



SCHOOL
streets

| Street Types

Open Streets, Quiet Streets, and School Streets



Street Rebalancing is an approach to street design that prioritizes forms of active travel like walking, cycling, and rolling over single-occupancy vehicles on our streets. Through the introduction of these very street rebalancing programs, cities are able to introduce far more sustainable and equitable transportation options for their residents; which in turn, allows for the establishment of healthier and safer communities for all individuals regardless of age, gender, sex, ability, race, socio-economic status and more. Here, we explain three major street rebalancing programs which are Open Streets, Quiet Streets and School Streets.



Open Streets

Open Streets consist of temporarily closing down a street to all motor vehicle traffic. The goal of these interventions is to promote physical activity. It allows for residents and those passing through the neighborhood to walk, bike, and socialize. The street, instead of being a space for motor vehicles, is converted to a space that increases community bonding through activities such as music, sports, art exhibits, and community events. Open Streets typically take place on an iconic route with regular frequency. The length depends on the population of the city. You can read more about Open Streets [here](#).



Open Streets Program in Toronto, ON
Photo Source: 8 80 Cities



Open Streets Program in San Jose, CA
Photo Source: 8 80 Cities



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Quiet Streets

Also known as "**Slow Streets**," the **Quiet Streets** road programs temporarily close down city streets from 'through traffic'. These programs were conceived as a direct response to COVID-19 and the increased demand for outdoor space that allowed for physical distancing measures to be effectively followed. 'Through traffic' is best defined as any form of non-local traffic in which one is utilizing a street to travel from one destination to another without any local stops being made. These programs typically redirect 'through traffic' elsewhere in order to increase the physical space for residents to walk and bike. In 2020, a public survey report on Toronto's Quiet Streets program was completed by 880 Cities and the City of Toronto. The program was found to be a success for select streets as it established safe, accessible, and enjoyable spaces. You can learn more about the program [here](#).

**Note:* This program allowed emergency vehicles and local traffic to pass through.



Quiet Streets Program, Toronto, ON
Photo Source: Brandon Miles



Slow Streets Program, Oakland, CA
Photo Source: City of Oakland



School Streets

School Streets is a program that creates a car-free environment in front of schools at the start and end of the school day to prioritize safe walking conditions for children, their caregivers and teachers. School streets provide a wide array for further benefits including: the improvement of air quality, independent mobility amongst children, reducing traffic congestion, and the fostering of community connection and general sociability. The program was started in Italy in the 1990s and has now grown to be a worldwide movement. You can learn more about School Streets [here](#).



Mountview School Street, Toronto, ON
Photo Source: Pablo Munoz



St. Alfred & Brian Fleming School Street, Mississauga, ON
Photo Source: Green Communities Canada