, 72% want to expand around town

Arlington Shared Streets Post-Pilot Survey



Take our survey and share feedback at
<https://tinyurl.com/shared-streets>

The one-week shared streets demonstration project on Brooks Avenue has ended and the Town has removed the temporary infrastructure to evaluate next steps.

Community support is important to shared streets initiatives. We invite you to take a short survey (5 minutes) before the next select board meeting on **June 1st**.

For more information contact
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A project of the Town of Arlington in partnership with the Lawrence and Lillian Solomon Foundation and Neighborways Design.



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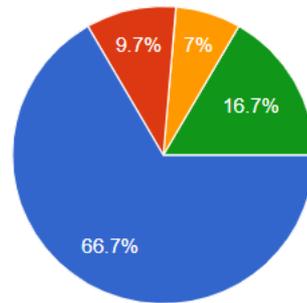
neighborwaysdesign



Post Pilot Survey

Based on your experience with the pilot program, would you support keeping Shared Streets in place on Brooks Ave and the adjacent streets beyond the week-long pilot?

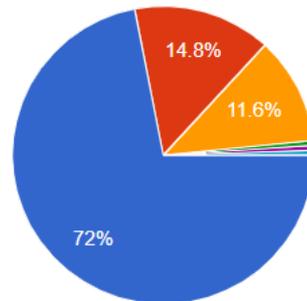
186 responses



- Yes
- Yes, but with changes
- Not sure / no opinion
- No

Would you like to see the Arlington Shared Streets program expanded to other locations in town?

189 responses

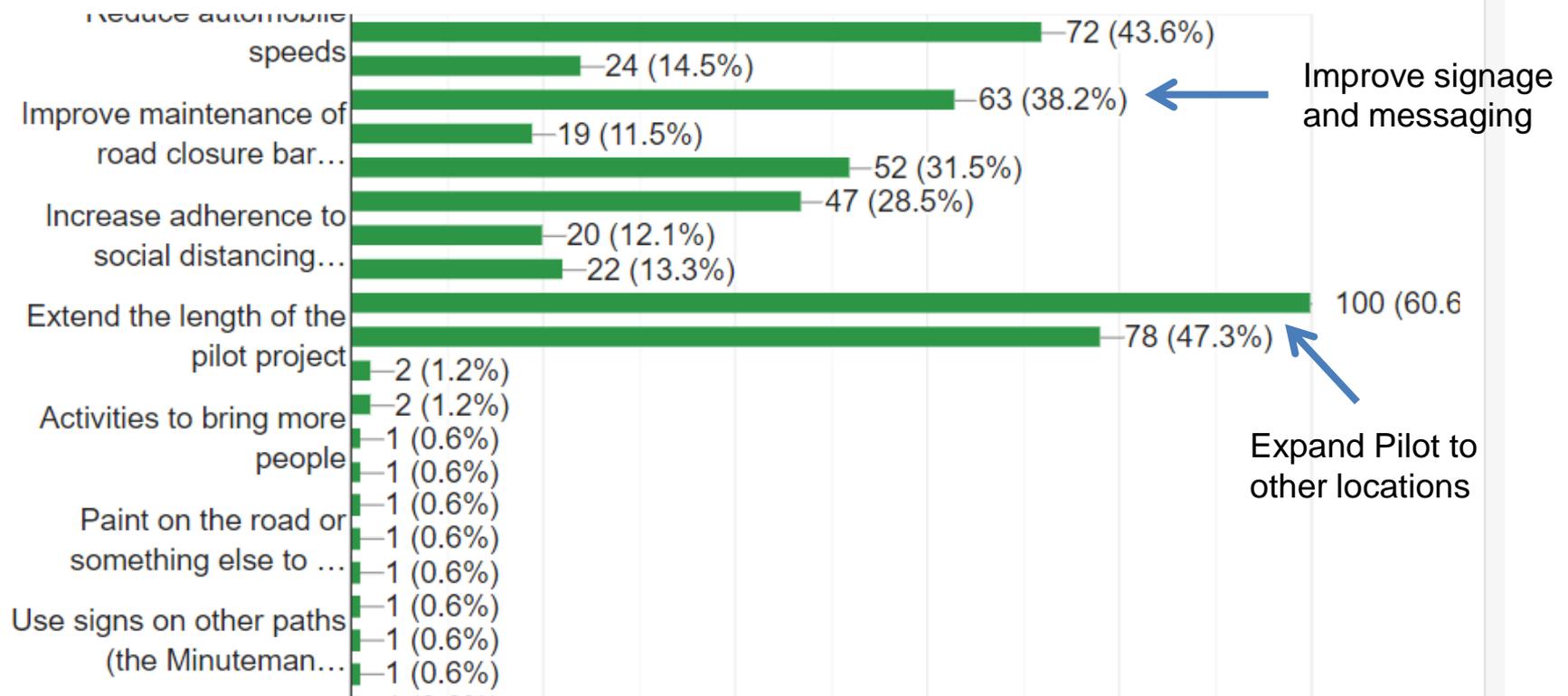


- Yes
- No
- No opinion
- Please look at the impact on the traffic congestion versus foot traffic.
- Hopefully if it is it will just be to small side streets some people still need to get around and need to drive, why not open parks for this purpose'
- It's up to the local communities.

Post Pilot Survey

What changes could the Town make to improve the pilot project? (Select all that apply.)

165 responses



Post Pilot Survey – Quotes

(Why expand to other locations in town?)

I've seen the improvement in Brooks Ave and I think there are other streets in town that would benefit from this program.

This was a great pilot project that resulted in fewer cars, but more pedestrians, children, and families using Brooks Avenue.

I believe that sharing streets between pedestrians, bikers and drivers of motor vehicles is totally doable and everyone can coexist. Further, it might set out the possibility of expanding sidewalks / parking along Mass Ave so restaurants can use sidewalk space to open and hopefully survive.

The new normal is now for people to socialize at a distance outside-more space is needed to give people the safety they need to stay sane and healthy! Esp kids since they have way limited options this summer

I live on Mass. Ave. in Arlington Center and am high-risk due to age. I go out weekly for groceries and most days for walks. I often cannot keep social distancing, although I frequently have to leave the sidewalk and walk on Mass. Ave. Often people walk 2 or more abreast, and I always see people without masks. I have stopped going on the Bikeway because it is too crowded, and many pass closely.

Lessons Learned

- Signs are confusing – redesign for more clarity and supported by more robust public outreach campaign
- Consider traffic calming midblock
- Leverage volunteers

Considerations

- Neighborhood network connecting to business districts
- Reinstalling Brooks / follow up with neighborhood to keep momentum going
- Public outreach townwide – consider folks without internet / visual impairments
- DIY resident/volunteer led approaches

Next Steps

- Two primary directions for interventions
 - Neighborhood-based strategies
 - Localized Interventions
 - Connected Street Networks
 - Commercial Area strategies
 - Relieving Hotspots
 - Streetscape Corridors
- Approval to develop framework for implementing above strategies

Feedback / Discussion

