

COVID-19 Street Response Survey: Arcata Results

62 survey respondents were Arcata residents. In Arcata, 74% of respondents reported walking and/or biking the same amount or more since the stay-at-home order was issued in March, while 94% of respondents reported driving the same or less. This represents a significant and fundamental shift in the way local residents are using the streets.



32% of respondents reported that it was moderately difficult to difficult to maintain a safe social distance from others while walking, biking or otherwise using the streets. While the majority of respondents reported little to no difficulty social distancing, these results demonstrate that a significant portion of the city's population is having trouble complying with this public health mandate.





Large majorities of Arcata respondents supported the implementation of Slow Streets, automatic walk signals for pedestrians, and reduced parking requirements for businesses as responses to the pandemic. Given the urgent need for ongoing public health measures in response to the pandemic, as well as the broad public support demonstrated here, we suggest that the city begin to implement each of these measures as soon as possible. Several respondents noted, and we strongly agree, that when implementing these measures it is critical to ensure convenient access for people with various mobility limitations.









Many respondents suggested specific candidates for Slow Street locations. We encourage city officials to investigate and consider implementing Slow Streets at each of the locations suggested by local residents:

- 10th Street: F St to G St
- 11th Street: East of B St
- G Street
- H Street
- Beverly Drive
- Buttermilk Lane
- California Street
- Chester Street
- Hyland Street
- Old Arcata Road
- Panorama Drive
- Union Street: Samoa Blvd to Martin Luther King Jr Dr
- Virginia Way
- Plaza & surrounding streets
- Sunny Brae: Unspecified
- Westwood neighborhood: All except Alliance Rd

Respondents also identified numerous areas where they always or sometimes have trouble maintaining adequate social distance from others due to inadequate bike or pedestrian infrastructure. We encourage city officials to review these areas and consider measures to alleviate the problems, including temporary sidewalk or bike lane extensions and Slow Streets. Problems reported on recreational trails, parks, etc. indicate a need for more safe and comfortable walking and biking environments closer to people's homes.

- 11th Street
- G Street
- H Street
- J Street
- Fickle Hill Road
- Old Arcata Road: Hyland St to Jacoby Creek Rd
- Spring Street
- Union Street
- Upper Bay Road
- Arcata Marsh
- Bay Trail North
- Community Forest



- Downtown/Plaza area
- Forest trail from Humboldt State University dorms
- Sunny Brae forest
- Westwood area

Respondents also included some additional location-specific comments which city officials should consider, including the following (reproduced exactly as entered on the survey):

- I would love for Arcata to experiment with making the plaza car-free for a week, see what happens.
- Get cars off the Plaza on Market Days or even more often
- I advocate having radar speed ticketing, especially on Buttermilk Lane. If folks got one ticket in the mail, they would stop going too fast on narrow residential streets.