Pittsburghers prioritize public space & the pedestrian experience when envisioning the future of Smithfield Street

An online survey served as the first of many opportunities for the public to weigh in on the two parallel projects taking place along the Smithfield corridor in the Central Business District (CBD).

The survey was available to complete on the Reimagining Smithfield EngagePGH site page from November 2 - December 13, 2021 and received a total of 394 responses across the two interactive maps and survey questions.

About the respondents

What was your primary mode of transportation when traveling to and from Smithfield Street in the last 12 months?

- Walk: 32%
- Drive: 26%
- Public transit: 18%
- Bike: 8%

Other: 6%

What is your primary concern with how Smithfield Street functions today?

- Limited availability of amenities & furnishings (i.e. seating, transit shelters, lighting, wayfinding): 17%
- Narrow sidewalk space that doesn’t allow clear pedestrian flow: 5%
- Insufficient street trees and greenery: 4%
- Other: 10%

Unsafe intersections for pedestrians of all ages and abilities: 19%

Lack of specialty or high-quality materials: 8%

Insufficient street trees and greenery: 5%

Narrow sidewalk space that doesn’t allow clear pedestrian flow: 8%

What were your primary reasons for visiting Smithfield Street in the last 12 months?

- Work: 49%
- Dining: 26%
- Shopping: 23%
- Live: 15%
- Entertainment: 15%
- Other: 14%

What was your primary mode of transportation when traveling to and from Smithfield Street in the last 12 months?

- Walk: 47%
- Drive: 45%
- Public transit: 24%
- Bike: 22%
- Other: 13%

Based on the current conditions of Smithfield Street, what are your top two priorities to incorporate into the sidewalks and adjacent space to improve the pedestrian experience?

- Outdoor dining and cafe seating: 47%
- Mini pop-up parks and playgrounds: 45%
- Covered seating and other types of furniture: 24%
- Temporary or permanent art installations: 22%
- Live music and performances: 13%
- Other: 8%

When asked to brainstorm strategies to make Smithfield Street a more inclusive and diverse space, Pittsburghers said...

- Public Restrooms
- Pedestrian Safety & Comfort
- Pedestrian-Scale Lighting
- Homeless & Drug Outreach Services
- Affordable Housing
- Multi-modal connectivity
- Culturally Diverse Art Installations
- No Hostile Architecture
- Businesses for a Range of Income Levels

Reimagining Smithfield is a set of projects that will reimage and rebuild Downtown’s historic and vital Smithfield Street through a unique partnership between the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership and the City of Pittsburgh’s Department of Mobility and Infrastructure and the Department of City Planning.