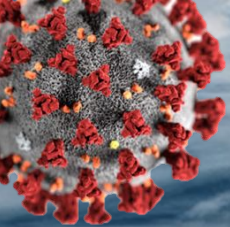


# The Right-of-Way Wars: Outdoor Dining and Other Public Space Responses to COVID-19

Alicia Karner (Bethlehem)  
Dave Munson (Philadelphia)  
Erin Clark (Pittsburgh)

Photo by Dave Munson





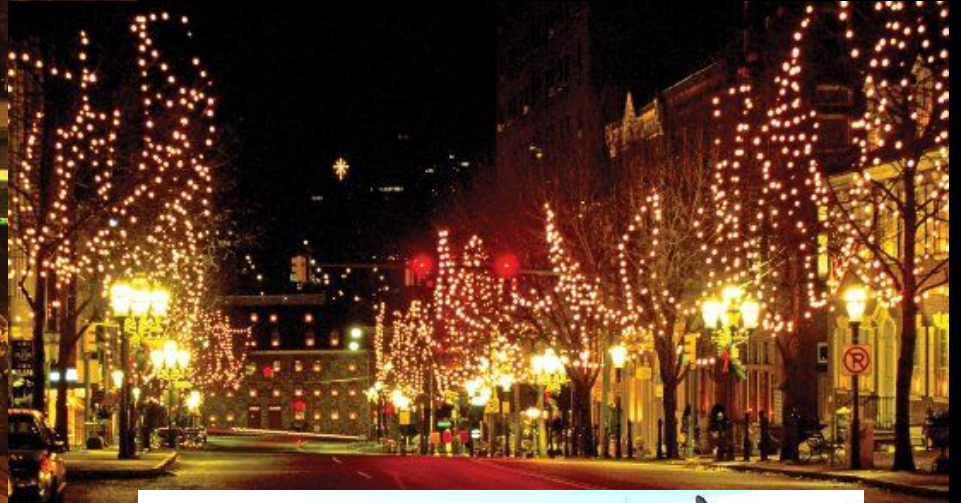
# Bethlehem

Alicia Miller Karner







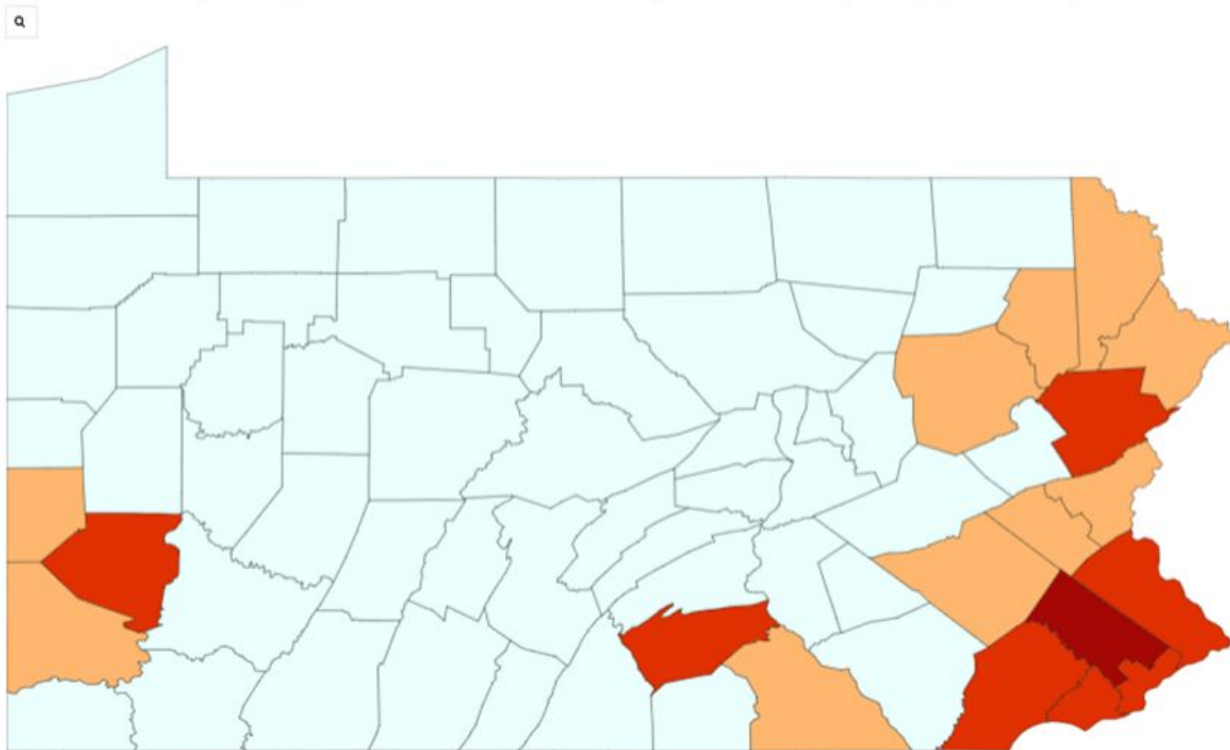




## 133 Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in Pennsylvania

1 case was reported in Lancaster County by Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health. The case will be added when confirmed by PA DOH.

This map will be updated as new cases are announced throughout the state. Last updated 3/18/2020 at 12:25 p.m.



Source: [Pennsylvania Department of Health](#)





**Governor Wolf urged residents to 'stay calm, stay safe, stay home'**



MORAVIAN  
BOOK SHOP

— Est. 1745 —

LOST TAVERN  
BREWING

HOTEL B

QUINN, JR. & CO.

SNOW  
EMERGENCY  
ROUTE

SNOW TOWLS OR  
CHAINS REQUIRED  
NO PARKING  
DURING EMERGENCY  
VEHICLES  
TOWED AWAY  
WITHOUT NOTICE  
WED THRU SAT 7AM  
SUN 10AM - 12PM



