

STREET INTERFACE DURING PANDEMIC: THE ROLE AND PARTICIPATION OF FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS ON THE STREETS IN EDMONTON

Major Research Paper – Executive Summary

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Food streets have brought people together since the beginning of time. They have boosted the city's economic value and made the streets and City look vibrant, social, and attractive, which can be called home. In the year 2021, outdoor dining on the streets has been a lifeline for many local businesses during the pandemic. It has provided enjoyment and new destinations in many cities while enhancing the public realm through improving underutilized urban spaces. Like most cities in the world during COVID-19 pandemic, Edmonton has encouraged local businesses to expand dining infrastructure on the street with the launch of a "Temporary Patio and Outdoor Retail Space Program."

In our growing cities, planners and designers play a crucial role in improving the current state of our streets. This research adds to the understanding of Edmonton's new initiatives toward the Outdoor Temporary Patio Program and its impact on the City's fabric. This study undertakes key interviews and document study through a qualitative approach, complemented by a literature review to gain a deeper understanding of Edmonton's streets and streets before and after the current pandemic COVID-19. The study is a result of investigating the impact of the pandemic on Edmonton's street interface. The project examines sidewalk patios and food streets in the context of Edmonton and is inspired by observing how rapidly streets can be transformed and made vibrant.

This research will help planners and designers to gain insight into potential street transformations to improve vibrancy through patio development. It is essential to analyze and evaluate these changes to influence post-COVID-19 urban planning and design in the coming months and years.