

THE DANISH ARCHITECTURAL PRESS

Jan Gehl

LIFE BETWEEN BUILDINGS

Using Public Space

1971

Sembra ma non è un «beatnik»

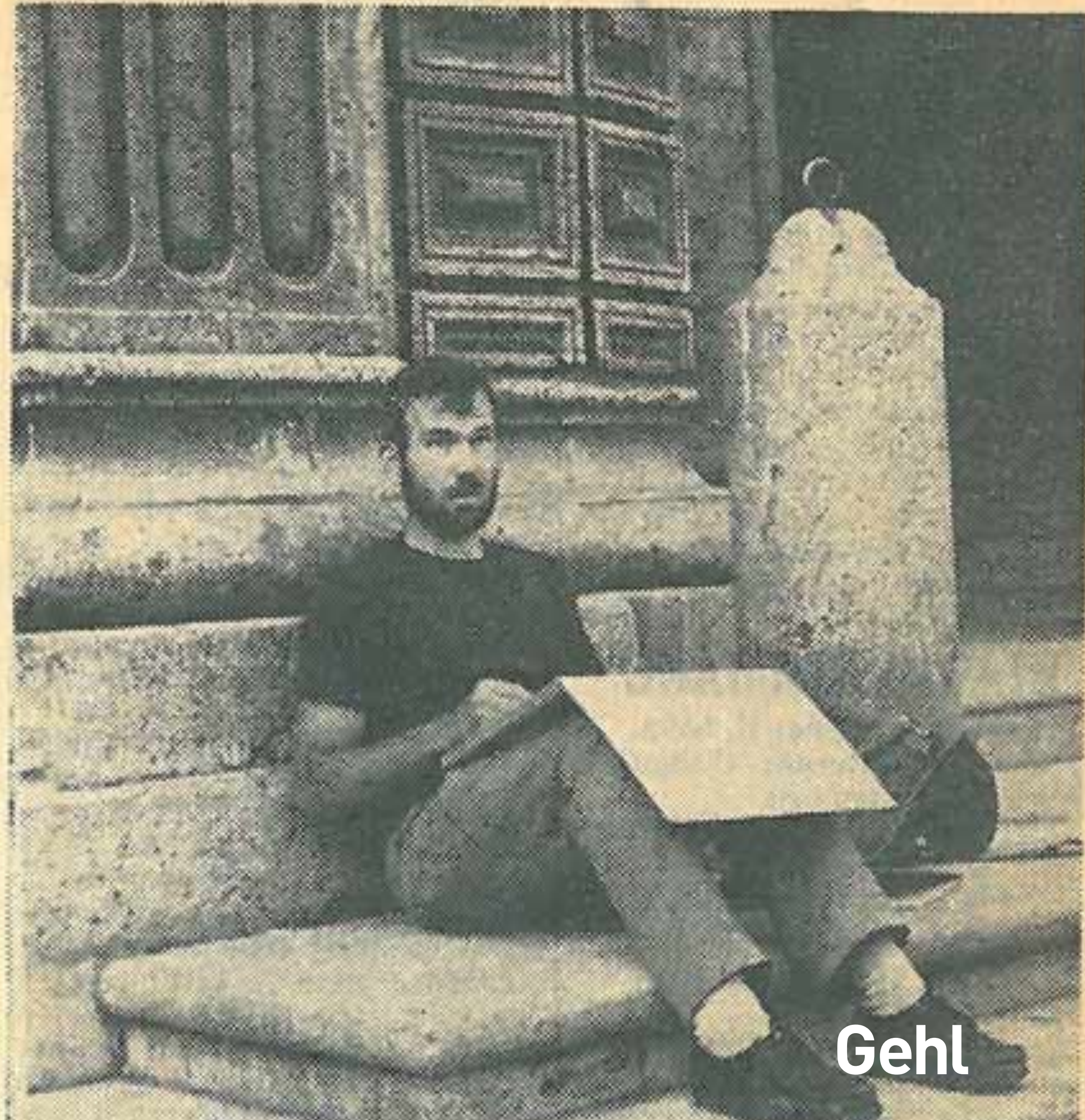
Da diversi giorni abbiamo notato un giovane straniero aggirarsi per la Piazza del Popolo. Abbiamo subito pensato: «I beatnik» in Ascoli?

Ma il suo fare aveva qualcosa di particolare. A parte le misurazioni ed i rilievi con strani apparecchi ottici, lo straniero prendeva in continuazione appunti su tutti i passanti. Insomma chi era?

Poche parole di presentazione e di saluto e subito si è scoperto l'arcano. Si tratta dell'architetto danese Jan Gehl, che avendo ricevuto una borsa di studio per studiare la forma e la vita delle piazze italiane da un punto di vista architettonico e sociologico, ha incluso la nostra Piazza del Popolo nei suoi itinerari.

Il giovane e simpaticissimo architetto, che si avvale della collaborazione della gentile consorte laureata in psicologia, si va chiedendo perché mai — nei centri storici italiani — con tanti viali e belle strade nuove, la popolazione insista a passeggiare sulle antiche piazze.

Saremmo interessati, al termine delle sue indagini, di conoscere...



Gehl



Gehl

Handwritten notes in a spiral notebook, including a small photograph of a building.

Handwritten notes in a spiral notebook, possibly describing a location or event.

Handwritten notes in a spiral notebook, including the name "SUSAN BELLA" in a box.

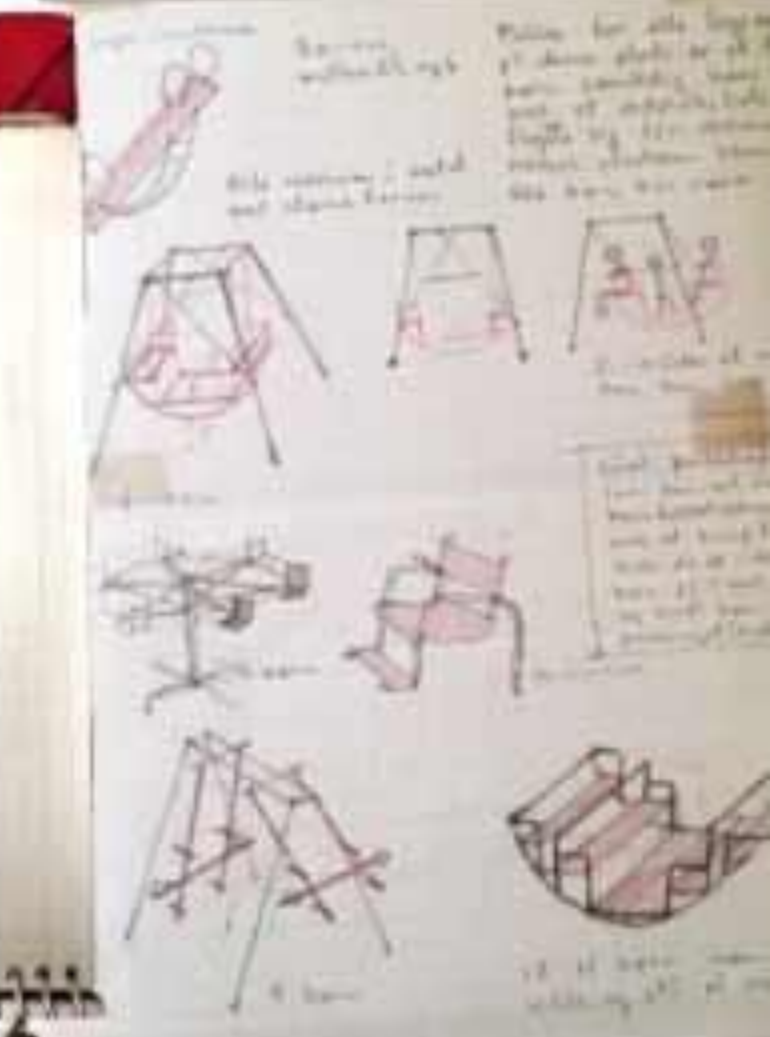


Two pages of a spiral notebook featuring film strips of street scenes and handwritten notes.

Handwritten notes in a spiral notebook, including the name "SUSAN BELLA" in a box.



Handwritten notes in a spiral notebook, including a drawing of a boat and the name "TARATA TERRAZZA".



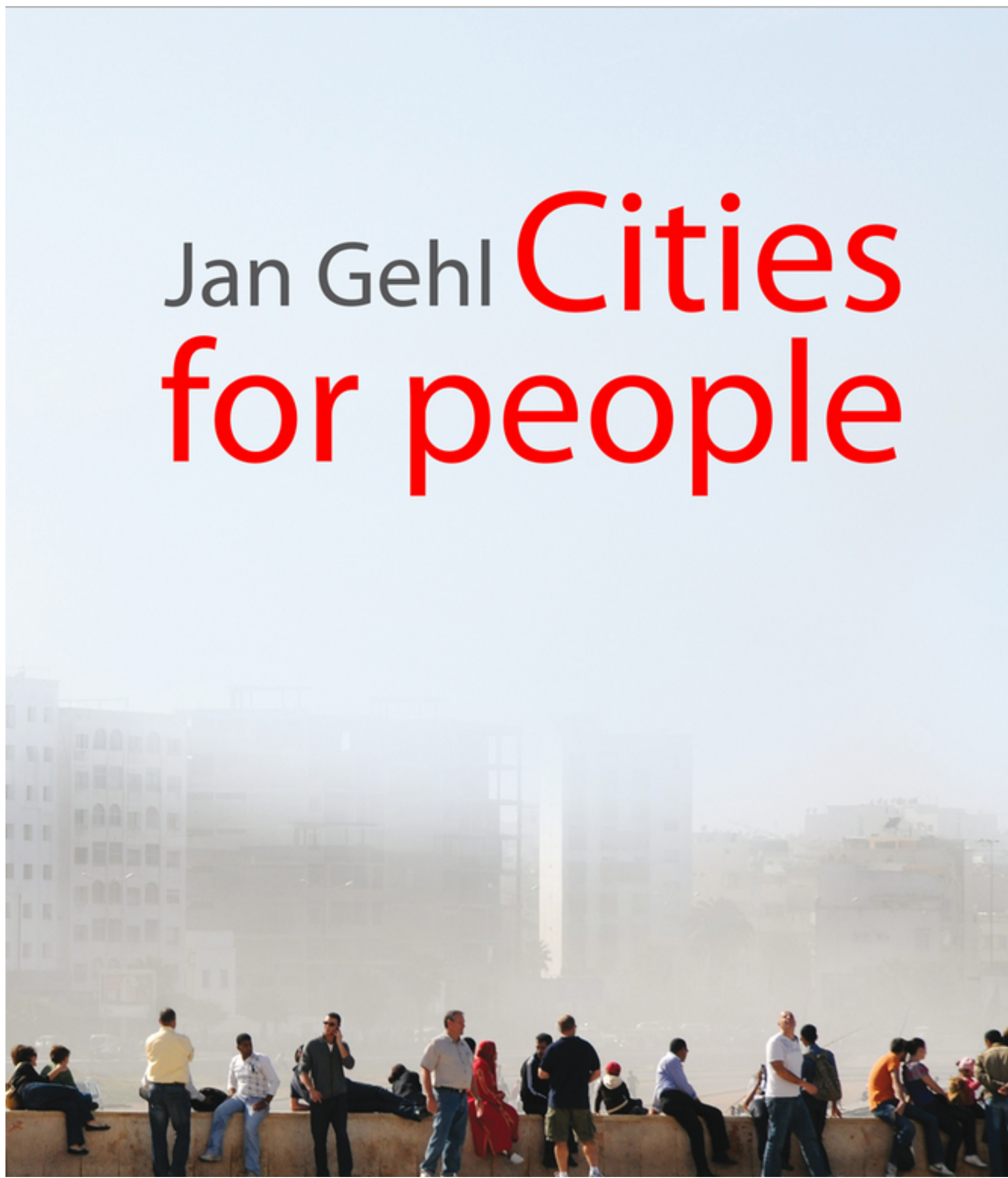
DATE	TIME	PLACE	REMARKS
1971	10:30
1971	11:00
1971	11:30
1971	12:00
1971	12:30
1971	13:00
1971	13:30
1971	14:00
1971	14:30
1971	15:00
1971	15:30
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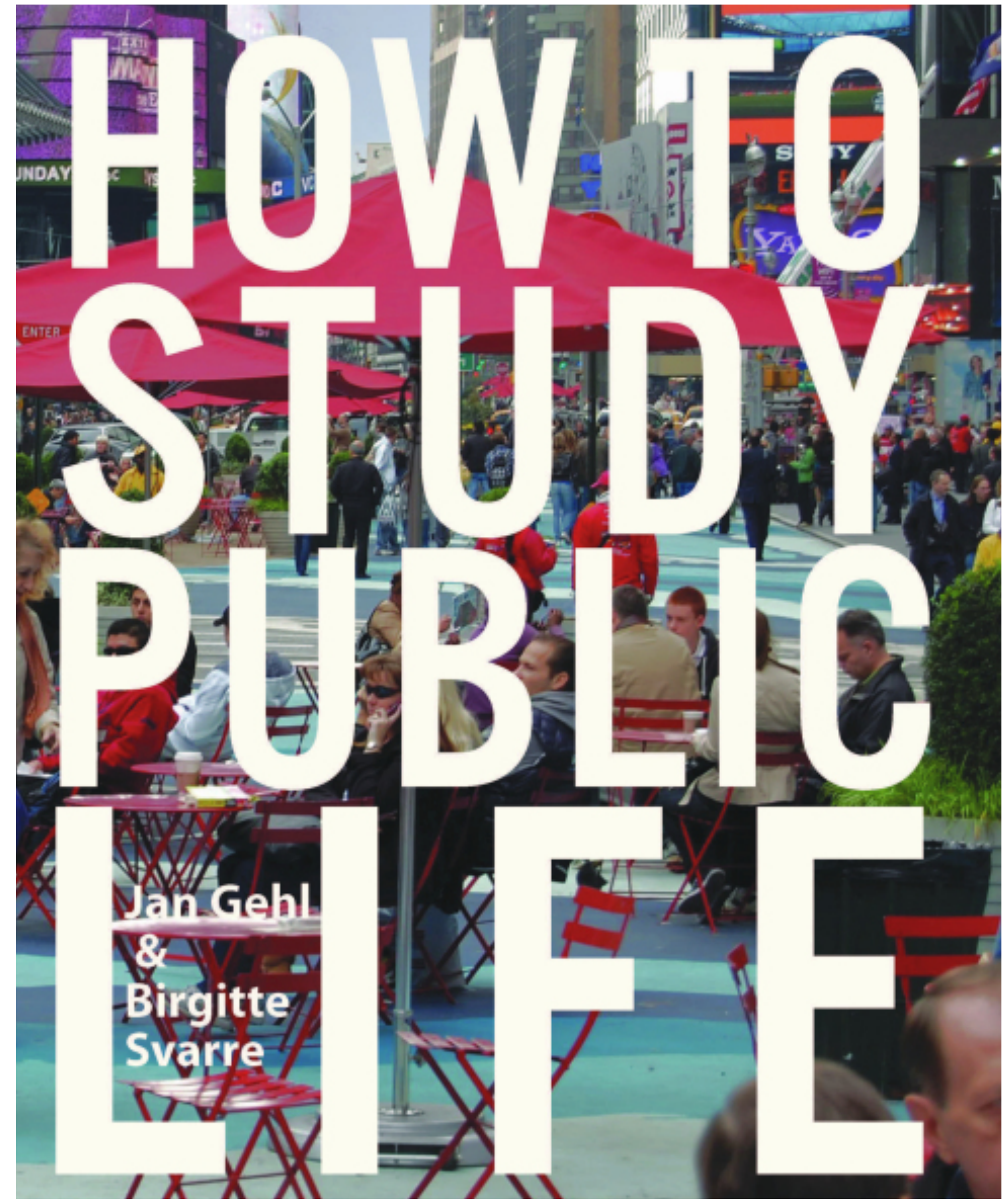
A page from a spiral notebook featuring a photograph of a landscape with a cow and a lake, and handwritten notes.