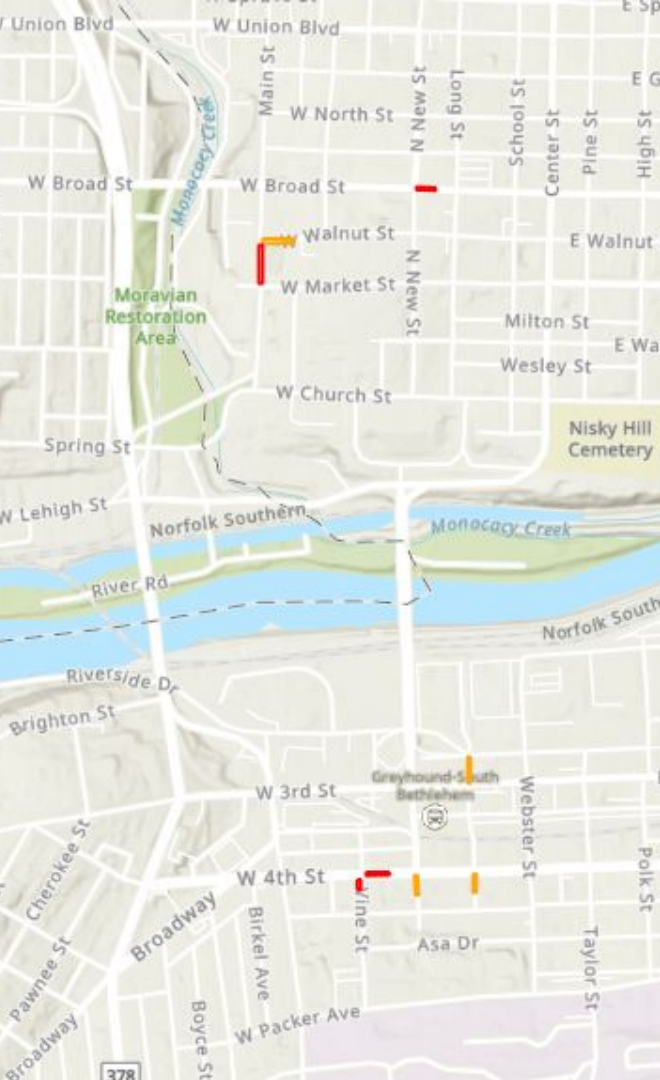




































TIGER HALL

Healing Hands

ATK

ATK

ATK

men's & women's clothing & accessories

ATK

KNOBS 'N' KNOCKERS

KNOBS 'N' KNOCKERS

KNOBS 'N' KNOCKERS

KNOBS 'N' KNOCKERS

KNOBS 'N' KNOCKERS

KNOBS 'N' KNOCKERS

KNOBS 'N' KNOCKERS

KNOBS 'N' KNOCKERS

KNOBS 'N' KNOCKERS

KNOBS 'N' KNOCKERS





BIERGARTEN





MORAVIAN  
BOOK SHOP  
— Est. 1745 —

