

# Game Day Mobility Lane

## OVERVIEW

The Game Day Mobility Lane is a one-day test dedicating a lane of car traffic to bus, bike and scooter riders only on North High Street from Dodridge Street to Lane Avenue. It will take place two hours before, during and two hours after The Ohio State University vs. Penn State University football game on Saturday, Nov. 23. This test is an opportunity to experiment with best practice approaches in becoming a city with a balanced multimodal transportation system that meets the future mobility needs of a growing city.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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### **Q. When will the test start and how long will it last?**

**A.** The test will take place on Saturday, Nov. 23, two hours before, during and two hours after The Ohio State University vs. Penn State University football game.

### **Q. Where will the test occur?**

**A.** It will occur on North High Street between Dodridge Street and Lane Avenue. From 10 a.m. to noon, the lane will run southbound from Dodridge Street to Lane Avenue. Then, from noon until two hours after the game, the lane will be switched to run northbound from Lane Avenue to Dodridge Street.

### **Q. Why are the City of Columbus and COTA conducting this test in the first place?**

**A.** Also known as tactical urbanism, “pop-up” mobility tests are an exciting concept that have been successful in other cities. It’s a quick, low-cost opportunity to test ways to make taking the bus, riding a bike or using a scooter on city streets safer, faster and more efficient. Here’s a bit more info: <https://www.boston.gov/news/permanent-bus-lane-be-established-washington-street-rosindale>. We hope you will give it a try and tell us your experience.

### **Q. Why did the city and COTA choose High Street instead of another location?**

**A.** There are many factors. First, this is a highly congested area that makes it difficult for all road users – motorists, buses, bikes and scooters – to navigate, especially on game days. At the same time, this means there is a lot of bus, car, bike and scooter data we can collect. The goal is to get a holistic, yet multi-faceted look at how best to use public right-of-way for multiple modes of transportation. Please give it a try and then let us know your thoughts.

### Q. What can drivers expect during this test?

A. Orange cones will separate the lanes, and parking in the lane will be prohibited during the test period, from 10 a.m. until two hours after the game. Drivers will be prohibited from merging into or entering the lane prematurely when turning right, although right turns will still be permitted at most streets and alleys. Buses, bikes and scooters will no longer need to merge into and out of travel lanes with cars. Extra patrols will enforce these restrictions during the test.

### Q. How wide will the test lane be?

A. During The Game Day Mobility Lane test, bus, bike and scooter riders will travel in a dedicated lane the same width as a normal travel lane which is 10 feet wide.

### Q. As a person who rides a bike or a scooter, how should I use the shared bus/bike/scooter lane?

A. People riding bikes and scooters are encouraged to take the lane and move at a comfortable speed. COTA bus drivers are being instructed not to crowd or pass bicyclists.

### Q. What will happen if a bus wants to pass me while I'm riding my bike/scooter?

A. Bus operators are being instructed not to pass people riding bikes or scooters in the lane. While buses carry a lot of people on High Street, they are a small percentage of all vehicles traveling the corridor. Bike and scooter riders often will be able to use the shared lane by themselves. When buses are in the lane, they will travel at speeds compatible with the pace of people riding bikes and scooters that currently use the lane.

### Q. Can I pass a bus that's stopped?

A. Yes, on its left side, as bike and scooter users currently do on High Street. Always use caution and look for appropriate gaps in traffic. Traffic cones used to clearly separate the shared lane will be spaced to provide sufficient passing areas. COTA buses flash their hazard lights when picking up passengers and turn on their left turn signal when the bus is about to move. People riding bikes and scooters should allow 3-4 feet of distance when passing other vehicles and **should never pass a bus on the right** because this presents a danger to riders and transit passengers exiting or boarding the bus. In addition, we expect people riding bikes and scooters to have more consistent passing space during the test because buses will be parallel to the curb and traveling in a predictable straight line. Buses will not need to idle at stops for long periods to maintain schedules (as is necessary today), which should minimize the need for a bike or scooter rider to pass.

### Q. What are the features of the test that I'll be able to see?

A. On Saturday, Nov. 23, orange cones will be placed to separate car travel lanes and the Game Day Mobility Lane by 10 a.m. and removed two hours after the test. We will designate the area to a 10-foot travel lane for bus, bike and scooter travel only. There will be no on-street parking allowed. Rideshare pick-up and drop-off within the lane will also be temporarily restricted during the test period.

### Q. How will parking be affected?

A. There are already parking restrictions in this area on game days. Rideshares or other quick-stop activities are encouraged to take place on adjacent side streets or alleys.

### **Q. How does the test make traveling this corridor safer?**

**A.** During our first mobility innovation test last summer, we found that allowing bus, bike and scooter riders to share a dedicated lane can be safer and more predictable. Similarly, experiences in other communities have found that transit performance benefits with dedicated street space, improving the customer experience for transit users. However, we're going to test these ideas here and see how they work in our community. Scooters are pretty new, of course, so our findings might help other cities learn too.

### **Q. How will the test make my commute faster/more efficient?**

**A.** High Street is one of the city's busiest corridors during game days, where currently buses, cars and people riding bikes and scooters share the same space. The Game Day Mobility Lane, on The Ohio State University's main transit corridor will separate cars from buses, bikes and scooters making it easier and safer for them to travel High Street.

### **Q. What is being done for enforcement and safety?**

**A.** The City of Columbus and COTA are all deeply committed to the safety of all roadway users. COTA will provide supplemental operator training on bike/scooter/bus interactions in advance of the Game Day Mobility Lane test. Bus operators are being instructed not to crowd or pass people riding bikes and scooters. Temporary signage will notify drivers of lane restrictions and appropriate turning locations; orange cones will separate the Game Day Mobility Lane from car traffic; and special duty parking and traffic enforcement will be onsite for the entirety of the test.

### **Q. What data is being tested?**

**A.** Metrics for the test are still being solidified but at minimum they will likely include bus, bike and scooter rider satisfaction and travel time saved; on-time bus service performance, and overall traffic flow. We'll also interview riders before, during and after the test to learn more about their travel experiences. This will inform potential future tests, to be located either on High Street or in other areas throughout Columbus.

### **Q. What are the next steps for High Street after the test?**

**A.** Before making any long-term decisions, the team will first gather data to better inform how we can incorporate multimodal designs into our streets. There are no plans to make the test's infrastructure permanent in this area.

### **Q. What other tests are being planned?**

**A.** This is the second of a series of Mobility Innovation Tests that will take place throughout the city. Details on future tests are still in the works and they will be informed by what is learned in this test.

### **Q. Who is involved in this project and who can I contact if I have other questions about the Game Day Mobility Lane?**

**A.** The Game Day Mobility Lane is being carried out by City of Columbus City Council, Columbus Department of Public Service and COTA. You can direct questions to David Miller, Press Secretary, Columbus City Council, [dmmiller@columbus.gov](mailto:dmmiller@columbus.gov). Please also copy Mindy Justis, Communications Lead, MurphyEpson, [mjustis@murphyepson.com](mailto:mjustis@murphyepson.com).

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