Open Streets are temporary events that invite people to experience public streets in ways other than driving. By temporarily closing streets to motorized traffic, Open Streets provide a safe and comfortable space for people to walk, bicycle, jog, rollerblade and play! The City of Fort Collins plans to host two Open Streets events in 2015 to encourage physical activity, increase active transportation opportunities and build community.

Open Streets events promote community pride, local business, air quality, and physical activity, while encouraging the use of streets as a public space for the community to gather and share. With more than 100 documented initiatives in North America, open streets are increasingly common in cities seeking innovative ways to achieve environmental, social, economic, and public health goals.

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

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"

Fort Collins Open Streets ~ Goals

~ Promote and increase active transportation
~ Promote and increase physical activity and social health
~ Increase awareness and acceptability of streets as public facilities with multiple uses
~ Build community by engaging residents of all ages, abilities and backgrounds