



Congress Avenue Urban Design Initiative

Pedestrian Advisory Council

May 6th 2019

DEFINING THE SIDEWALK



8' Storefront Area

9.5' Walking Area

8' Amenity Area

The proposed Amenity Area in the Congress Avenue Urban Design Initiative opens up many possibilities on Congress



Congress is already evolving... Pocket Patios are appearing



...the 2018 PARK(ing) Day event received many applications on Congress



We could use existing parking spaces on Congress as non-car “flexi-spaces” for: commerce...



...and more creative/uncommon uses such as entertainment, art, relaxation spaces, and bathrooms



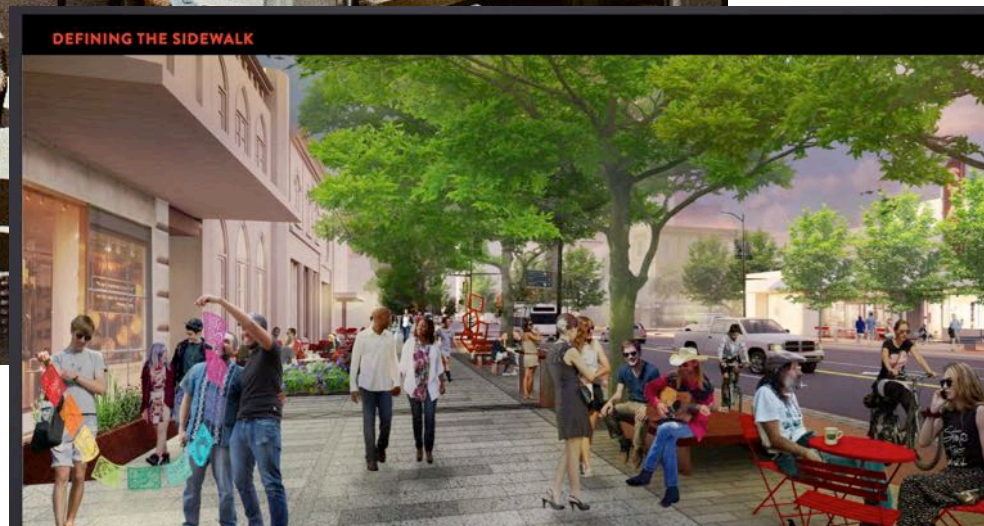
These kiosks are used at the Winter Village event in Bryant Park, midtown Manhattan



These kiosks can house uses such as small businesses, and they define space well



Such kiosks could be used for many purposes on Congress's flexi-spaces - eg. tourist info, restaurants, meeting rooms, etc.



Fully developing the Amenity Area could eventually produce an inviting pedestrian realm as pictured above

SF's Market Street plan would ban private cars, add bike lanes

By Michael Cabanatuan Updated 6:27 am PDT, Wednesday, August 2, 2017



PROPOSED
Better Market Street proposes new paving, a reinvigorated tree canopy and widened sidewalks that incorporate a sidewalk level bicycle facility; site furnishings, plantings and activated sidewalk space will serve as a buffer between the pedestrian thoroughway and the bicycle zone designed for users aged 8 to 80.



San Francisco's plans for its main street would ban all private cars...



Pedestrian Zone

Parking

Travel Lane

Travel Lane

Travel/Turn
Lane

Travel/Turn
Lane

Travel Lane

Travel Lane

Parking

Pedestrian Zone

...So we can certainly be more progressive than just removing one vehicle lane on Congress



Pedestrian Zone

Travel Lane

Travel/Turn
Lane

Travel/Turn
Lane

Travel Lane

Pedestrian Zone

For instance, a 4-lane street creates significant amounts of new space for pedestrians, flexi-spaces, and bike lanes



Congress is clearly a great place for street events. We should encourage more of these on Congress

Downtown Detroit winter markets open with food and drinks, gifts, home decor and more

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- Markets open Thursday and run through Jan. 13
- 75 percent of the small businesses in the markets this year are run by women
- Approximately 34 small businesses have pop-ups at the market this year



Detroit's annual Winter Market is a model for testing a street as a pedestrian-only space for weeks or longer



This "Festival Street" in Portland OR is designed to make closing the street to traffic easy



