

Transportation Has a Heyday

Omaha, NE - Omaha transportation will never be the same after the "Heyday on May Day." The event is sponsored by ModeShift Omaha in conjunction with the City of Omaha Departments of Planning and Public Works, Park East Neighborhood Association, Market West Neighborhood Alliance and Greenstreet Foundation. May 1, from 5:00 p.m. until dark, Harney Street from 24th Avenue to 26th Street will be transformed into a community open house highlighting options for Omaha's transportation future.

The stretch of street will be temporarily reshaped to help visualize how multiple modes of transportation, from cars to baby carriages, can all be accommodated in a single environment. The event is an open house to present the latest update to the city's Transportation Master Plan (TMP) and a community celebration of neighborhood and transportation options.

The Schedule of the Heyday:

- **5:00 p.m.** Arrival. We encourage guests to arrive at the celebration by bike, on foot, or using Metro Transit. A park-and-ride shuttle from Midtown Crossing will circulate from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. For cycling routes, shuttle information and transit details, go to ModeShiftOmaha.org
- **6:30 pm.** City of Omaha **Planning Department** presentation of TMP revision; Q & A
- **Ongoing:** Live music, **Trugs** (Emerging Terrain), art activities, **food trucks**, bike races, hula hooping and yoga demonstrations, **Omaha By Design** place games, open house of local businesses

In preparation for the event, volunteers from the community will transform Harney Street from four under-used lanes to a pilot vision for responsible transportation. Two north lanes of the street will be closed to motor vehicle traffic to demonstrate a protected, two-way cycle track with pedestrian amenities. Donated landscaping, permanent and temporary, will complete the environment where motorists, cyclists and pedestrians all have a safe and welcoming place.

Working with local businesses, artists and neighborhood organizations, the Heyday organizers are creating an event for the entire community including live music, good food, stations for creating art projects, physical activities to promote wellness and a transportation village where the community can get information about the recently revised transportation element of the city Master Plan. Other transportation related agencies and organizations such as Metro Transit, MAPA, and Omaha by Design, inCOMMON and others will be on-hand to answer questions.

The location for the Heyday celebrates the possibilities for complete streets. In the transportation Master Plan revision, the top-scoring project is a Harney Street renovation that has come to be called the Market to Midtown Connector (M2M). The project envisions a complete street concept along Harney Street from Omaha's Old Market all the way to the University of Nebraska Medical Center with connections to Creighton University, and North Downtown.

In the event of rain, open house will be held at the Civic Center, 1819 Farnam Street. For more information, please contact Kevin Flatowicz-Farmer 402-541-9545.

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