1 Easy and open access and egress points (e.g. no barricades or forced crowding)

2 Use special event planning tools (e.g. posted parking restrictions) for anticipated protests
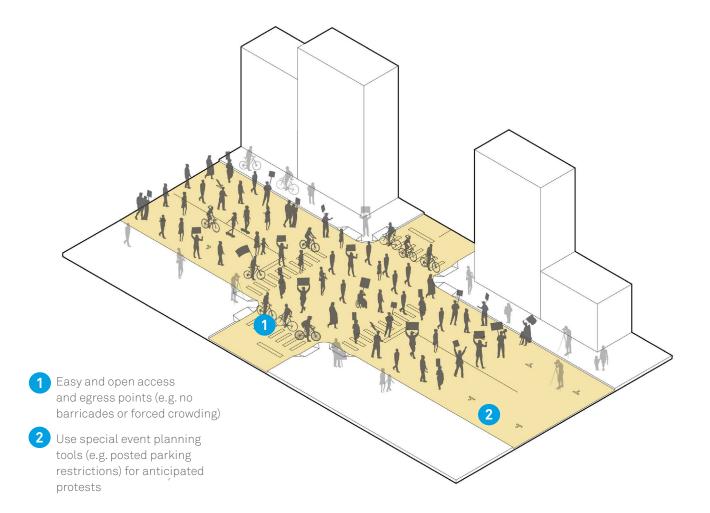
Facilitate safe access to public spaces for demonstration and protest as a fundamental civic right.

CONTEXT
- Iconic parks, streets, and squares typically used for demonstrations or rallies.
- Decentralized in neighborhood public spaces and streets.
- Large streets and bridges; locations of community or historical significance.

TIMELINE: Hours to days.

DURATION: Days, weeks, months.

Credit: @clarendipity

Minneapolis, MN, USA

In Minneapolis, members of the community and local artists commemorate George Floyd, killed by police. Local organizations offer water and sanitizer to demonstrators and residents nearby.

Policy + Engagement

- Reaffirm the rightful role of public plazas and streets as places for protest and demonstration, even during the pandemic.
- Establish and convey clear goals for on-site management, de-escalating conflict, allowing unimpeded movement, and addressing medical/safety needs for all.
- Assure that permit/notice requirements do not criminalize spontaneous protest or people moving in the vehicular right-of-way for civic action.
- Ensure all on-site staff wear equipment consistent with public health guidance to prevent transmitting the virus, among themselves or to others in proximity.

Design Approach

- Ensure safety of protestors, medical professionals, journalists, and Legal Observers with abundant space for physical distancing.
- Maintain free movement of participants along route and at intersections, pause points, etc., to prevent bottlenecks or forcing participants into confined spaces.
- Deploy heavy materials (or fixed vehicles) in real time along march routes to prevent motor vehicle violence and conflicts.
- Consider smaller, more maneuverable EMT vehicles or perhaps sanitation vehicles, which can also serve as receptacles for debris clean-up.
- Ensure that materials or vehicles are flexible to allow safe, easy egress in case of emergency. Leave gaps to prevent pinch points or corralling.
- If protests are noticed/ongoing:
  - Pedestrianize gathering space and remove unfixed barricades.
  - Post route or station changes for transit, bike/scooter share, ride-hail, etc., to ensure options for essential workers and residents.
  - Reconfigure temporary furnishings to maintain participant safety and access.

Management Practices

- Coordinate on-site logistics through social service providers such as social workers, EMTs, or firefighters.
- Refine detour plans and update app data for affected transit routes and stations, as with other major street closures.
- Avoid crowd management strategies that imply need for detention, such as no-go zones, curfews, and designated access/egress points.
- Adjust parking requirements, providing clear information to businesses and residents.
- Revise interagency agreements and employee guidelines periodically based on agency values, common goals, and public health guidance.

Credit: @seinahpets

Seattle, WA, USA

Protestors in Seattle block an intersection with their bicycles, allowing for safe movement of the group behind them.

Credit: @longfellowfilms

Kathmandu, Nepal

Protestors gather near the Prime Minister's official residence in Nepal.