Jan Gehl **Cities**
for people



2010



2014

As social scientists
we investigate life through the
analysis of public life



As designers
we study the quality of the
built environment





Public Life

What people collectively create when they live their lives outside of their home, workplace and car.





Watching others is
humankind's
greatest joy.

— Icelandic saying



We are drawn to environments that make us comfortable



We walk in the shade when it's hot



We sit in the sun when it's cold

that is, if there's a place to sit!

Distances play an important role when we experience cities and social contact increases when we get closer.

30M

Recognizing individuals & one-way communication



0,5-3,7M

Talking & interacting

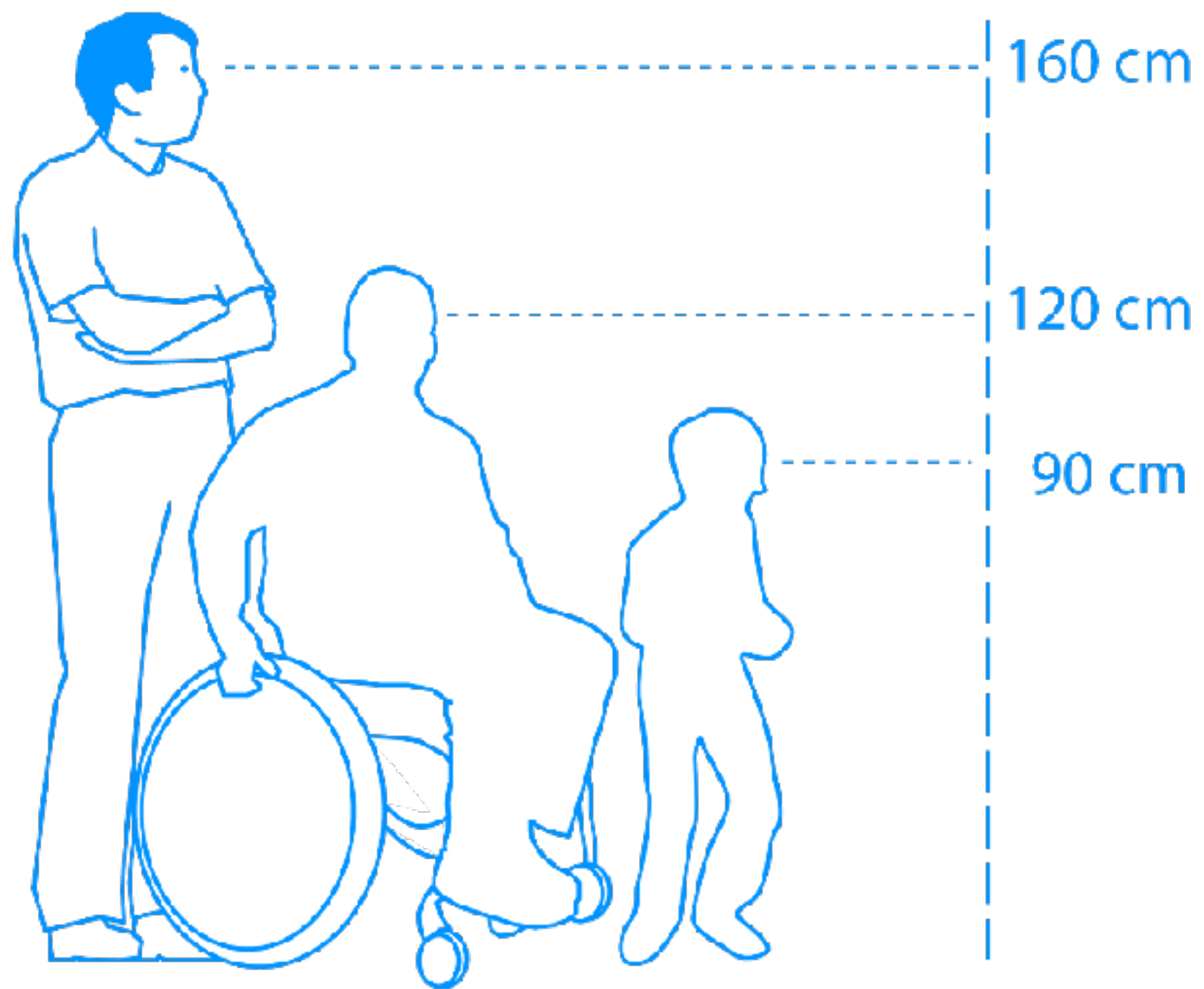


0,5M

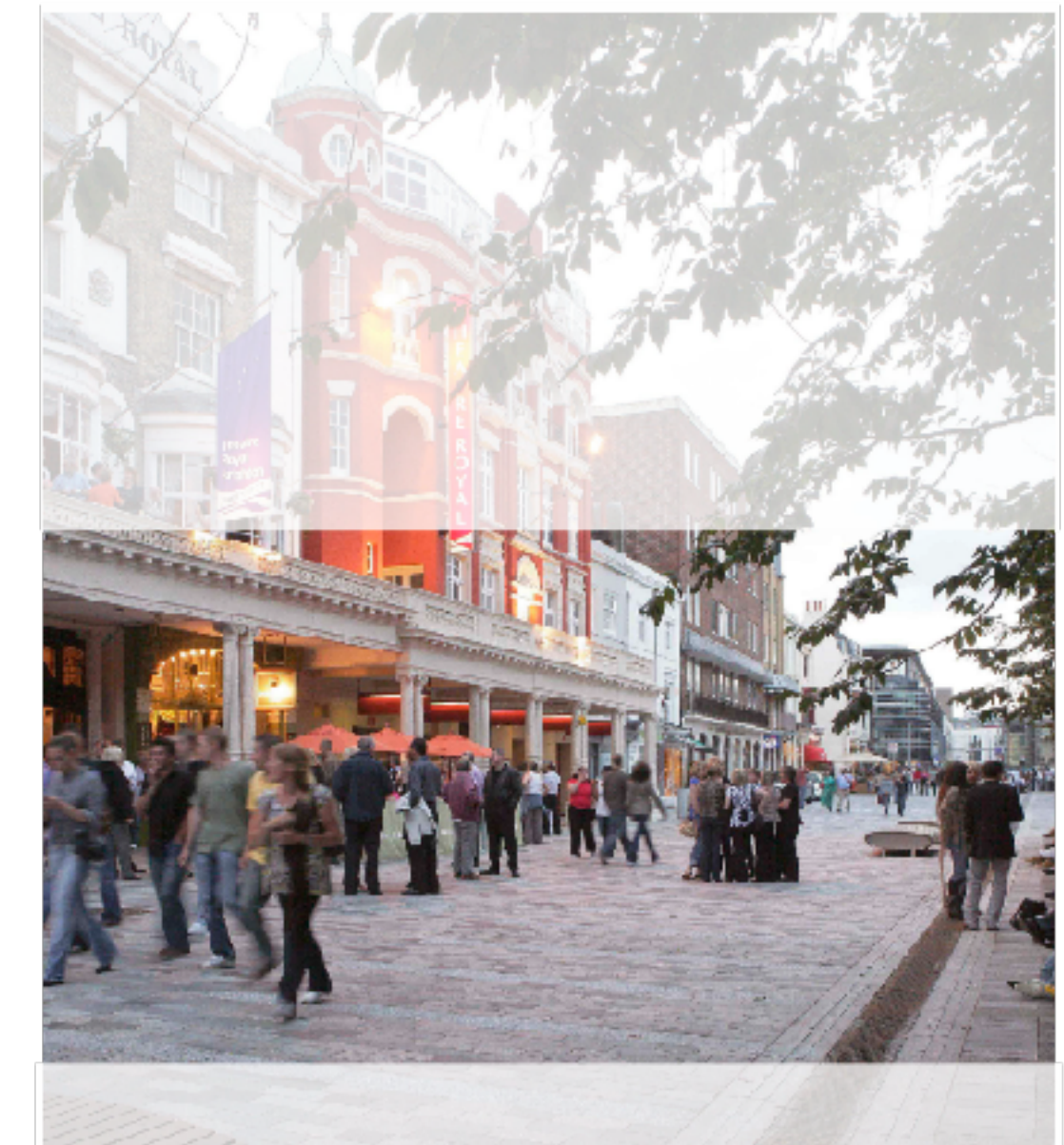
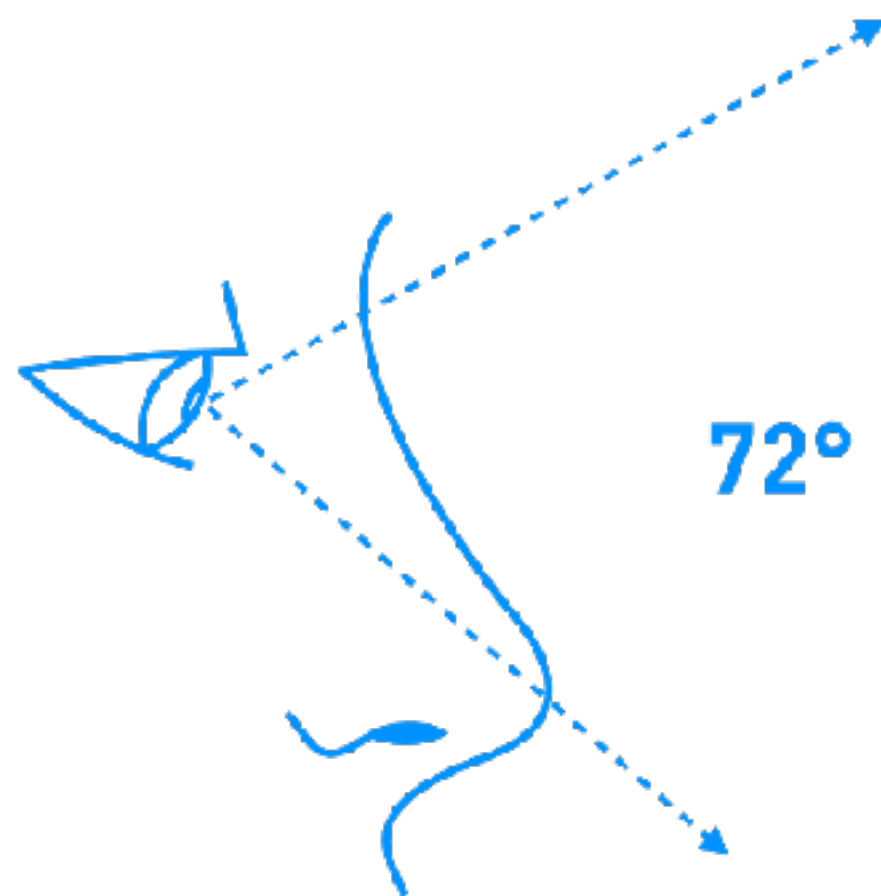
Intimate distance, strong impressions

20M

Recognizing faces & emotions



Humans need ~ 1,000 stimuli per hour



Humans need ~ 1,000 stimuli per hour

4 sec.

4 sec.

4 sec.

4 sec.





