



Courtesy: Will Norman (TfL) & Simon Munk (London Cycling Campaign)

Managing Streets During Lockdown & Recovery: Overview

Tuesday 30th May 2020

A chance to reflect and discuss what we've learnt throughout our weekly 'Managing Streets during Lockdown' events and what this means in practice for recovery and the future.

Speakers

Will Norman, TfL

Skye Duncan, NACTO

Andy von Bradsky, MHCLG

Richard Eason, LB Enfield

Bruce McVean, City of London

Simon Munk, LCC

Dr Steve Millington, Manchester Metropolitan University

Takeaways:

- **'We need grit and resilience to continue to deliver...this is just the beginning'** (Will Norman)
Challenges such as balancing different modes still exist, but we have learnt much and delivered an impressive portfolio of emergency changes to our streets over the last 12 or so weeks. We need to keep an open mind and keep innovating, designing and changing streets to meet Covid-19 requirements.
- **There is an appetite for change right now** - if we continue to deliver better space for active travel and reduce traffic, we put ourselves in a good position to secure more funding in the future. This will help ensure a green recovery, we cannot afford to replace one health crisis with another, whether that has to do with air pollution or physical inactivity.

- **‘See the street as part of the solution to many different layers of global crisis’ (Skye Duncan)** This is a time for physical distancing, and streets are the perfect spaces for spreading out and holding many day to day activities including shopping, health care, washing, exercising, learning and dining. This heightens existing tensions in the balance between using space for travel, or dwell activities and now is the time to make bold changes to priorities.
- **‘Move fast and learn on your feet’ (Simon Munk)** As we move from stay at home to opening up messages, potentially toggling between these over the coming months, our streets will need to adapt quickly and practically. Adaptability and pragmatism are key, both in terms of physical changes, and how we engage, communicate and decide on changes.
- **‘How can we get schemes in quickly and build them incrementally’ (Richard Eason)** We need a clear and consistent process for deciding how to move from emergency to temporary to permanent changes, prioritising where change will bring the most benefits in the long term.
- **We need to pull together and get smarter at collective work.** A common brief for new street kit, common approaches to procurement, joined up engagement and shared approaches to monitoring will benefit us all.
- **High Streets need local leadership and action if they are to survive.** We may be moving to the ‘age of local’, where neighbourhood or district centres play an increasing role in low travel lives. Local business and communities are best placed to make this work.

Resources mentioned:

1 NACTO Streets for Pandemic Response & Recovery

<https://globaldesigningcities.org/2020/04/03/covid-19-resources/>

2 High Street Task Force: Covid-19 Recovery Framework

<https://www.highstreettaskforce.org.uk/covid-19/covid-19-recovery-framework/>

3 High Street Task Force: Temporary Public Realm Changes

<https://www.highstreettaskforce.org.uk/reopening-high-streets-safely/temporary-public-realm-changes/>

3 MHCLG Guidance, Covid-19 Safer Public Places: Urban Centres & Green Spaces

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safer-public-places-urban-centres-and-green-spaces-covid-19>

4 Institute of Place Management (IPM): Recovery and district centres

<http://blog.placemanagement.org/2020/06/17/recovery-and-district-centres/>