Handwritten text on a chalkboard sign, partially visible on the left edge of the frame.

















# Philadelphia

*Photo by Visit Philadelphia*



# Closing MLK Drive

20 March, 2020



Photo by Albert Yee



# Expanding the Playstreets Program

12 July, 2020



Photo by Emma Lee





# Sidewalk Cafes

4 June 2020

Makers Mark

FOUNDERS BREWING CO.

FOUNDERS BREWING CO.

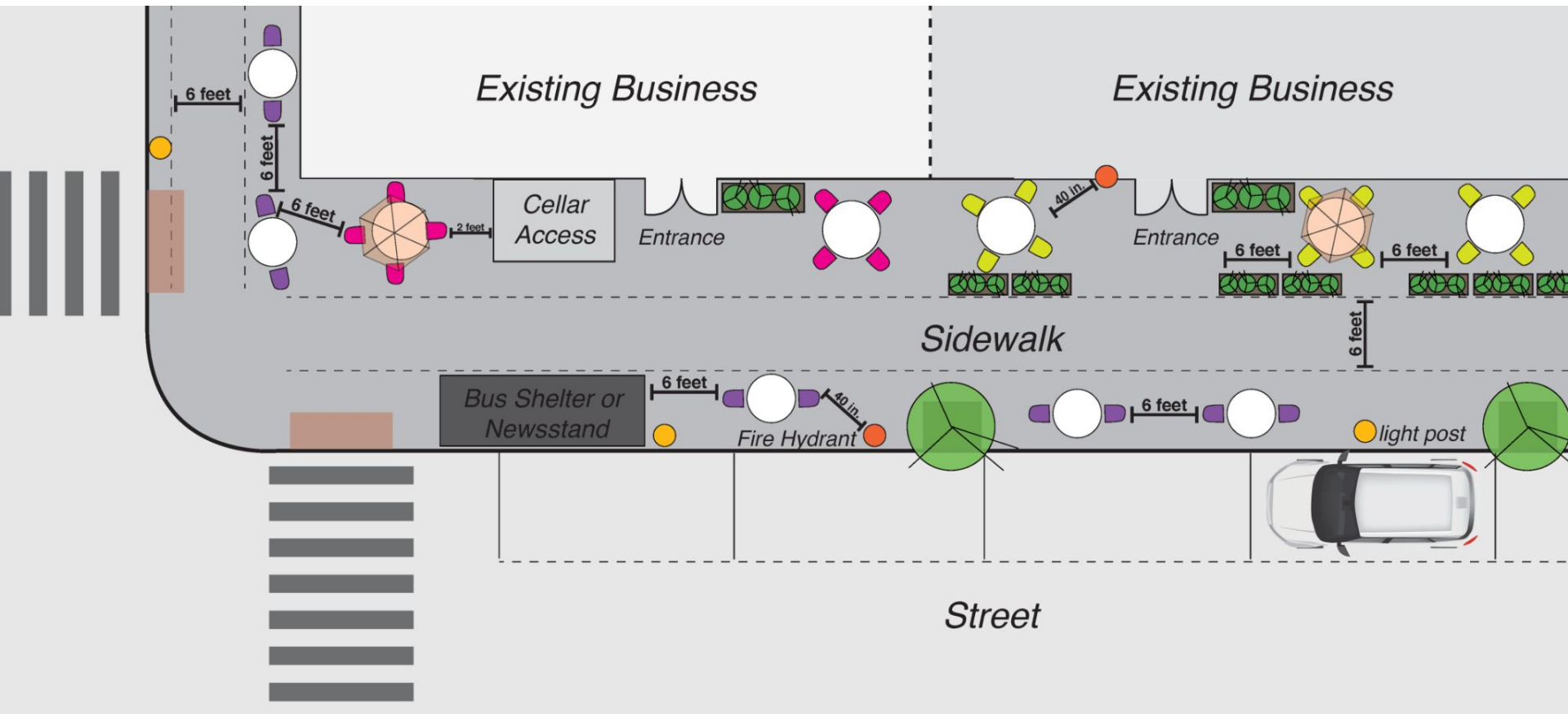
FOUNDERS BREWING CO.

