Pilot Summary

SANDAG awarded a Shared Streets grant to National City to implement temporary improvements that created safe spaces for people to bike, walk, run, scoot, and more during the COVID-19 pandemic. National City’s Slow Streets program was implemented on West 14th Street between Wilson Avenue, Harding Avenue, and continued to Coolidge Avenue (1.5 blocks). The Shared Streets segment was adjacent to the Casa de Salud Youth Center.

The closures, which applied to thru traffic, allowed residents to spend time outside while maintaining six feet of physical distance from their neighbors. Streets remained open to local traffic, including deliveries and waste services. The closures were in place for one month from June 30, 2020, to July 30, 2020. The pilot coincided with the Community Services Department’s “Summer Kickoff” outdoor socially-distanced event on July 10, 2020. At the event, 100 free activity bags were distributed to children and included sidewalk chalk, jump ropes, and other goodies.

Challenges
The primary challenge experienced during the Shared Streets Pilot Program was not being able to implement a full street closure. With a majority of residents staying home during the pandemic, a full closure will have resulted in adverse parking impacts to the community, as well as disruptions to deliveries and trash service. While the traffic control that was implemented added a traffic-calming benefit to the community, with a full street closure, more residents would have likely utilized the closures.

Successes
The success of the program is highlighted in the photos below that show users of all ages using the shared street segment. Although usage was not high (approximately 20 daily users), there were still daily users of the outdoor space seen riding bicycles, scooters, skateboards, and walking. This pilot gave residents the opportunity to stay active outdoors in July.
Impact
City staff estimated approximately 20 residents of all ages taking advantage of the Shared Street daily. The daily usage included children and teenagers using bicycles, scooters, and skateboards, with most adults using the street as pedestrians. This measurement reflects an accounting of only the residents using the Shared Streets segment and not the residents that use this route regularly to get to their destination. Approximately 80 children attended the physically-distanced outdoor event on July 10, 2020, to promote staying active in the newly-created shared space.

Marketing
Signage was placed throughout the closed street to make all users aware of the changes. A press release was published on the City of National City’s website.

Resources
SANDAG
sandag.org/sharedstreets

City of National City
nationalcityca.gov/government/shared-streets

More residents than ever were using the street to ride scooters, bike, and walk their dogs. Source: City of National City

Children were able to use the street safely. Source: City of National City

The (socially distanced) pilot kickoff encouraged increased street usage. Source: City of National City