

# TRANSPORTATION POP-UP DEMONSTRATIONS



A HANDBOOK  
FOR DELAWARE COMMUNITIES




# WHAT'S A POP-UP DEMONSTRATION?

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Reconfiguring roadways and public spaces can help calm traffic and achieve more walkable-, bikeable-, and activity-oriented places. But permanent, large-scale changes can be costly and difficult to launch. Pop-up demonstrations are short-term, collaborative methods used to test functional or aesthetic modifications to a roadway, sidewalk or public space which improves the utility, accessibility, and experience of non-motorized travel or improves the cohesiveness of the built environment.

## BENEFITS

-  Quick and Inexpensive
-  Scalable
-  Environmentally friendly
-  Temporary, but catalyzes long-term change
-  Facilitates community engagement
-  Assists in traffic-calming and Placemaking
-  Works towards social equity and transportation justice
-  Uses a participatory planning process

# WHAT IS THE LIVING LAB GROUP?

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Living Lab is a DelDOT-supported research collaborative between the Biden School, Institute for Public Administration, and the landscape architecture program at the University of Delaware. It is designed to assist Delaware local governments and community-based organizations in planning, executing, and evaluating pop-up demonstration projects. It seeks to catalyze community-driven, pop-up demonstration projects that test viability of long-term infrastructure improvements and placemaking initiatives

# CURRENT GROUP MEMBERS

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**Dr. Jules Bruck** - Director, Landscape Architecture Program

**Dr. Nina David** - Associate Professor, Biden School

**Marcia Scott** - Policy Scientist, Institute for Public Administration

**Erin Fogarty** - Graduate Student, Plant Science Department

**Monique McDougal**- Undergraduate Student, Landscape Architecture

**Cierra McNeill**- Undergraduate Student, Landscape Architecture

## LIVING LAB'S ROLE



Provide consultation support to guide communities in project selection, planning, and design



Provide partial support for costs of installation



Maintain a lending library of pop-up demonstration material



Assist communities project planning, design, and implementation



Develop customized data collection tools for project evaluation

## HOST COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITIES



Collaborate on project and event coordination



Gather support and volunteers from the community



Put up, maintain, and disassemble your design



Conduct pre- and post-demonstration project evaluations using provided materials



Determine need for traffic control plan and regulatory approval (e.g. DeIDOT special events permit for state-maintained roads)



# PROJECT TYPES

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## Road Diets

Reconfigure existing travel lanes with pedestrian and motorist safety in mind. Examples include buffered bike lanes, traffic mini-circles, sidewalk bulb-outs, parklets and streetscaping.

## Complete Streets

Transform an entire street to accommodate travelers and pedestrians of all ages and abilities. Think buffered bike lanes, pedestrian and ADA improvements, bus shelters, level of traffic stress improvements, and transit connectivity.



## Safe Routes

Improve connectivity and accessibility of routes like sidewalks, bike lanes, and trails to everyday destinations like schools, grocery stores, libraries, public transit stops, parks, and healthcare facilities.

## Activity-Friendly Spaces

Activity-oriented events that use community-centered design to activate underused spaces and bring people together. Think pocket parks, pop-up shops, placemaking initiatives or sculpture gardens. Uses the Better Block method to empower community members and officials to create vibrant and healthy communities.



# EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK



## **JAM Trail Extension** - New Castle, Oct. 5 2019

In conjunction with the River Towns Festival, the team worked with the City of New Castle to test a two-way protected bike lane along 7th Street to improve safety of pedestrians and people on bikes at a heavy traffic Route 9 intersection.

## **Sculpture Garden** - Wilmington, upcoming

Working with Wilmington Renaissance Corporation, the team plans on turning a vacant lot on Tatnall Street in the Quaker Hill neighborhood into a sculpture garden - in addition to a community event - to combat a trash dumping problem on the lot.



## **Intersection Overhaul** - Wilmington DE, ongoing

As part of Collaborate Northeast's mission to advance place-based development in North Wilmington, the team and community members are collaboratively designing the Jessup and Pine intersection to add transportation and aesthetic improvements. A number of solutions, including bus shelters, protected bike lanes, and traffic medians will be tested.



# PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

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- Identify the project location
- Identify where you are in the planning process
- List your project goals and objectives
- Identify and engage your project partners
  - Alert local nonprofits
- Identify target project date
- Consider any related local events
- Determine the need for local traffic control and DelDOT permits

## OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Has the project been vetted within a local comprehensive or other transportation plan?
- Does the project fill a gap in existing transportation infrastructure?
- Will the project address connectivity needs to local destinations? (supermarkets, libraries, schools, etc.)
- Does the project address transportation inequities?
- Will the project address concerns with traffic safety, pedestrian crashes, or bicycle level of stress?
- Does the project have strong and broad community support?



# FREQUENT QUESTIONS

## **How long does a pop-up demonstration last?**

A pop-up demonstration can last anywhere from one day to one month, but generally are in place for one or two weeks. This allows time to gather enough varied data and public input to assess the intervention's feasibility as a permanent measure.

## **Who installs the pop-up demonstration?**

While Living Lab provides access to materials within its library and partially supports installation costs, the host community is responsible for gathering volunteers to install and disassemble the pop-up.

## **Does Living Lab fund the permanent projects that may be inspired by a successful demonstration?**

No - Living Lab only provides support for the temporary installation and following evaluation. However, DelDOT may be able to help a host community to find applicable grants to fund future feasibility studies or a transportation infrastructure improvements through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) or Safe Routes to School Program.

## **Where can I find more information?**

For more information about Living Lab, as well as more information about pop-up demonstrations in the state of Delaware, please visit the Complete Communities Planning Toolbox at [completecommunitiesde.org](http://completecommunitiesde.org).

For more information about the temporary urbanism movement in general, check out *Tactical Urbanism*, a free ebook, at [tacticalurbanismguide.com](http://tacticalurbanismguide.com)