SHOP@  
openhouseliving.com  
→ →  
PICK UP  
HERE

OPENHOUSE  
LIVING.COM

Photo by Dave Munson







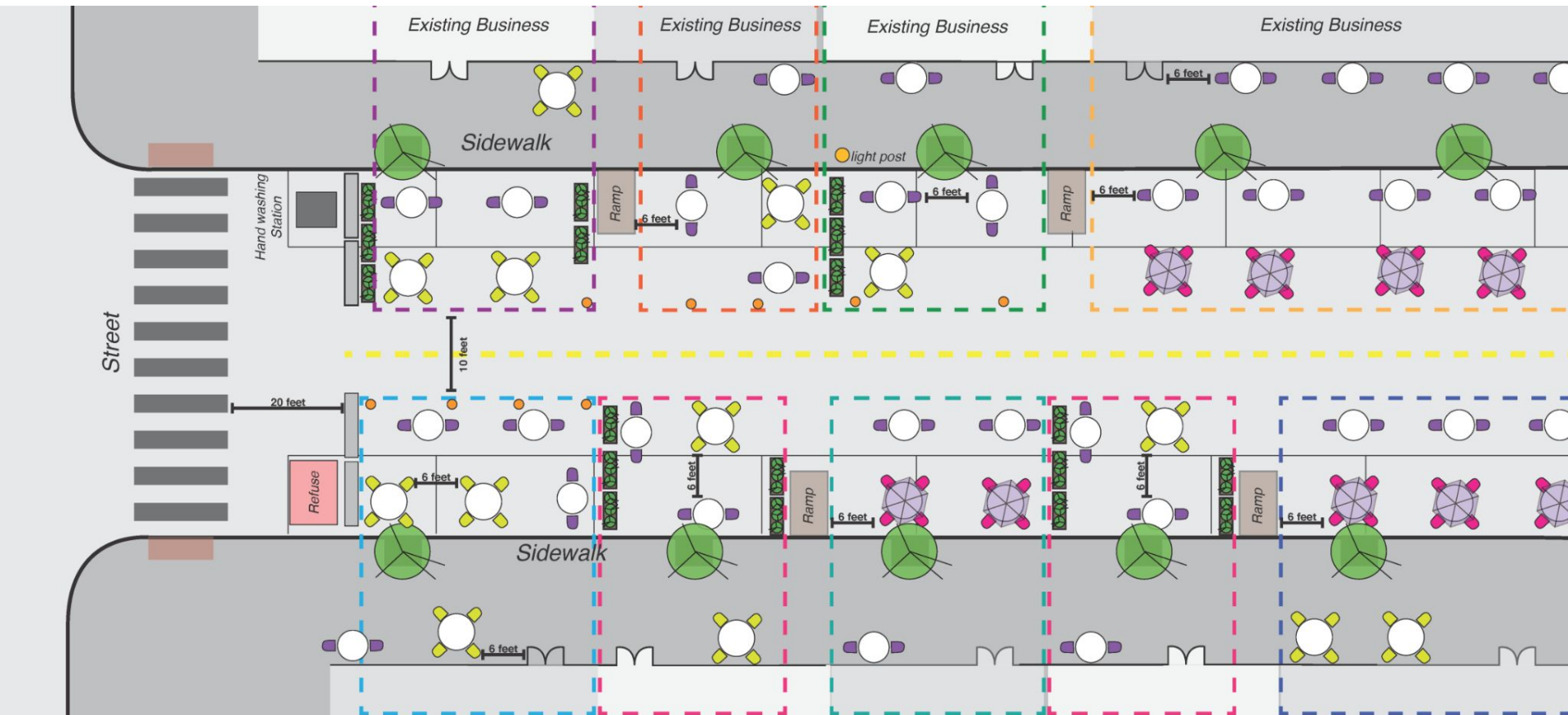


# Temporary Street Closures

4 June 2020

Photo by Holly Munson







# Streeteries

4 June 2020



Photo by Mina Monavarian



*Existing Business*

*Existing Business*

*Sidewalk*

*Fire Hydrant*

*light post*

*Street*

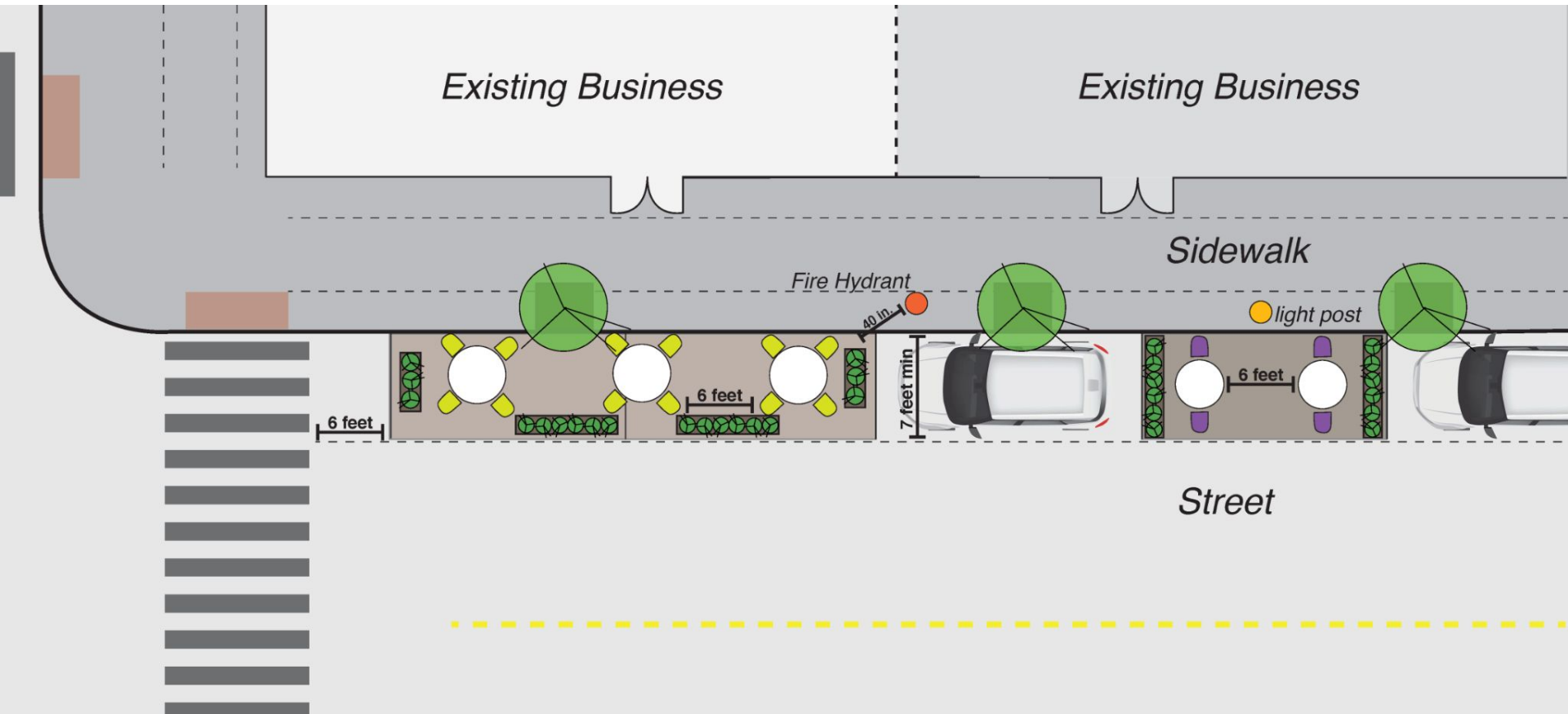
6 feet

6 feet

7 feet min

6 feet

40 in





**Start with what you can control**



*Photo by Tom Gralish*



**Expand on what you are already doing**



Photo by Joe O'Conner

*Photo by Joe O'Conner*



