

Why do livable streets matter?

Livable streets are important for safety, but they also create more vibrant places where people want to live, worship, work and play. Streets with livable elements, such as sidewalks that connect or that feature bicycle lanes, encourage overall health and well-being. With livable streets, residents can walk or bicycle safely without fear of being hit by oncoming traffic; parents can teach their children to safely ride their bicycles; families with one car can still find ways to get to local stores and work.

Not only can residents be more active, but livable streets make economic sense, too.

Local governments and businesses can benefit from these investments as well. As budget dollars are stretched, livable streets offer attractive alternatives to residents to bicycle or walk, while reducing wear and tear on our roads. Businesses have also benefitted from increased foot traffic and property values. A recent study from the Knight Foundation found that streets that had

more trees and natural landscaping created stronger community attachment, strengthening the place where people want to live and stay.



Scott Lidell/morguefile.com



Brent Hugh, Missouri Bicycle & Pedestrian Federation



istockphoto.com

Missouri Livable Streets is a public-private partnership between the Missouri Council for Activity and Nutrition (MoCAN), the University of Missouri Extension, the Missouri Department of Transportation and over 12 other organizations. Together, this partnership ensures that communities have flexible policies in place so that all Missourians have access to safe transportation options, regardless of ability, age or income level.

<http://livablestreets.missouri.edu>



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Creating safer streets and more active neighborhoods.

LIVABLE STREETS



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BEFORE



AFTER

A road diet allows for wider sidewalks and a new bicycle lane. Renderings developed by H3 Studio for Trailnet.

what are LIVABLE STREETS

Livable streets, or Complete Streets, are streets and neighborhoods that are designed to be safe for all users, whether on foot, bicycle, or in a car. Streets that are designed for all users are safer and often create stronger communities by linking neighborhoods and people together.

Elements of a livable street can include:

- Sidewalks
- Curb-cuts
- Bicycle paths
- Paved shoulders
- And many more.

More details are available at livablestreets.missouri.edu.

What Can You Do To Make Your Community MORE LIVABLE?

#1

Get informed. Talk to your neighbors and friends about what makes your community livable and what needs attention in your community. A great way to start is to hold a walkability audit.

#2

Ask for it. Ask your civic leaders to think about adopting livable streets policies or procedures. These are guidelines and policies that are designed by the community, for the community.

#3

Start small. You can make the right choices for your town or budget. Many grants are available to help. Some elements like a road diet are often affordable ways to get started.

#4

Get advice. Many Missourians have already taken the steps toward a better quality of life. From Festus to Lee's Summit, more towns have adopted Livable Streets/Complete Streets guidelines into their ordinances, policies and strategic plans. Find out what has worked well for them and see what might work well for your community. Learn more at LivableStreets.Missouri.edu.



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