NO BICYCLE
RIDING ON
SIDEWALK
OF 2000 JAN 17 2018



The Tietgen Students' Residence,
Lundgaard & Tranberg Architects, 2005



**“we measure
what we care
about”**

- Jan

Gehl





Observation is at the core of what we do

Design



User Experience

**We measure
people
moving**

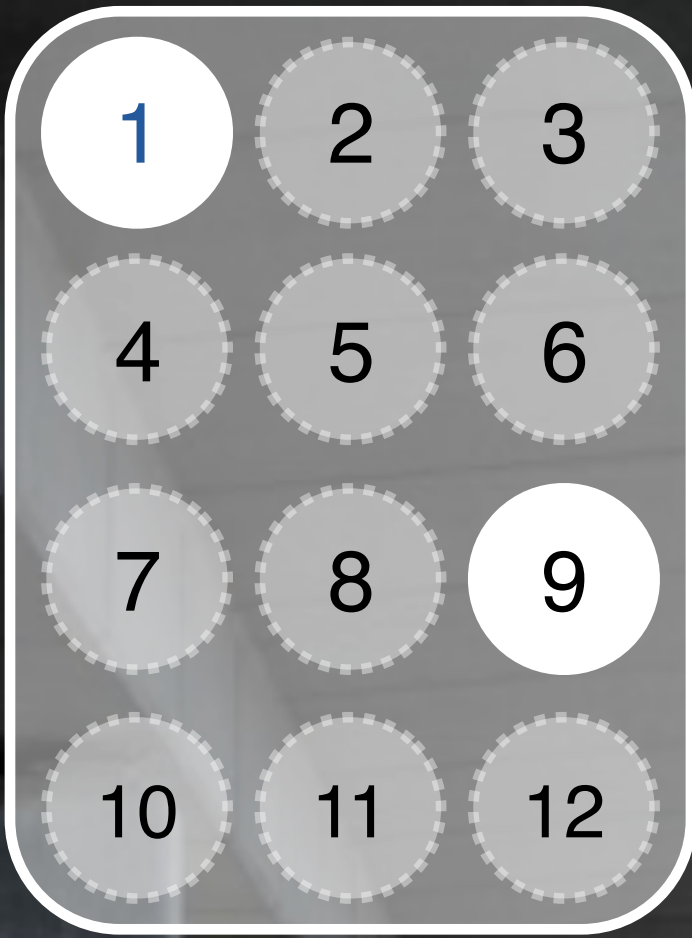


**We measure
people
staying**

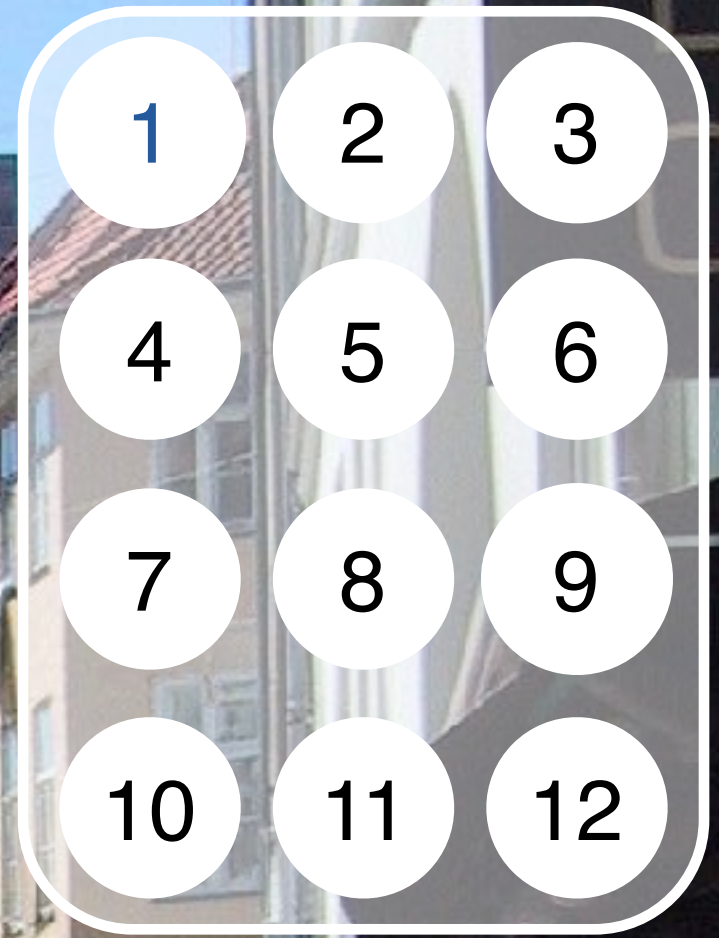


We measure public space quality





**Sticky
or
Not?**



Kay Fiskers Plads

8,000 pedestrians per day
18 people staying per hour

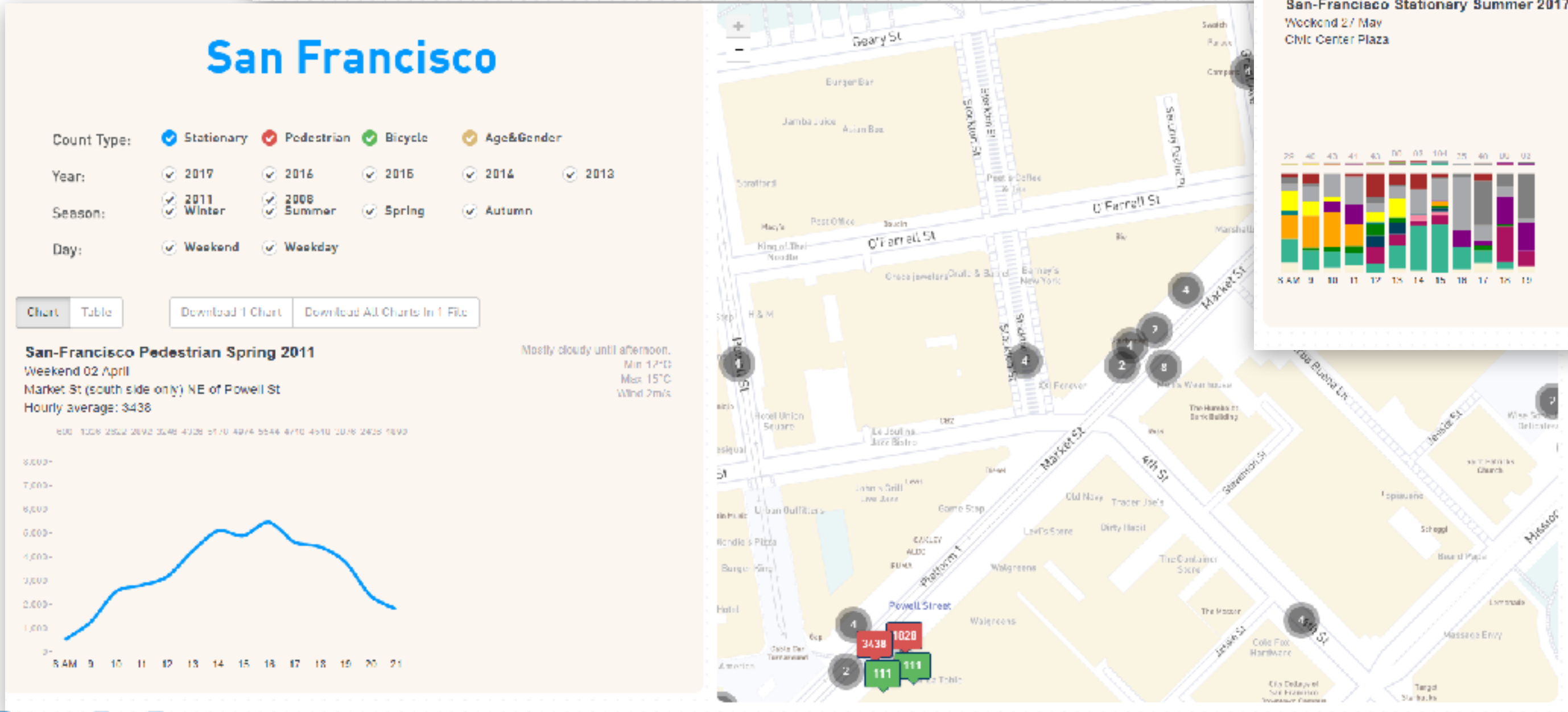
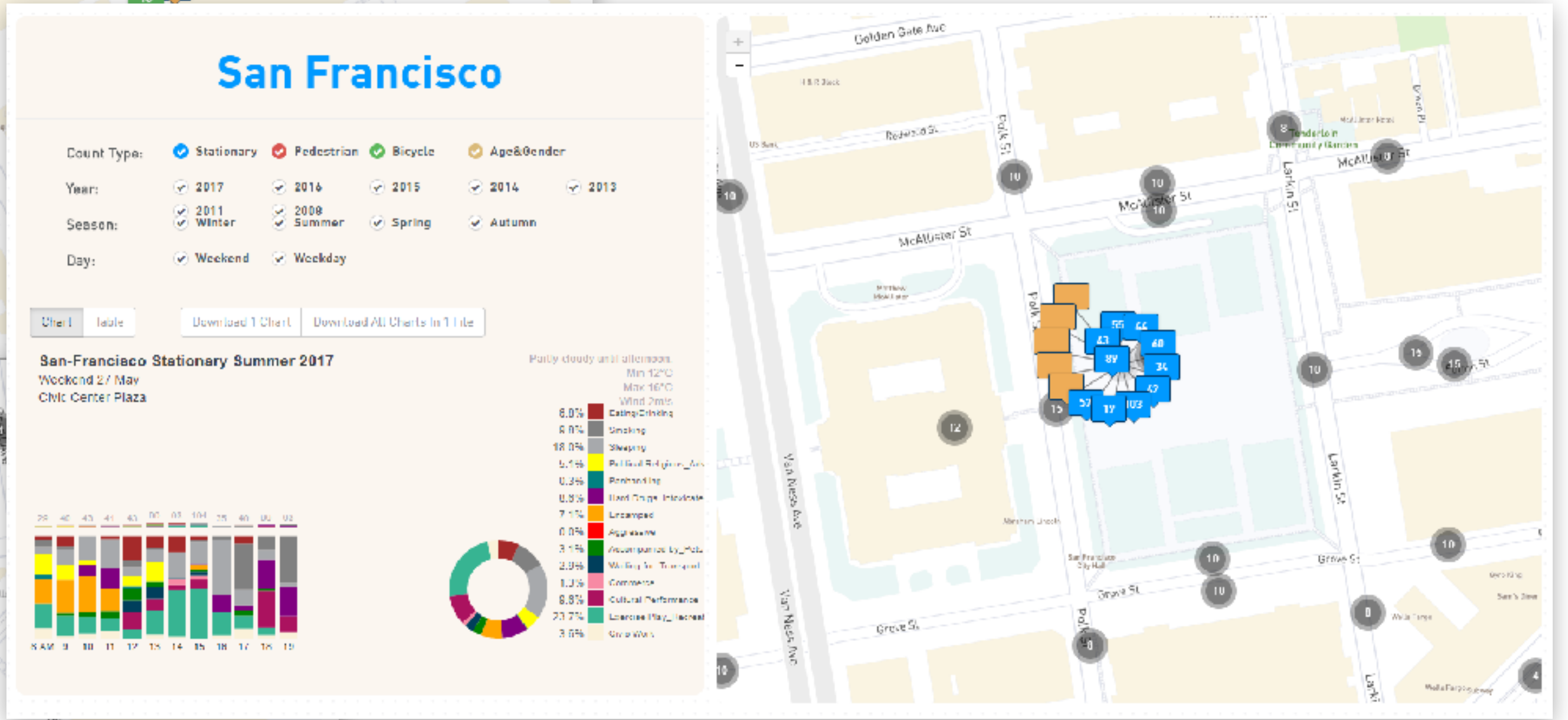
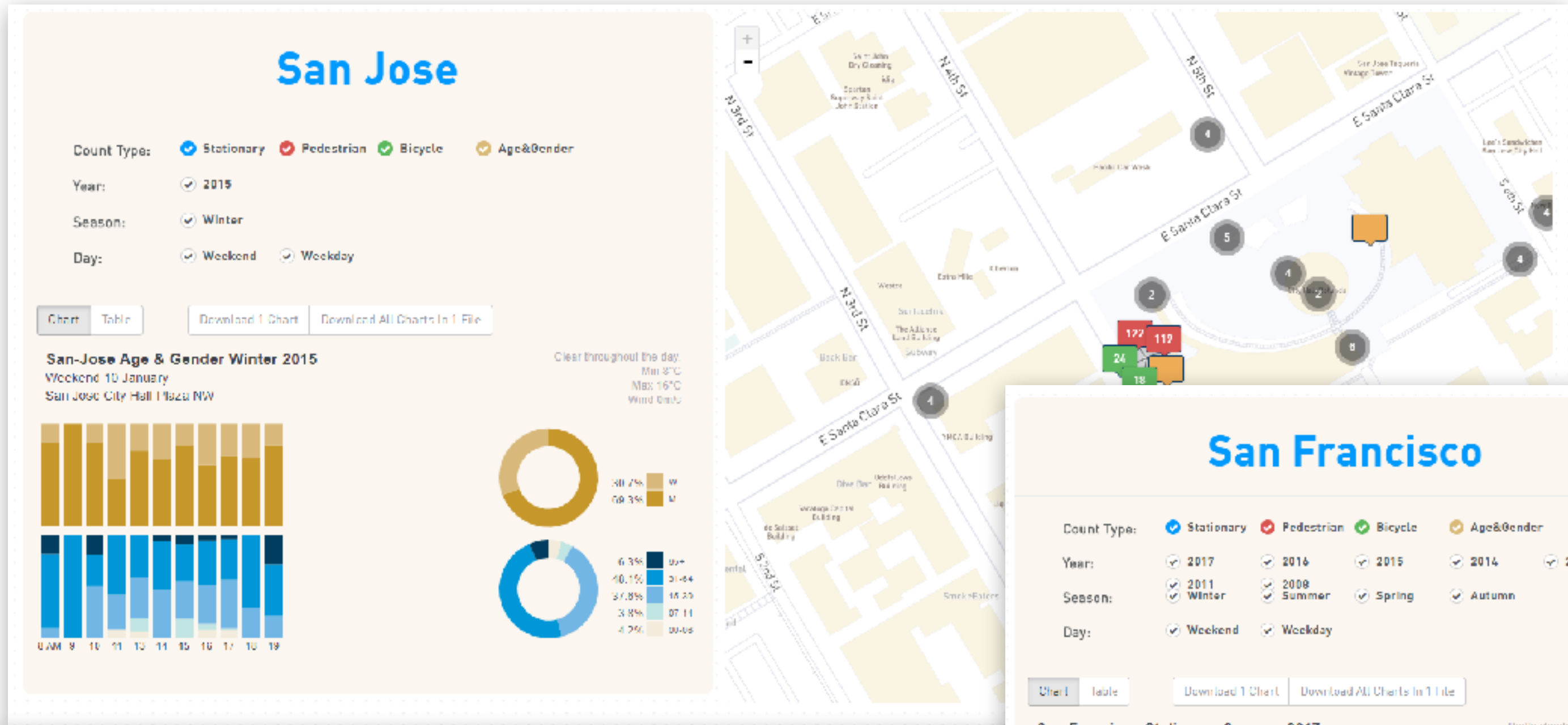
Strædet

8,000 pedestrians per day
258 people staying per hour

People Data

This window into the Gehl Public Life database helps us tell stories about people in public places all over the world. Easily create charts and tables just by selecting survey locations. Download these visualizations to your computer and use them in Adobe Illustrator and InDesign.