# Leverage partnerships



*Photo by Cyntonn Photography*



# Access Issues



*Photo by Philadelphia Streets Department*



# Safety



Photo by Emma Lee



# The Future





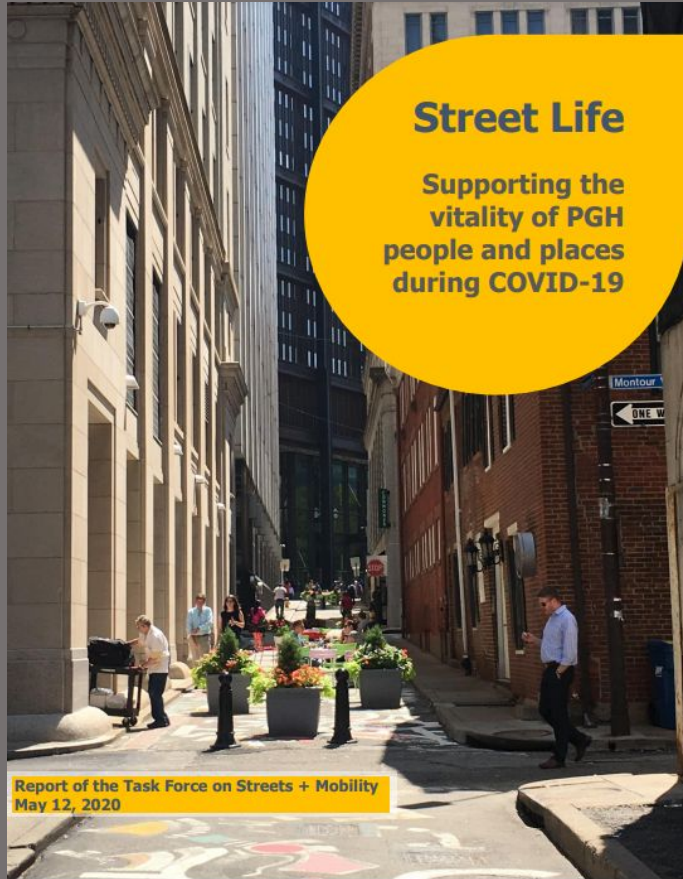
# PITTSBURGH OPEN STREETS INITIATIVES



Pittsburgh Department of  
Mobility and Infrastructure

October 2021





## Street Life

Supporting the  
vitality of PGH  
people and places  
during COVID-19

Report of the Task Force on Streets + Mobility  
May 12, 2020

# PGH Streets and Mobility Task Force

April-May 2020

How can we use public space to  
better support people and  
businesses **safety, accessibly,  
quickly, affordably, and  
equitably?**



# Neighborhood Slow Streets





# Neighborhood Slow Streets



- Cones and a-frames donated to the City by [BikePGH](#).
- Full-time staff member directed to oversee program
- "Bottom-up" approach
- Priority given to streets that:
  - Form a connected network with existing Slow Streets
  - Are potential routes in the draft Pittsburgh Bike(+) Plan.
  - Are in higher density areas.
  - Lead to parks, groceries, transit stations, or other commonly used public areas.
  - Lack significant park or open space areas.
  - Lack sidewalks or safe, accessible pedestrian networks.
  - Are in census tracts with lower auto ownership rates.