Pedestrians and bikes can mix when the street is properly designed

Pocket Patios

+

PARK(ing) Day

+

Street events

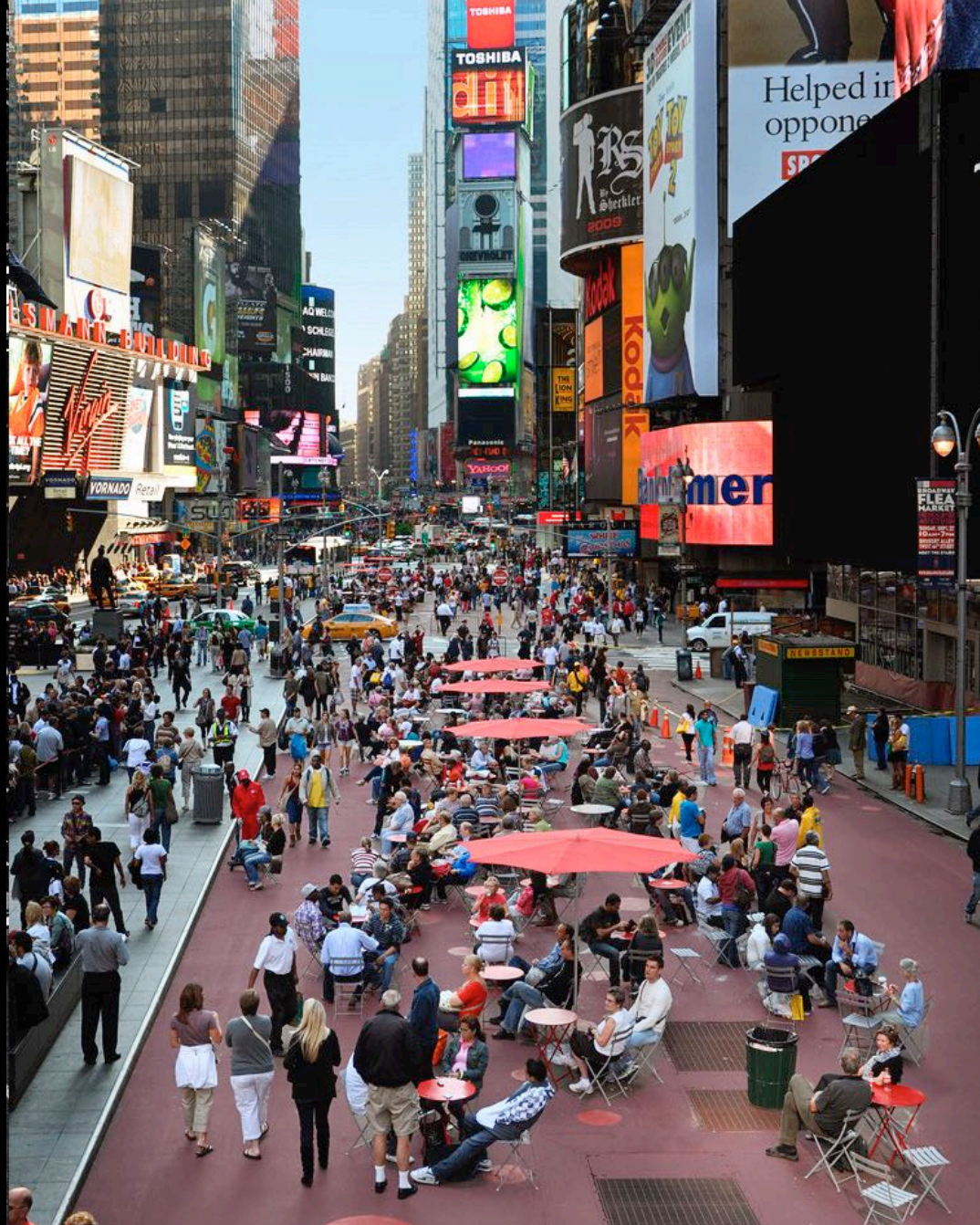
= ...?



We don't know where an evolving Congress will take us but we should allow it to evolve to show us.



Many world-class cities turned auto-streets into pedestrian-only public spaces. For example, New York City in the past...



New York City today...



Charlottesville, Virginia in the past...



Charlottesville, Virginia today...



Boulder, Colorado in the past



Boulder, Colorado today...



And perhaps one day, Congress Avenue could become...



A car-free public space. More information on these ideas: Pedestrian Advisory Council's May 2019 recommendation