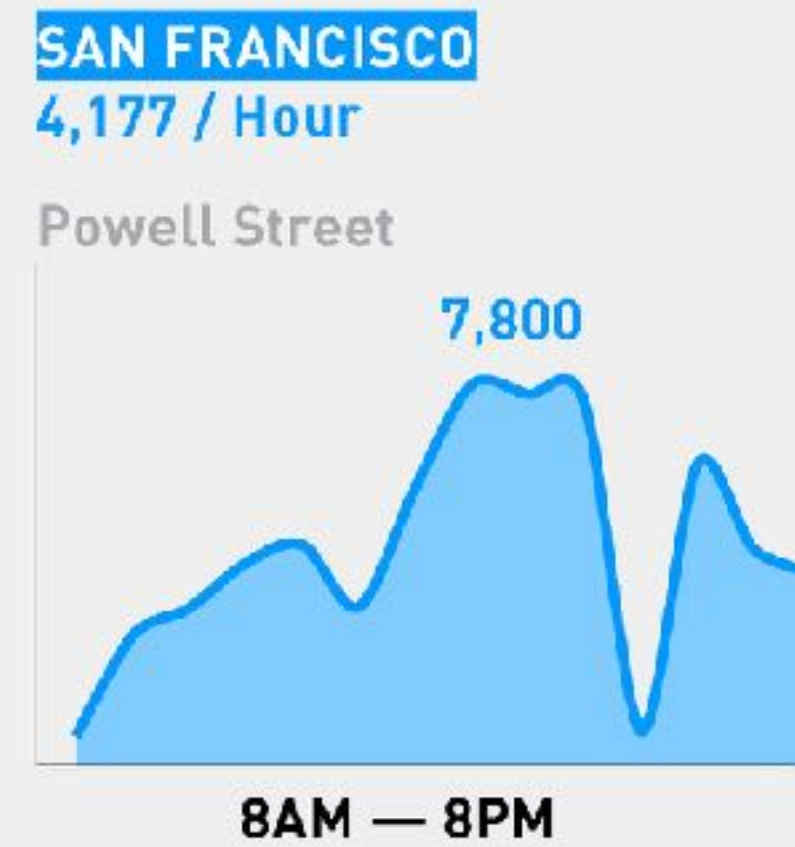




Benchmarking compared to other cities

Lower Broadway is one of the busiest streets we've seen.

WOOOAH!



Public Realm?



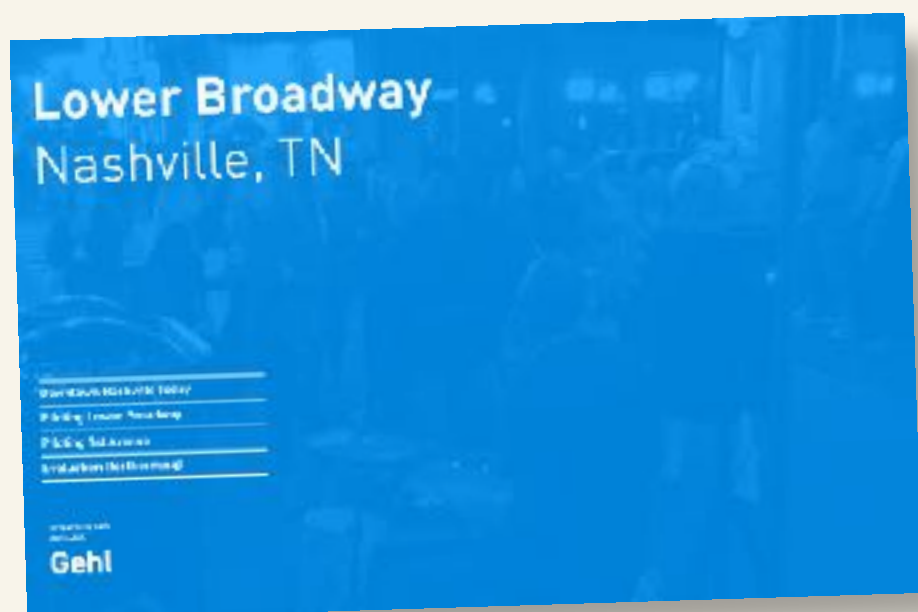
+ Public Realm



+ Public Realm



+ Public Realm



Why Collect Data?

To find **human stories**

To **inform strategy** and design

To provide **evidence**

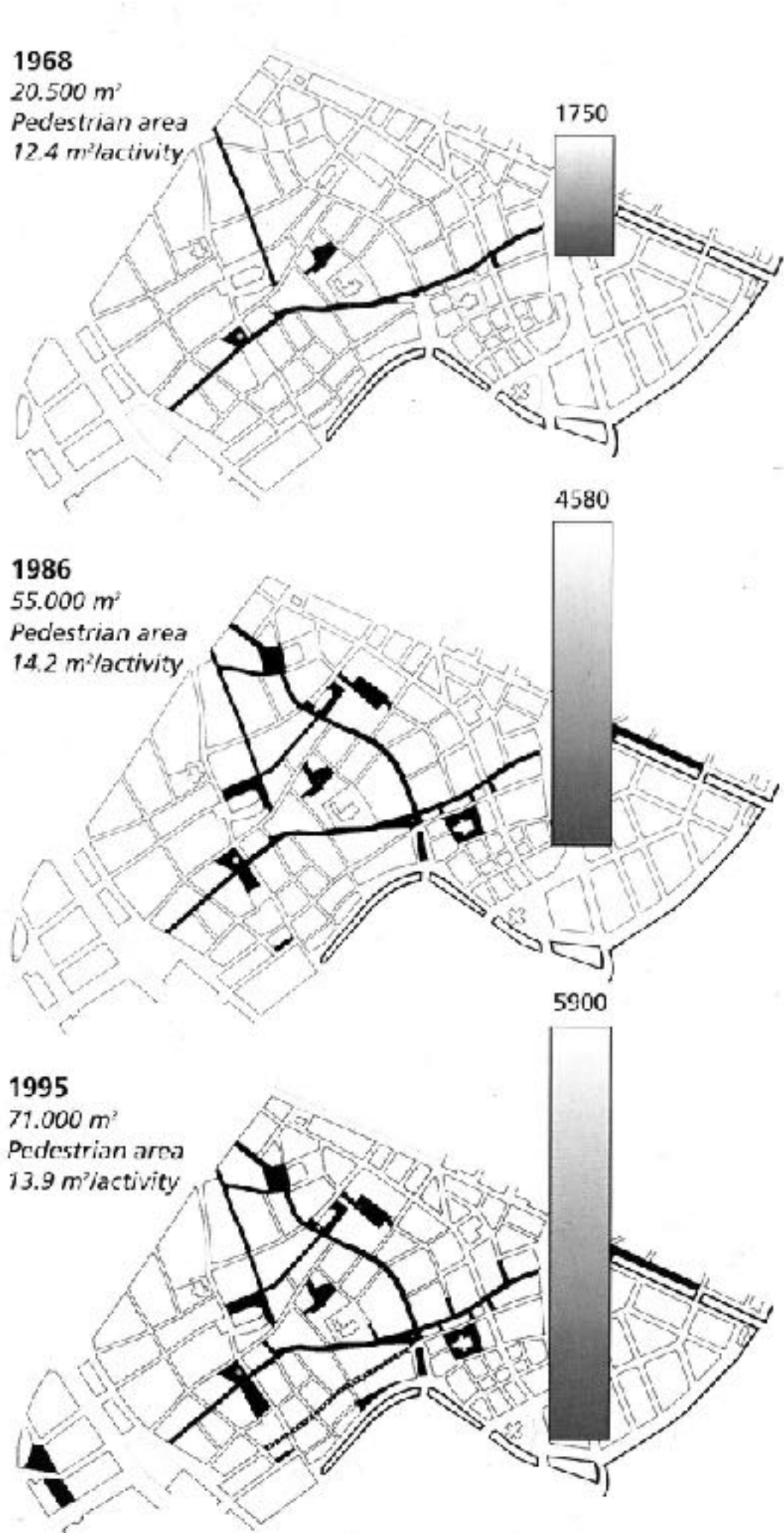
To make **objective choices**

To **benchmark progress**

To discover **new opportunities**

To create **urgency** for change

Understanding the impact of **planning decisions**

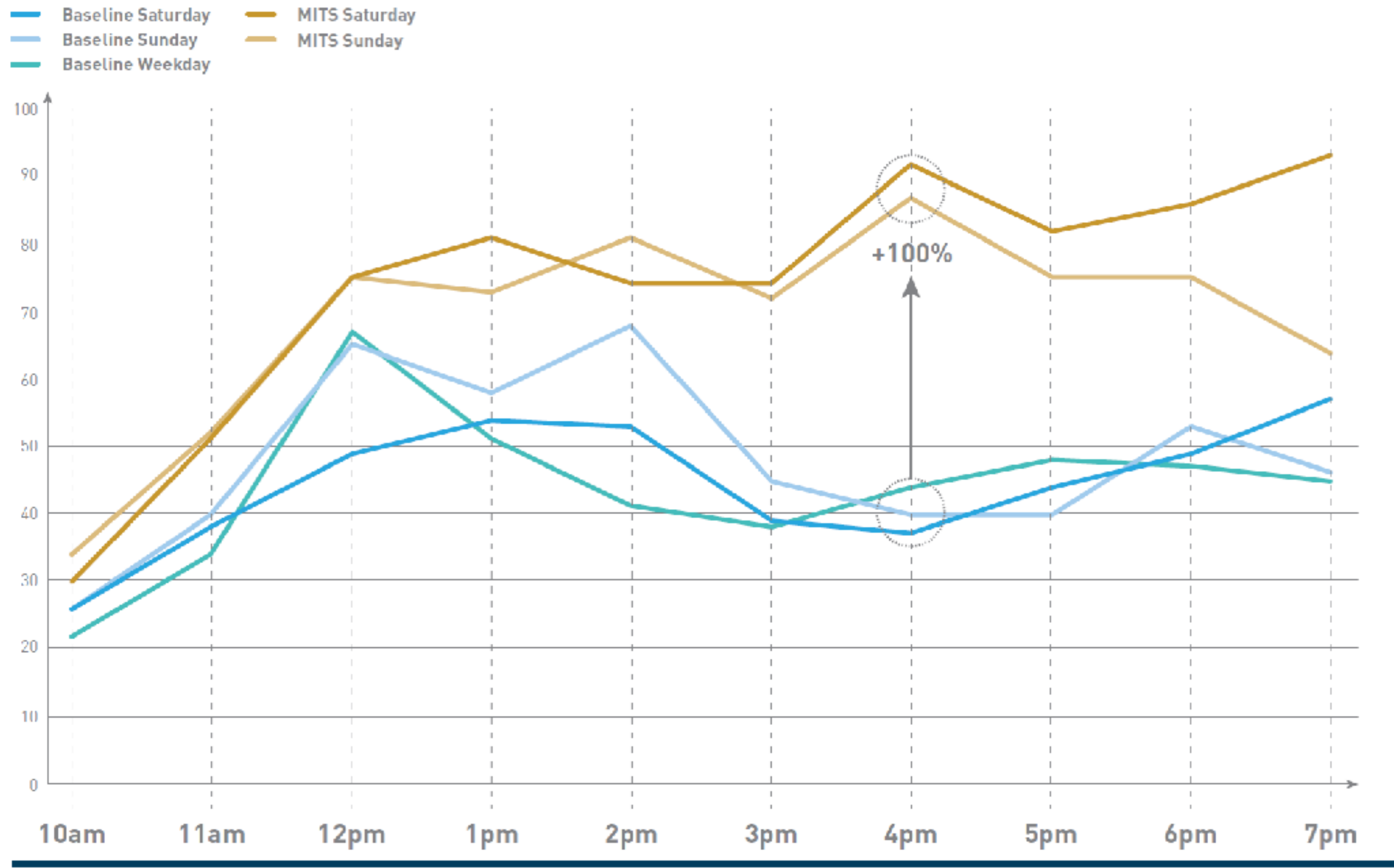


Average number of people engaged in stationary activities throughout the city center at any time between 12⁰⁰ and 16⁰⁰ on summer days in 1968, 1986 and 1995.