# Neighborhood Slow Streets

## What We've Learned So Far

- What most applicants were seeking was traffic calming
- Overall positive feedback about the program
- There is a need to reevaluate the materials used. Many stolen or displaced cones and signs
- DOMI is currently exploring how this program can more permanently fit into the City's other traffic calming efforts

### COVID Streets are a Step in the Right Direction

Posted by Anna | 2 months ago

While Slow Streets seem to need modifications to make them more effective, I welcome them with open arms. I feel that they have made me feel better that streets are places where I can go out and use them for recreation. i also enjoy seeing restaurants and businesses taking new approaches and being able to stay open. I feel like this program has brought more community and neighborly connections which are much needed during this grim pandemic.

NEIGHBORHOOD SLOW STREETS

♥ 1 Likes 💬 0 Comments

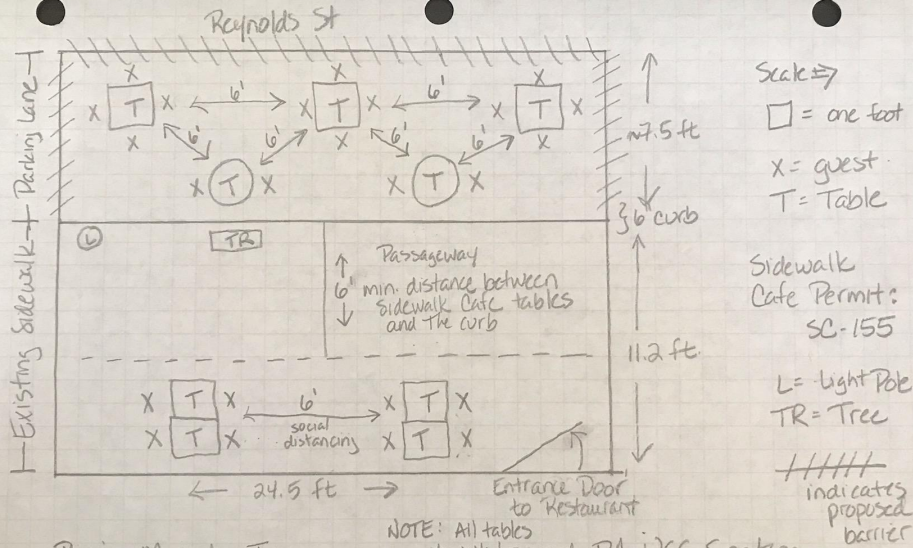


# Outdoor Dining and Retail Program





# Outdoor Dining and Retail



Pino's Mercato, Inc.  
 6738 Reynolds St  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Lot: Block # 0126-E-00089-0000

NOTE: All tables on sidewalk & proposed parking lane will be 6' apart for social distancing.

PA UCC Seating is Available

Prepared by: Jennifer Mico

- Barriers donated to the City by the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA).
- Full-time staff member directed to oversee program
- "Bottom-up" approach
- Expedited permitting process
  - No permit fees
  - Less formal site plan requirements
  - City-loaned barriers if needed



