

Safe Streets and COVID-19 – FAQs

- Why are other cities closing streets during the Stay Home orders but the City of Redmond is not?

Answer: Comparatively, Redmond has a relatively small population and an abundance of sidewalks and bike lanes. Our City also has the Redmond Central Connector Trail, Bear Creek Trail, King County Trails and numerous parks to support alternative routes around the City and ample outdoor space for social distancing. Additionally, Redmond has limited resources to support these traffic revisions and closures.

- Why won't the City of Redmond close just one lane on two-way streets during the Stay Home order?

Answer: While a lane closure may sound simple, it requires a large amount of staff to install and maintain. The City does not have the resources to implement these closures as staff are currently focused on critical functions.

- Can the City of Redmond close streets to traffic in busier Downtown areas so there is more space for people to socially distance?

Answer: Staff has evaluated several locations for possible closures and have found that the benefit would be fairly small. Efforts to maintain traffic control devices would not be worthwhile. Many of these roadways also provide crucial access for residents, businesses and emergency vehicles. As the City of Redmond prepares to reopen businesses, we need to maintain traffic flow in these areas.

What has been done to help pedestrians safely enjoy outdoor space?

- In the downtown corridor, traffic signals have been programmed to automatically serve pedestrians. This eliminates the need to touch push buttons. We have also been able to maintain, staff and keep almost all of our City's parks and trails space open during the COVID-19 pandemic.