Understanding the impact of programming



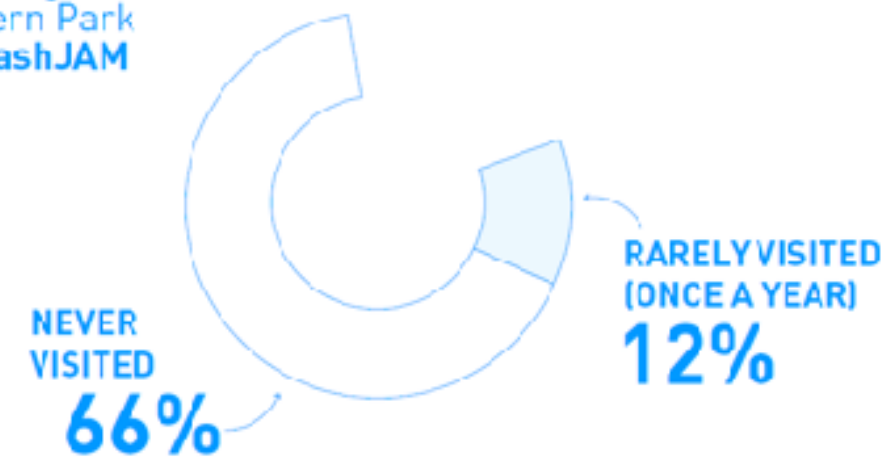
AVERAGE STATIONARY ACTIVITIES COUNTS PER HOUR - AMOUNT OF PEOPLE COUNTED PER BLOCK AT ANY POINT IN TIME - 10AM-8PM



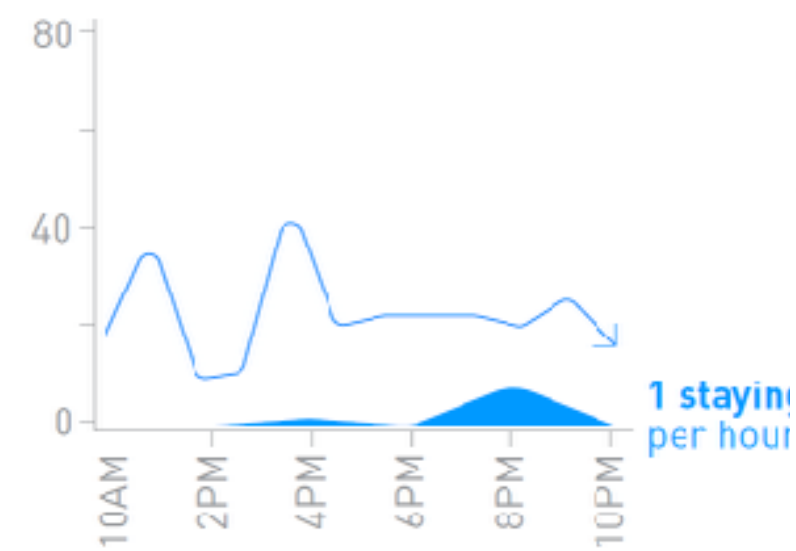
Understanding the impact of **design**



People visiting Northeastern Park before splashJAM



People visiting Northeastern Park before splashJAM



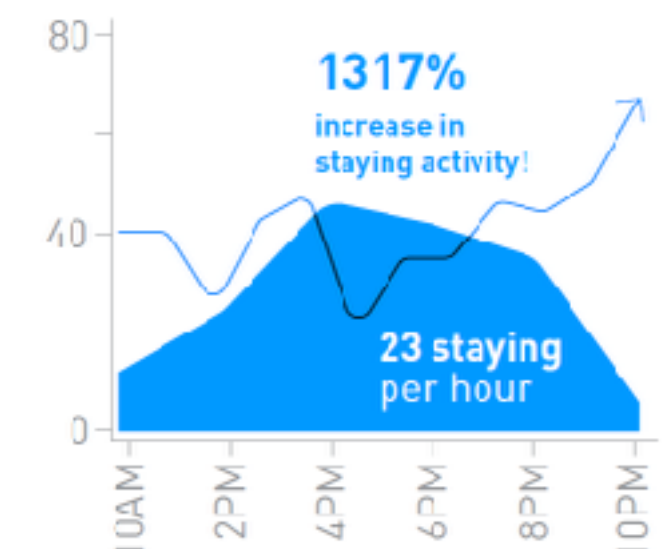
People visiting Northeastern Park with splashJAM

People are spending time in Northeastern Park, before they hardly ever did there. When surveying people in the park, 80% of respondents had never or rarely been there per year] to Northeastern park before the splashJAM. Within splashJAM, 85% go once a week or more.



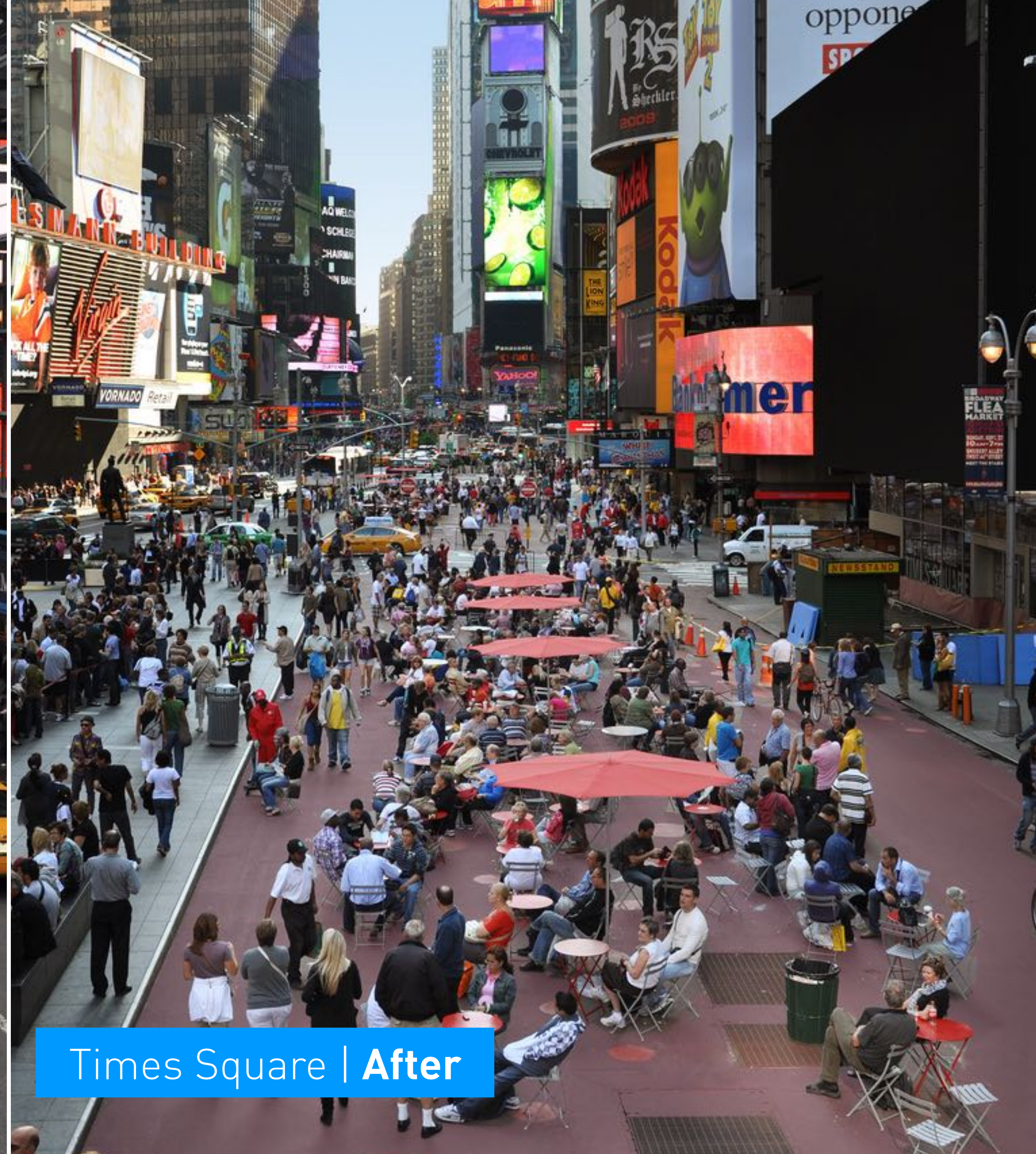
People visiting Northeastern Park during splashJAM

People walking and staying in the area before and after splashJAM. Over 85% more people walking in the area. And over 1300% increase in people staying in the Northeastern park. From 8 people all day, to over 23 people an hour.



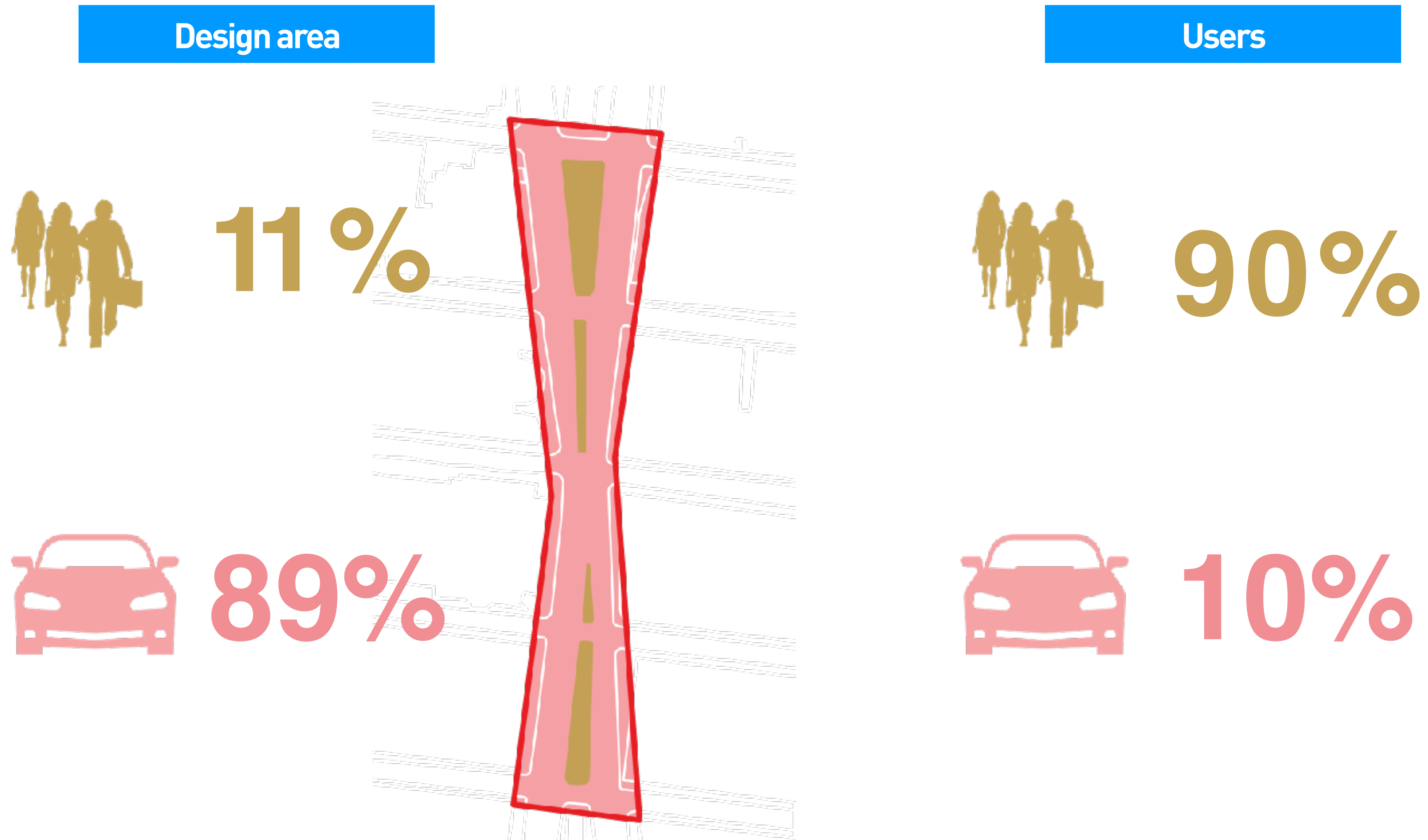


Times Square | **Before**



Times Square | **After**

Times Square **use** vs. **design**





35%
Decrease in
pedestrian
injuries

80%
Fewer
pedestrians in
the roadway



63%
Decrease
in traffic
injuries

17%
Improved travel
time

74%
say Times Square
has improved
dramatically



Downtown Pittsburgh

Public Realm Action Plan

April 2016

Gehl

Pittsburgh has the world's best bus stop

Pairing a crowded bus stop with the comfortable amenities of Katz Plaza is a great match: **comfortable transit waiting experience and activated plaza.**



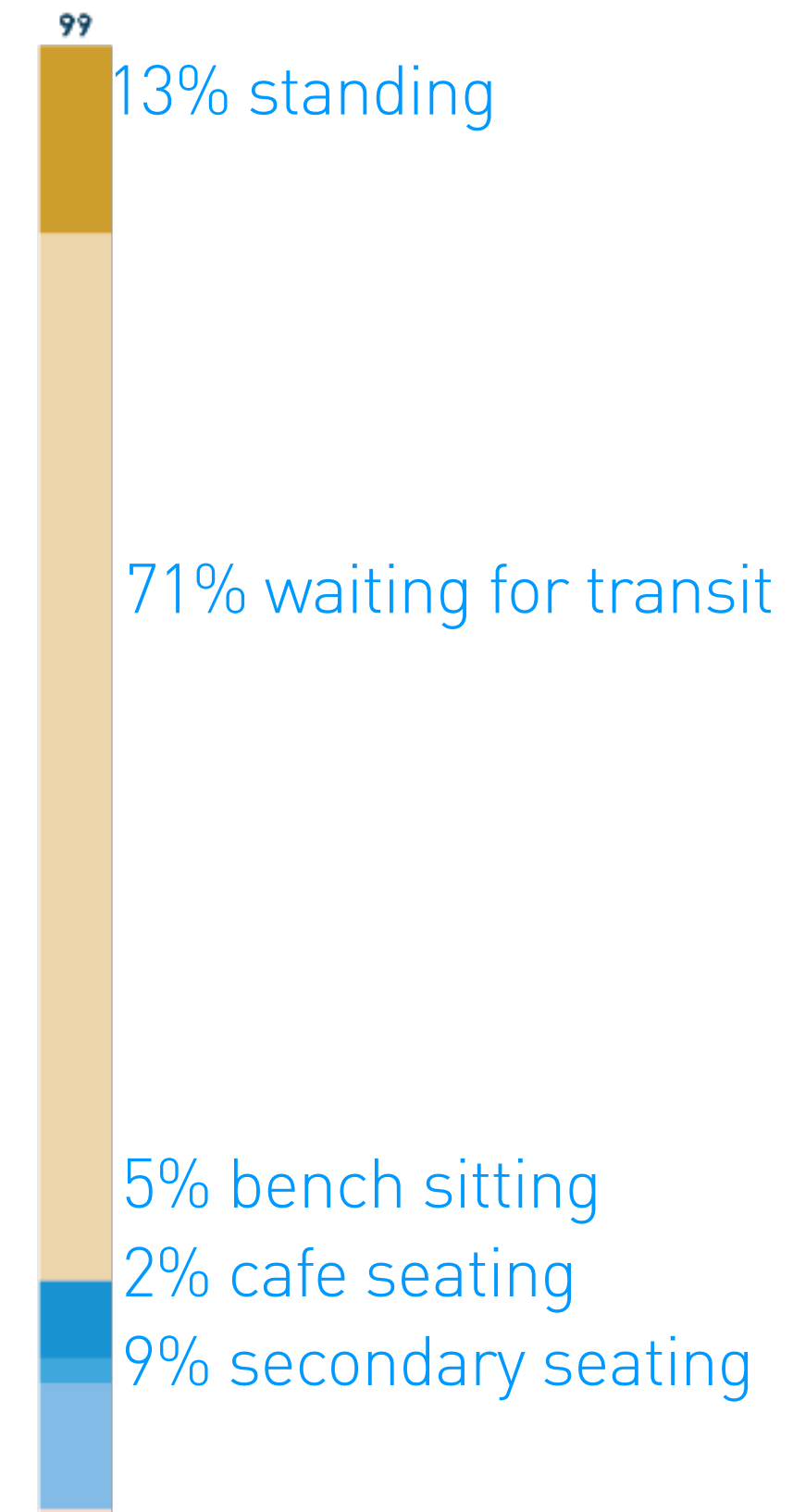
It also has some poor ones

Too many bus stops in Pittsburgh have next to zero amenities for transit riders. Without a dignified waiting experience it's no surprise stops appear disorganized and cause a conflict with people walking and with shop owners.