# Sidewalk Café







**Parking Lane repurposed for  
Pedestrian or Queuing Space**



# Parking Lane Cafe





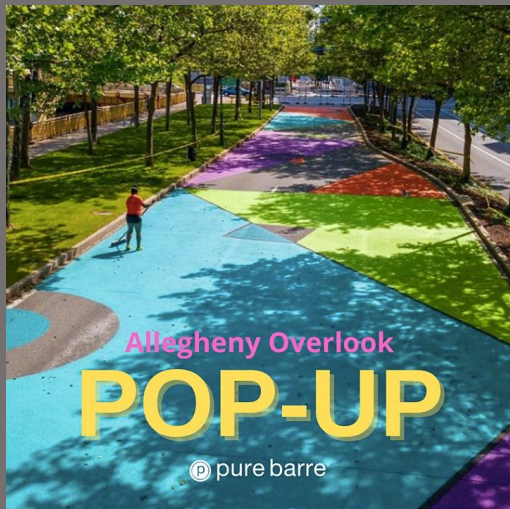
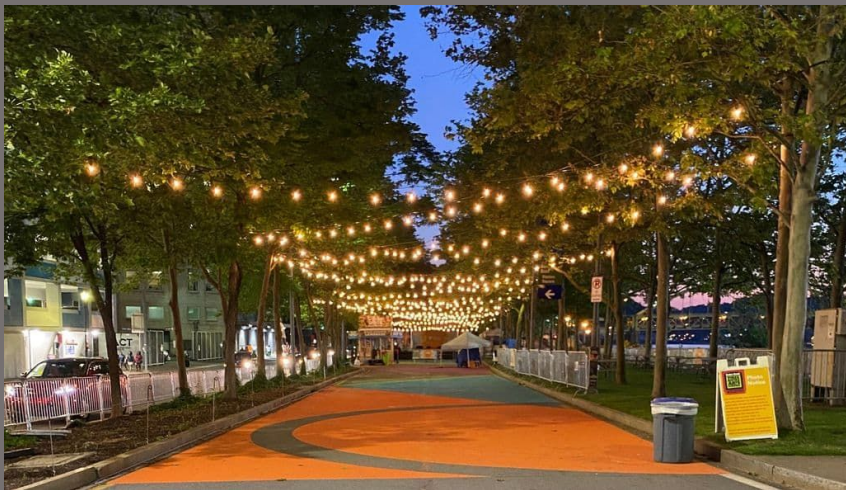
# Full Street Closure













# Program Evaluation

## COVID-19 Streets Response

To address the impacts of COVID-19 on Pittsburgh residents and businesses, DOMI has opened streets and sidewalks for local commerce and outdoor recreation.

+ Follow



Home / COVID-19 Streets Response



### What We're Talking About

The Department of Mobility and Infrastructure has helped local businesses extend into the public right-of-way and Pittsburgh residents to use streets for physically distant recreation and traffic calming. Below are some examples.



**DOMI Wants to Hear from You.**

### Quick Question!

#### Should DOMI's Slow Streets and Outdoor Dining programs be made permanent?

Should DOMI continue Neighborhood Slow Streets and Street Modification for Outdoor Operations (a.k.a. "Outdoor Dining") even when the COVID-19 pandemic is over?

- ☐ Yes, Just Outdoor Dining
- ☐ Yes, Just Slow Streets
- ☐ Yes, Keep Both!
- ☐ No, do not continue either program.

- [DOMI website](#)
- [EngagePGH](#)
- Surveys
- 1:1 Interviews



# Outdoor Dining and Retail

## What We've Learned So Far

- Overall positive feedback about the program from Councilmembers, residents, and BIDs (but not *all* positive)
- Based on feedback from our City-County Task Force on Disabilities, we made program adjustments during the early stages of the program
- DOMI is taking steps to launch a permanent program in 2022

### Enjoyable downtown is at our fingertips

Posted by Messlife | 2 months ago

This is specific to cycling through downtown on Penn Ave. Before COVID, this path was often clustered with people, especially on weekday evenings, not paying attention to users of the bike lanes. It caused a lot of issues and safety for all users. With the updates to allow street side tables and the outbound bike lane, it's much more enjoyable. Merging with inbound traffic is easy. Outbound would be best if the lane was separated from seating with permanent greenery (planters and the like) to...

STREET MODIFICATION FOR OUTDOOR OPERATIONS

♥ 1 Likes 💬 0 Comments



# What's Next for Open Streets in Pittsburgh?

We've already started making improvements to the programs, but there are still opportunities for improvement to make the program more sustainable



**Evaluation:**  
ReOpen PGH Street Life Pilots

**Temporary Outdoor Dining & Retail**

**Neighborhood Slow Streets**

**Department of Mobility and Infrastructure  
City of Pittsburgh**



A large industrial facility, possibly a steel mill or refinery, is shown at night. The structure is complex, with numerous tall chimneys, pipes, and structural elements. It is illuminated with vibrant red and blue lights, creating a dramatic effect against the dark sky. In the foreground, there is a large, open area that appears to be a park or a public square. This area is filled with people, suggesting a public event or gathering. The ground is lit up with warm yellow lights, and there are some trees and smaller structures visible. A large, white, curved structure, possibly a ramp or a piece of art, is prominent in the lower left. The overall scene is a blend of industrial power and public life.

# Questions?