

Open and shut: the case for **Open Streets** in St. Louis

OPEN STREETS INITIATIVES open spaces normally reserved for cars to people, providing a safe environment to walk, bike, dance, play, and socialize, promoting healthy and active living and building community. Researchers in the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis have received funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to evaluate St. Louis' 2011 Open Streets events, and to build a campaign encouraging participation by urban youth and families in 2012. With over 1,800 participants in 2011 alone, leadership from the Mayor's office, and generous sponsorships, St. Louis has the potential to be a national leader in Open Streets. In fact, our evaluation survey is featured as a model resource by the Open Streets Project, a national coordinating collaborative. Working together, we can grow St. Louis Open Streets in 2012 and beyond.



Open Streets 2011 by the numbers

108
MINUTES
Average time spent at Open Streets


58%
Participants who were attending their **first** Open Streets

73%
Participants who spent money at a restaurant or store on the Open Streets route


68%
Participants who became aware of a store or restaurant that was new to them

What do people think about Open Streets?

We surveyed **119** Open Streets participants at the two 2011 events. We asked them to answer some questions about Open Streets, and its effect on St. Louis:

"Open Streets is a free event that welcomes everyone."  **99%** Agree or strongly agree

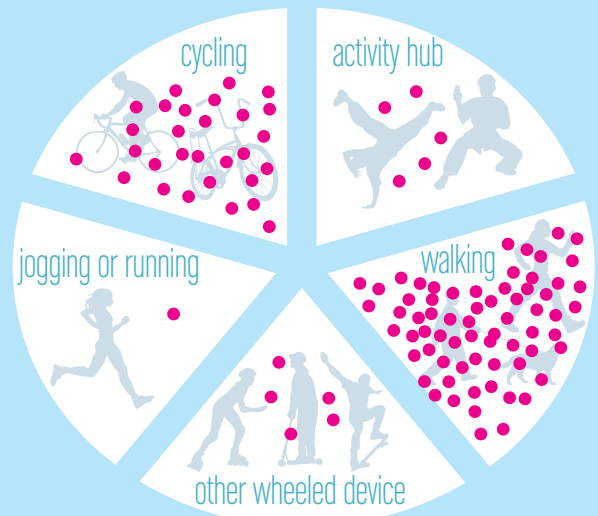
"Open Streets strengthens our community"  **100%** Agree or strongly agree

"How safe do you feel at Open Streets?"  **97%** said "very safe"

"Does Open Streets change your feelings about the city?"  **94%** said "yes - positively"

What do people do at Open Streets?

Open Streets participants could place a sticker on a poster we made to tell us what their main activity was:



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