Public life is mostly people waiting for transit

At key times bus riders account for
30-85%
of stationary activities



Liberty and 7th
Weekday average

Life on Liberty / Streetlife Plan

Existing Conditions
Liberty Avenue at Smithfield



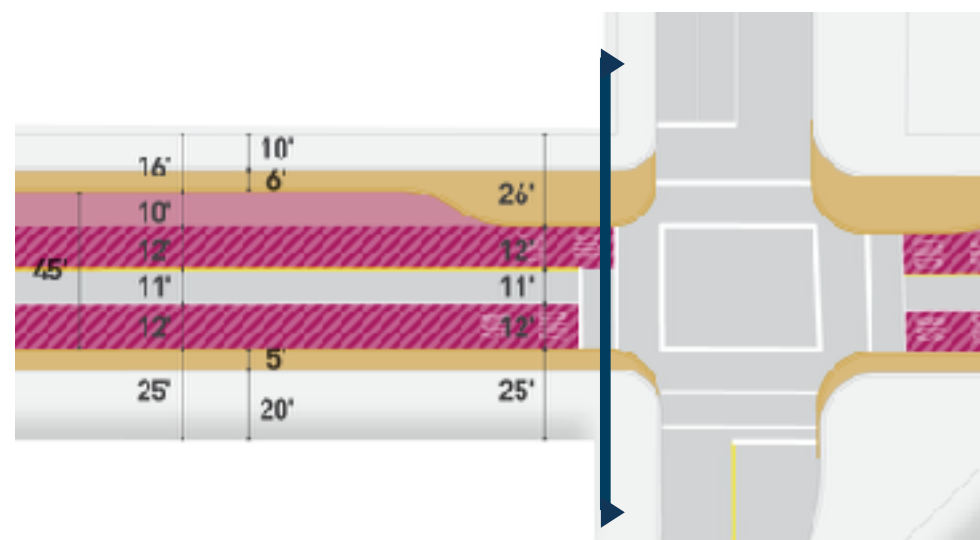
Life on Liberty / Streetlife Plan

**Proposed
Layout**
Liberty Avenue at
Smithfield

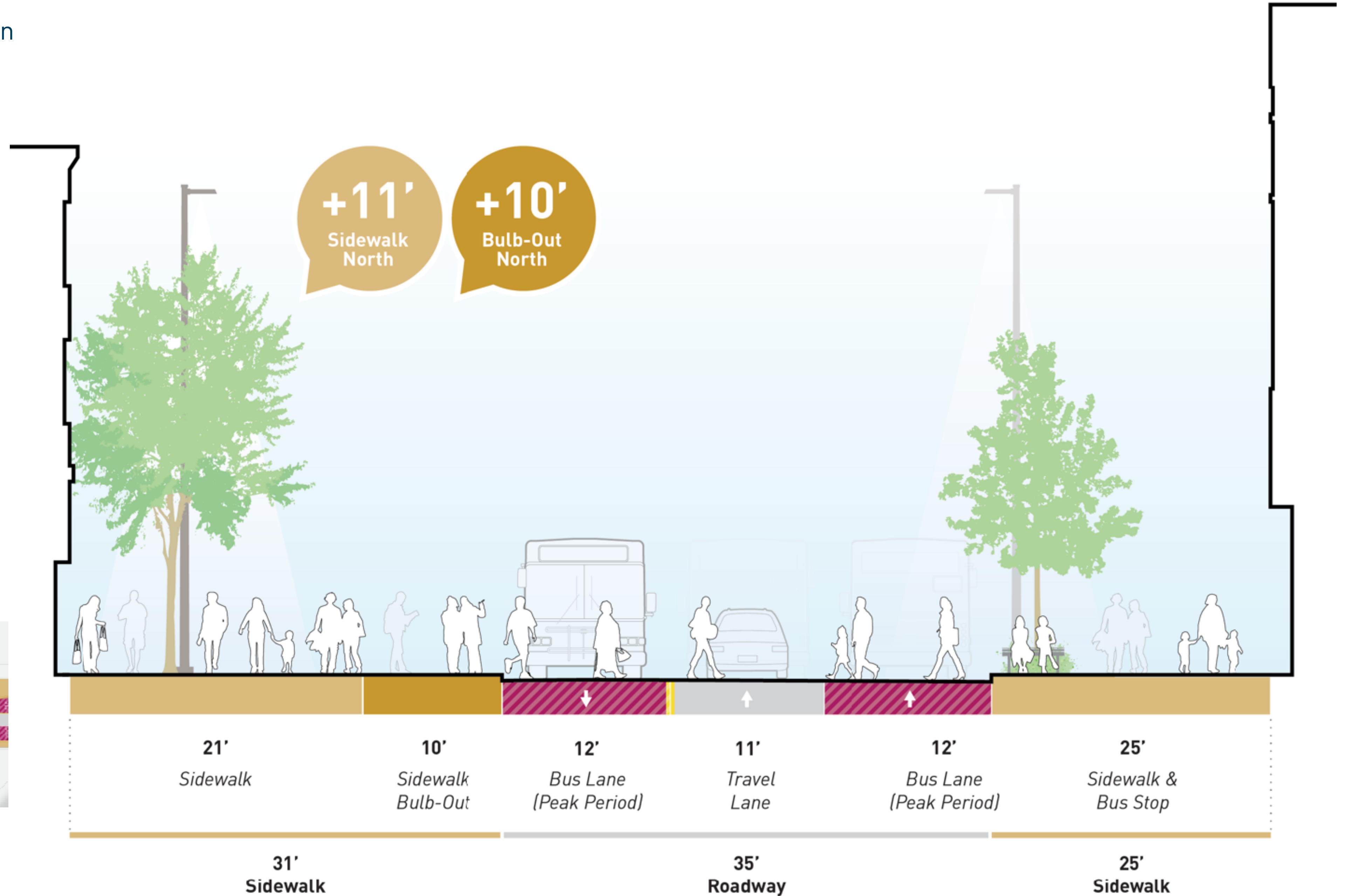


Proposed Configuration at the Intersection

Liberty East



William Penn Pl



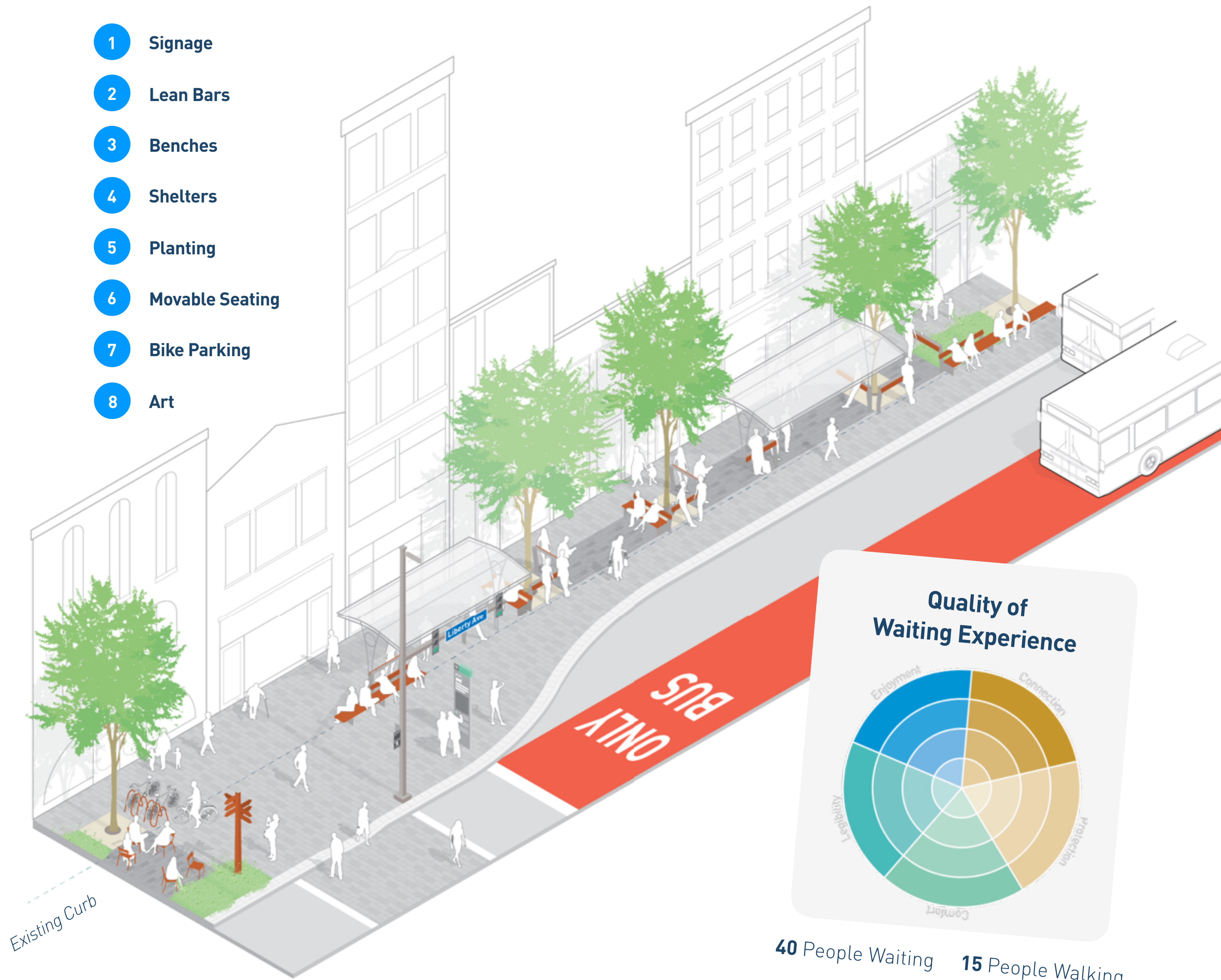
Type 2

Bulb-out

potential amenities



- 1 Signage
- 2 Lean Bars
- 3 Benches
- 4 Shelters
- 5 Planting
- 6 Movable Seating
- 7 Bike Parking
- 8 Art



