



**PRESS RELEASE
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**HEAL Partnership to hold four traffic-calming demonstrations throughout
St. Louis**

(St. Louis, October 5) –Through the American Planning Association and American Public Health Association’s [Plan4Health program](#), the Missouri American Planning Association (MO APA) received a \$120,000 grant for community engagement activities to present a vision for connectivity and safer streets for people walking in the City of St. Louis. MO APA provided the grant to the Healthy Eating, Active Living (HEAL) Partnership to implement the objectives of the grant. The HEAL Partnership will engage the community through pop-up traffic calming demonstrations to address walkability and highlight ways to build better streets through traffic-calming strategies.

The HEAL Partnership is the City of St. Louis Department of Health’s response to the growing rate of chronic disease mortality. The partnership works to increase access to physical activity opportunities, healthy eating, and increase access to health care to reduce the rate obese and overweight people in the City of St. Louis. Trailnet is one of the many partners within the HEAL Partnership and is leading the traffic calming demonstrations. [Trailnet](#) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to lead in fostering healthy, active and vibrant communities where walking, bicycling and the use of public transit are a way of life.

As part of the Plan4Health St. Louis project, the HEAL Partnership will work with local experts to create a variety of tools that can be used for temporary demonstrations for traffic calming. These tools will be used for [pop-up demonstrations](#) in four focus areas.

On Saturday, October 10, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Trailnet will hold a pop-up demonstration in Dutchtown on Gasconade Street between Compton Avenue and Minnesota Avenue. The second demonstration will be held Wednesday, October 14 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., in the Ville and Greater Ville on St. Louis Avenue between Whittier St. and Sarah St. On Tuesday, October 20, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., a third pop-up demonstration will be held in Carondelet on Bates Street between Colorado Avenue and Alabama Avenue. The final demonstration will be held in JeffVanderLou Tuesday, November 10 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Thomas Street and Sheridan Avenue between Glasgow Avenue and Garrison Avenue. Garrison will be a demonstration site as well—between Sheridan and Thomas.



The pop-up demonstrations present possible solutions and provide to St. Louis residents fun and safe social spaces while also encouraging healthy, active living.

“We want our communities to have the best street design that can serve all residents,” said Marielle Brown, bicycle and pedestrian planning manager with Trailnet. “Grandparents, parents, and children should be able to walk to the park or local grocery store together and feel safe doing so because streets are designed with pedestrians in mind.”

Through pop-up demonstrations, the HEAL Partnership aims to facilitate a culture shift toward designing streets that encourage walking. The demonstrations will give residents, policymakers, and businesses the chance to experience traffic calming measures that improve quality of life. In the City of St. Louis, [more than one-quarter \(27%\)](#) report no leisure-time physical activity. While [80% of city residents](#) live within a mile of a public park, poor pedestrian access in some areas may prevent regular park use.

The City of St. Louis recently bolstered its [Complete Streets policy, and has been actively involved in planning the pop up demonstrations](#). The Plan4Health project will explore and present new street designs that could be used to implement the updated Complete Streets policy.

Deanna Venker, Commissioner of Traffic with the City of St. Louis said, “We are looking forward to having this library of tools that will allow communities to 'test out' certain traffic calming options for their community and see the results before a more permanent installation is constructed.”

“Planners throughout Missouri are working to make our communities healthier for all residents,” said Shannon Jaax, president of the Missouri Chapter of the American Planning Association. “The Plan4Health grant is a tremendous opportunity to put best practices into action through demonstration projects that can then be replicated throughout the state.”

The City of St. Louis continues to be designated as a [Pedestrian Focus City](#) by the Federal Highway Administration because of a high number of pedestrian fatalities. Presenting traffic calming measures through pop-up pedestrian plazas, the HEAL Partnership will help prioritize pedestrian safety with the potential to lead to long-term regional projects in the future.

“This is an exciting new opportunity to improve the health of our communities through diverse partnerships,” said Anna Ricklin, manager of APA’s Planning and Community Health Center. “Collaboration is key if we want to continue to create communities of lasting value that are equitable and healthy for all residents.”

The Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Partnership members include: Trailnet, the City of St. Louis (Health and Streets Departments), Missouri Chapter of the American Planning Association, Missouri Public Health Association, Missouri Foundation for Health, Great Rivers Greenway, Gateway Greening, GirlTrek, The YMCA of Greater St. Louis, Washington University, Saint Louis University, Paraquad, and American Heart Association.

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