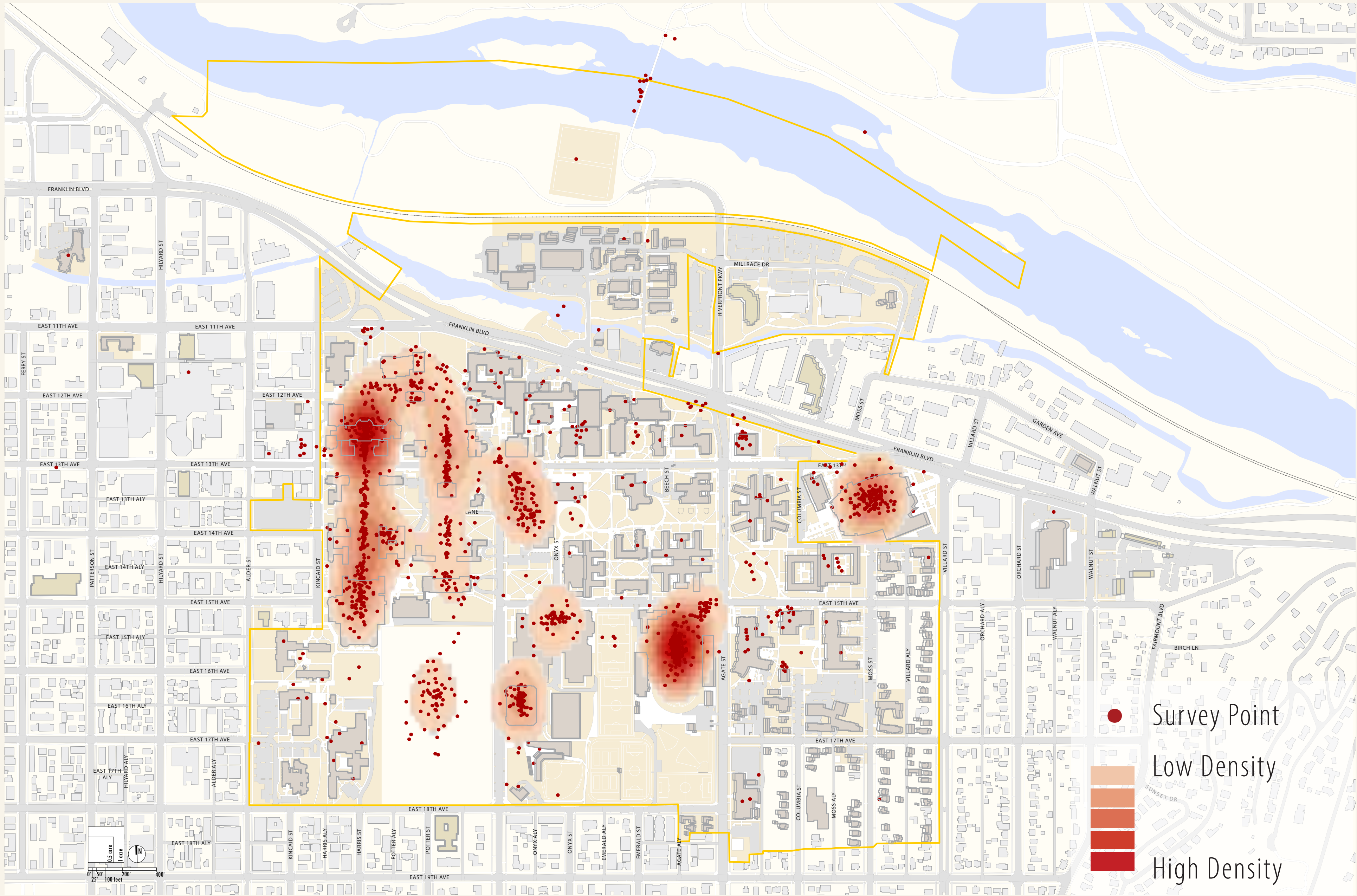
40 People Waiting 15 People Walking

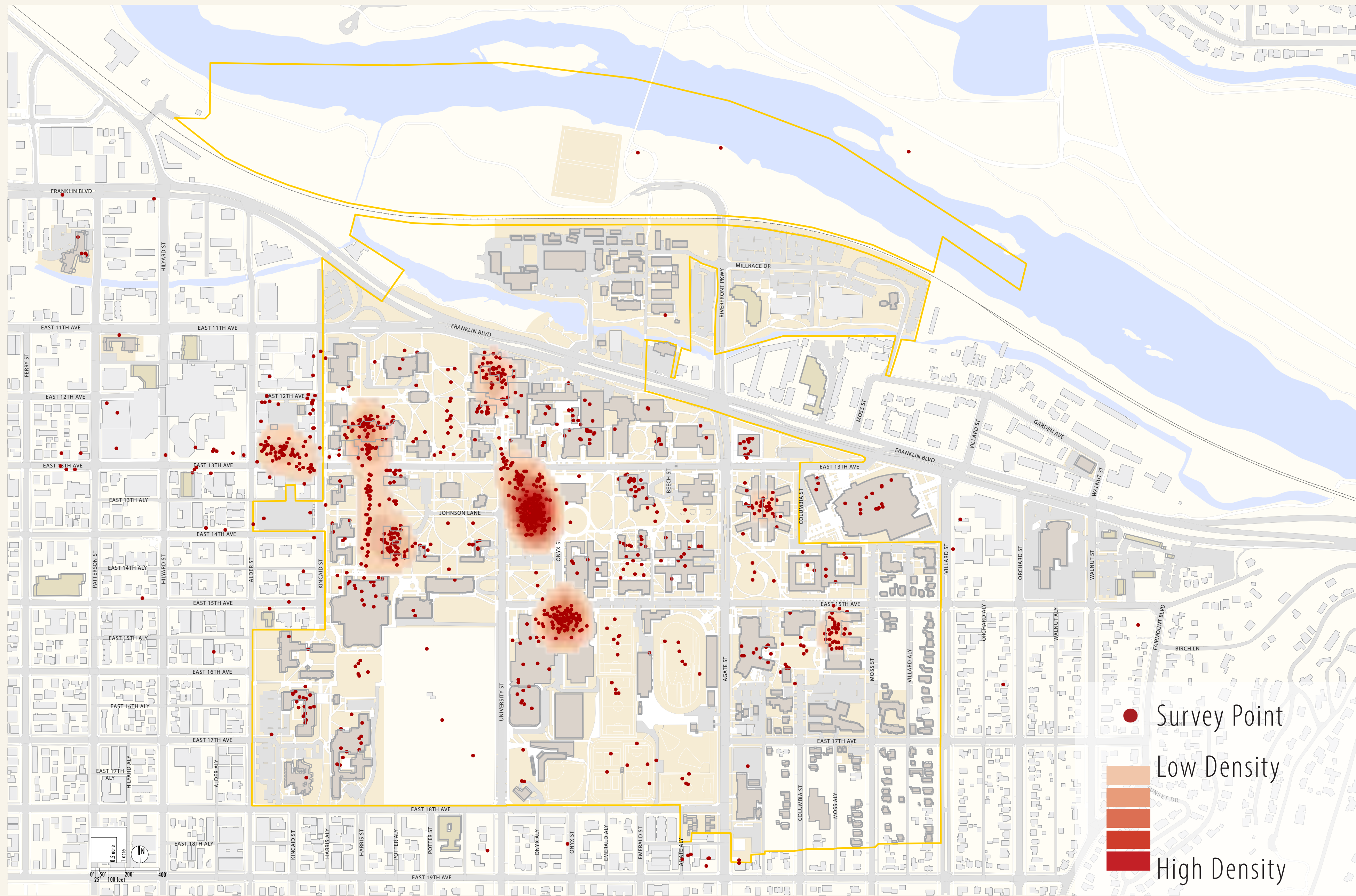
Why Collect Data on 13th Ave?

- To find **human stories**
- To **inform strategy** and design
- To provide **evidence**
- To make **objective choices**
- To **benchmark progress**
- To discover **new opportunities**
- To create **urgency** for change



Initial Guiding Question







Initial Guiding Question

How can 13th Street develop its own unique public life profile by meeting unmet needs on campus?

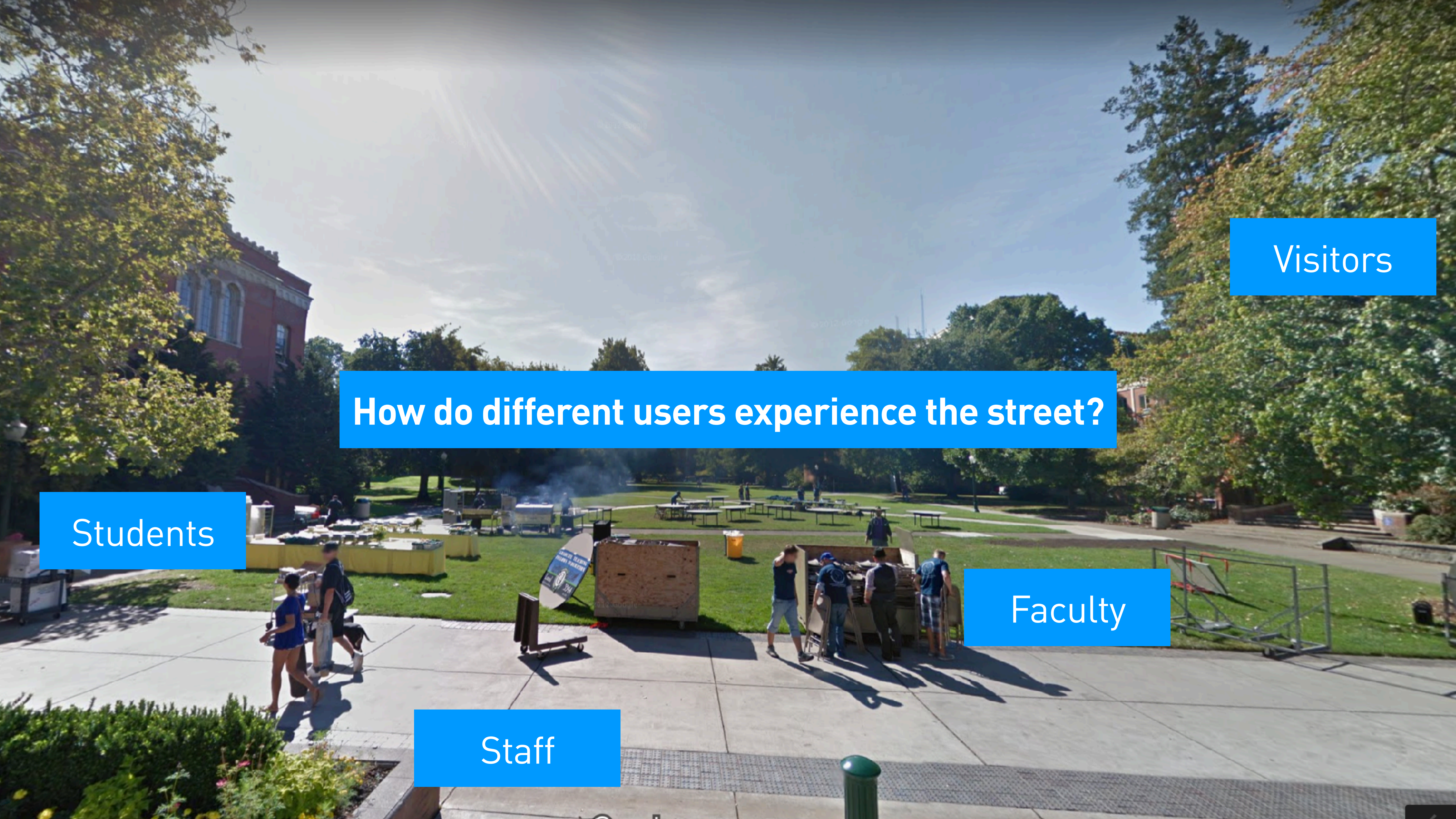
Visitors

How do different users experience the street?

Students

Faculty

Staff

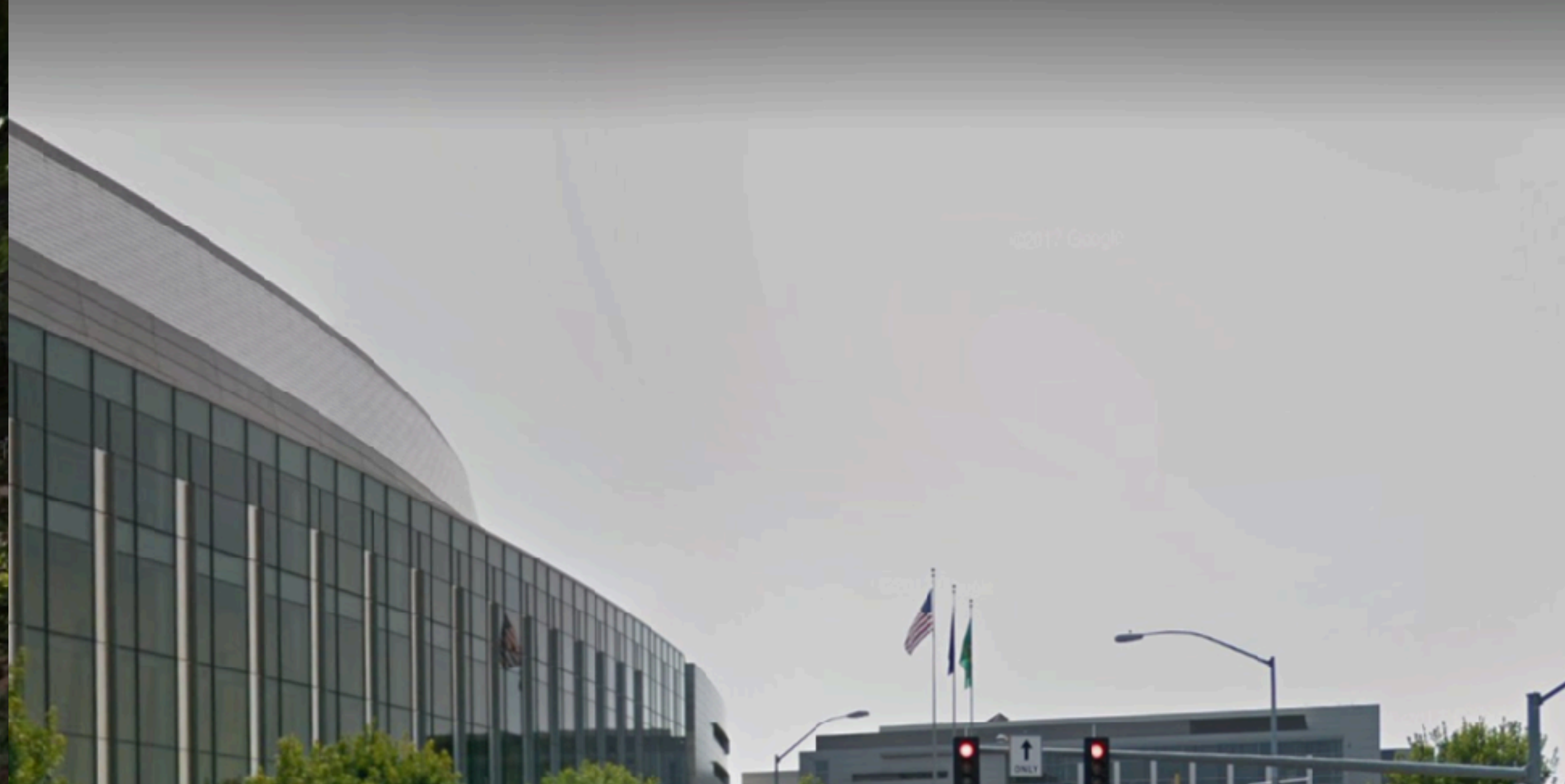




How do people move and switch modes?

E 13th Ave

© 2014 Google

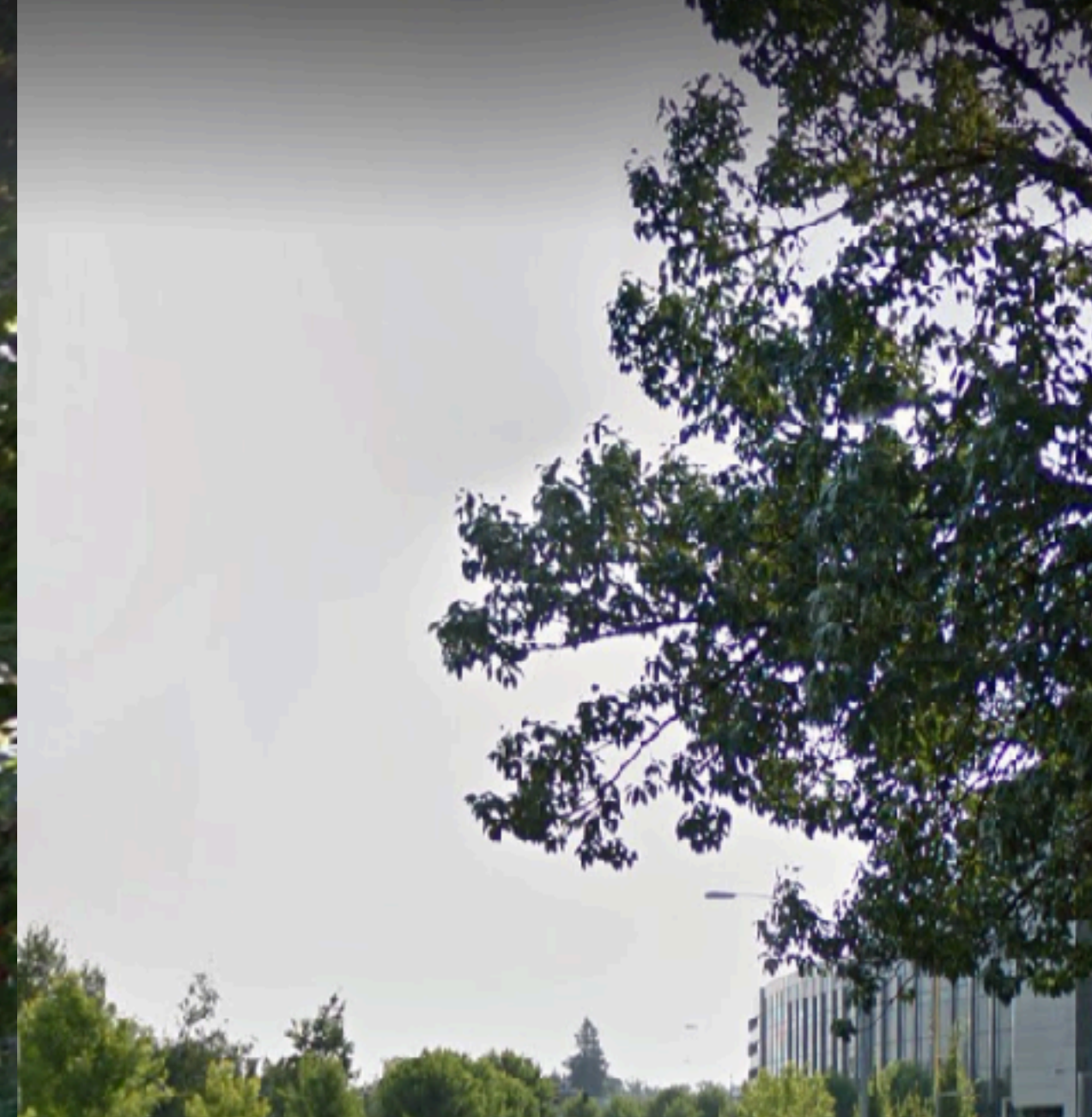


How are the two gateways working?



A wide-angle photograph of a university campus on a bright, sunny day. A large, leafy tree dominates the right side of the frame, casting shadows on the paved walkway. In the background, a large, multi-story brick building with arched windows is visible. The walkway is lined with numerous bicycles parked in racks. A few people are seen walking or standing in the distance. A blue banner with white text is overlaid in the center of the image.

What about the rain?



What are the different use profiles as the street changes?



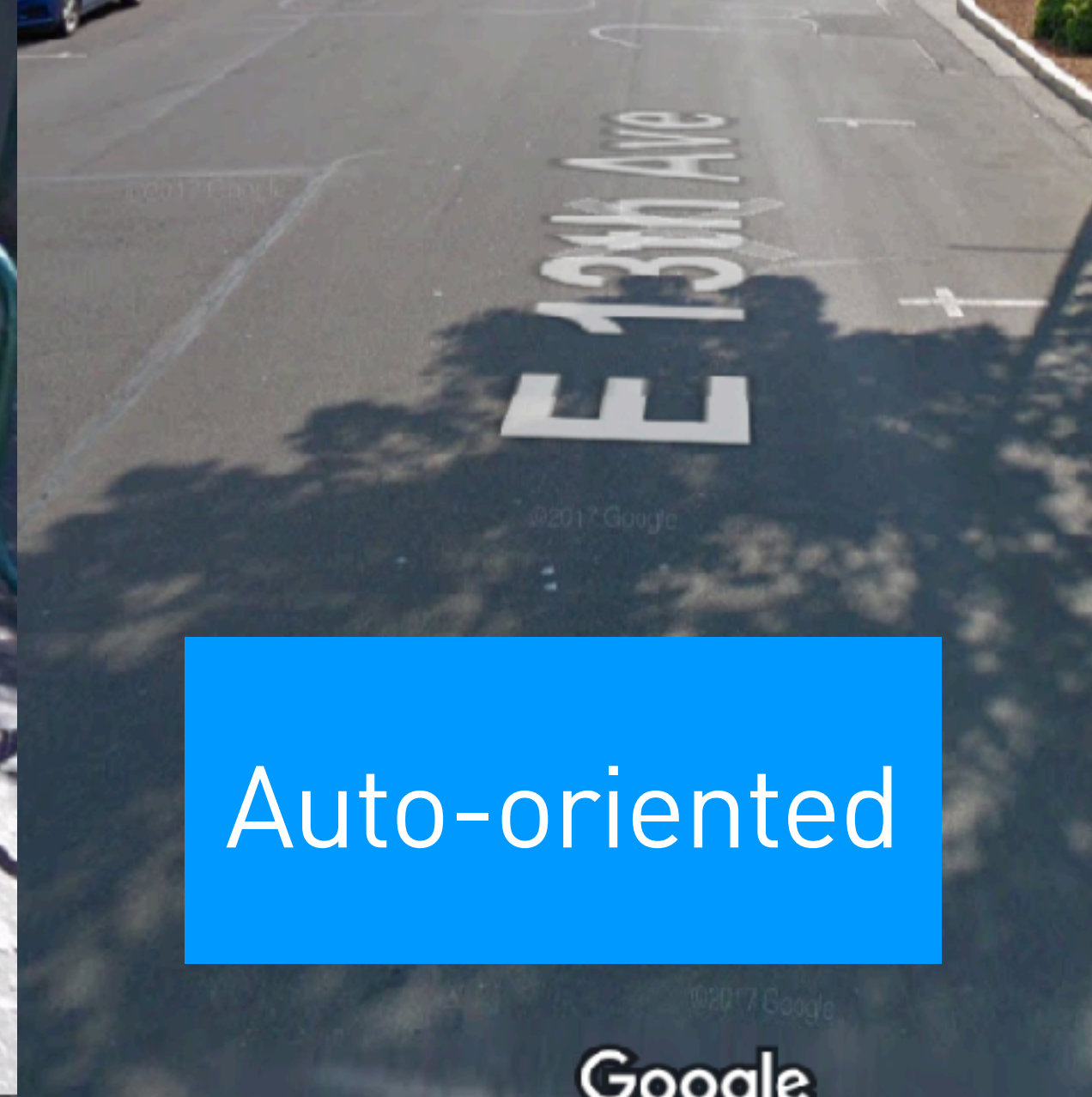
Plaza

Google



“side-yard” / Introverted Plaza

Image capture: Sep 2011 © 2018 Google



Auto-oriented

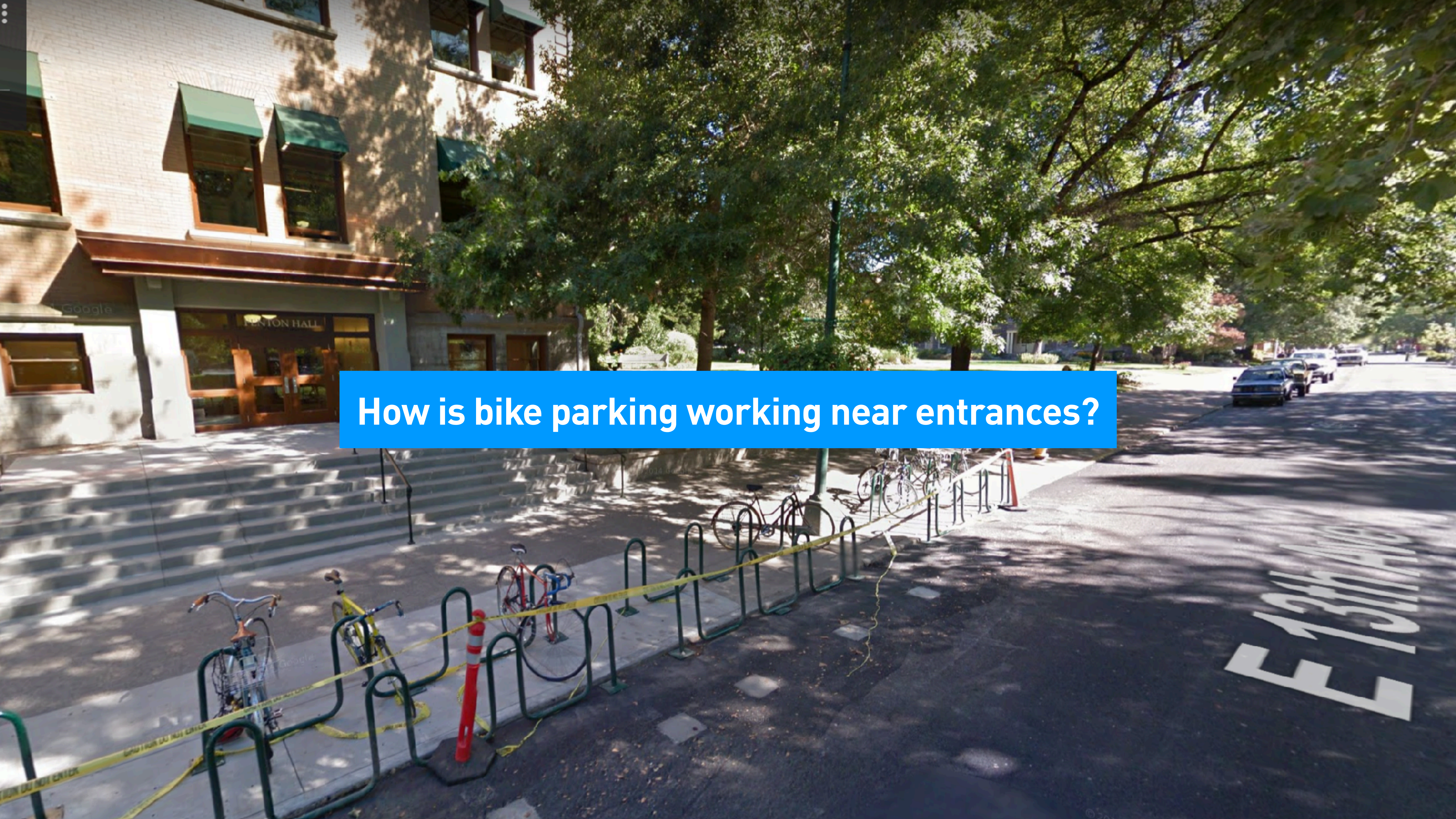
Google



Shared Way

Google

How is bike parking working near entrances?



Survey Days

Survey Training

+

Weekday

Wednesday

October 17

8am-8pm

(or later...)

Weekend

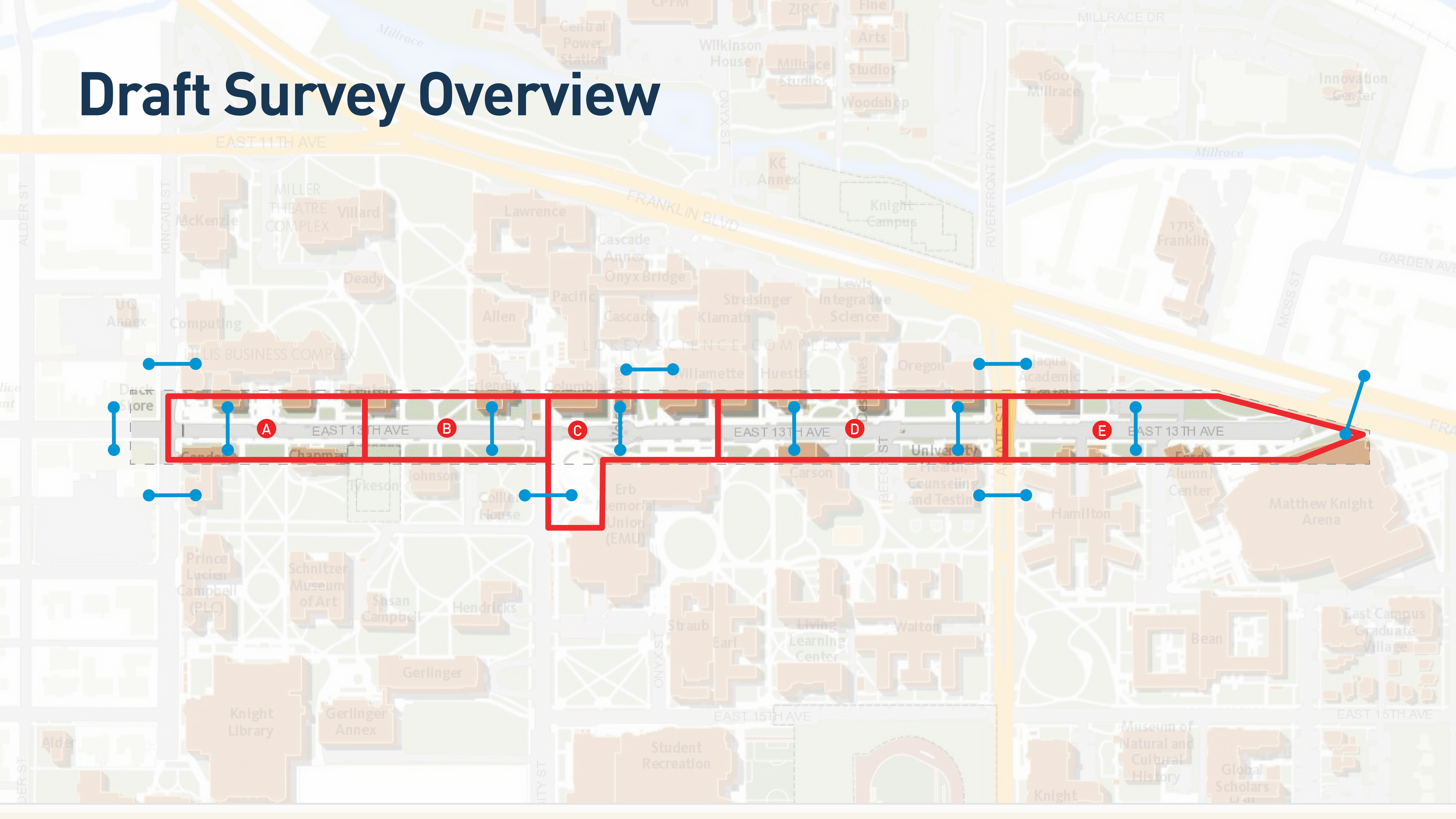
Saturday

October 20

8am-8pm

(or later...)

Draft Survey Overview



Questions for the Team

- **What is missing from public life at U of O?**
- **What key questions do you want answered as part of the Public Life Survey?**
- **What user groups or use patterns are you interested in?**
- **Do you have any hunches about how 13th Avenue is used?**