



Tactical urbanism

number 33, 2020

Part of the [Tranzinfo Hot Topics](#) series, this issue offers a selection of material on 'tactical urbanism', a city, organizational, and/or citizen-led approach to neighbourhood building, using short-term, low-cost, and scalable interventions and policies to advance long-term goals related to street safety, public space, and more. Tactical urbanism is also known as 'pop-up demonstration projects', 'do-it-yourself urbanism' or 'better blocks'.

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[Beyond complete streets : could COVID-19 help transform throughfares into places for people](#)

Planetizen (September 2020)

We are seeing the power of tactical urbanism used as a community engagement tool. Think of tactical urbanism as "voting with your feet."

[Temporary and tactical urbanism in Australia : a review of current practice, policy and practitioner perspectives](#)

State of Australian Cities Conference (SOAC) (December 2019)

This paper discusses the distinctive ways 'temporary' and 'tactical' (T/T) urbanism is defined and enacted in the Australian context, drawing upon a database of ninety projects identified in six cities, an analysis of state and local policies that shape temporary and tactical urbanism, and interviews with expert practitioners from the public, private and non-profit sectors.

Quick build : tactical urbanism on steroids

Public Square : a CNU Journal (September 2019)

“Quick Build.” In Memphis, it’s a “bolt down rather than poured concrete” approach, but the idea is the same: Combine low-cost, flexibility, fast completion, and multiyear durability. Sometimes referred to as “Tactical Urbanism on steroids,” it may be a trick that helps America transform its thoroughfares for the 21st Century.

Great idea : tactical urbanism

Public Square : a CNU Journal (February 2017)

In between the planning and the realization of a complete community vision is a stage of testing ideas in the real world, and that is what tactical urbanism is all about. Temporary bicycle lanes and public spaces, traffic calming for a day or a month, colourful crosswalks, turning parking lots into pop-up parks—such activities are taking place across America, formalized by techniques and strategies called tactical urbanism.

Tactical urbanism "a pop-up local change for Cairo's built environment"

Procedia : Social and Behavioural Sciences, 216 (2016)

The aim of this paper is to highlight the unplanned or traditional practices that have been carried out by inhabitants, entities or initiatives, which carries out the principles of "Tactical Urbanism", and most of these cases are unprompted practices that carried out spontaneously

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case studies & projects

NSW street treatments for COVID recovery

NSW Government. Transport for NSW (2020)

This resource is designed to support the rapid rollout of projects developed through the Streets as Shared Spaces program, but also other temporary or tactical interventions proposed by councils, communities, TfNSW, DPIE or other government agencies. This resource will be updated monthly to provide advice on temporary physical and statutory changes, to enable safe use of streets and public places through the COVID recovery.

Tactical urbanism : alfresco parklets in Wyndham

Victoria Government (2020)

Parklets were identified as having the potential to provide increased space and opportunity for business customers in the transition back to normal trading. The increased space created will provide amenity of waiting areas and dining options for all businesses in the vicinity of each Parklet as COVID-19 restrictions are eased in line with the roadmap to reopening.

[Liverpool fast-tracks tactical urbanism and welcomes new funding opportunity](#)

NSW Government (2020)

New funding for projects that will improve urban communities (tactical urbanism). Liverpool has in recent weeks fast-tracked work to develop a suite of tactical urbanism opportunities that not only will quickly boost foot traffic and vibrancy in our recovering city centre, but will also support Council's vision for the city centre as Sydney's third CBD.

This work includes the [Railway Serviceway tactical urbanism](#) project.

[City of Gold Coast: tactical urbanism projects](#)

Tactical urbanism can be implemented across the city in two ways. Firstly, it can be implemented as early action out of a placemaking master plan, allowing quick, short term changes to be made on the ground, keeping community interest and momentum, as well as testing ideas for future permanent changes. Secondly, it can be implemented as low budget, permanent changes in any centre where there is a need for small scale, incremental change. 14 completed projects

[Tactical urbanism in park projects](#)

AARP (2019)

Presentation provides examples from AARP NJ's liveable communities work

[Pop-up demonstrations : the good, the bad and the ugly](#)

AARP Placemaking Workshop (2019)

Pop-up demonstrations are small-scale and short term, low-cost using temporary materials, and allows the public to 'test drive' a potential project.

[From pop-up to permanent : five lessons in tactical urbanism](#)

AARP (2019)

Urban residents have long practiced a form of tactical urbanism: repurposing underutilized places using temporary materials and transforming them into more dynamic public spaces. These temporary projects can help to encourage meaningful public engagement and generate support for permanent projects by allowing people to experience what's possible, rather than just looking at renderings.

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reports & toolkits

[Streets for pandemic : response & recovery](#)

National Association of City Transportation Officials (2020)

A compilation of emerging practices and resources for implementing facilities that allow people the space to walk, bike, roll, queue, work, play, vote, protest, attend school, dine, and shop both during the pandemic and throughout a recovery.

[The planning for walking toolkit](#)

Transport for London (2020)

Tools to support the development of public realm design briefs in London

[Assessing complete street strategies using microscopic traffic simulation models](#)

Mineta Transportation Institute, 304 (2020)

This research evaluated five different street redesign and travel demand combinations. This model aids understanding of network-wide effects of changes in street design for local and regional agencies who are interested in implementing complete streets and/or one-way to two-way conversion. The base network may be altered to model and evaluate other complete streets (e.g., road diet) and tactical urbanism.

[How's that diet working : performance of Virginia road diets](#)

Virginia Transportation Research Council ; Virginia Dept of Transportation (2020)

The study found that road diets have been incorporated into broader concepts and initiatives such as complete street, bikeway selection, bicycle network, context-sensitive design, and tactical urbanism and the literature has continue to document their effectiveness.

[Leicester Street design guide](#)

UK Government (2020)

This document provides up-to-date guidance on how further changes should be made to Leicester's streets and roads to continue this process of favouring walking and cycling as the best way of moving across the city. It is applicable to both existing roads as well as those that are created and modified through development and re-development of the fabric of the city.

[Warrington Central 6 regeneration masterplan 2020-2040](#)

UK Government (2020)

The Central 6 Regeneration Masterplan presents 8 themes that taken together present a compelling vision of central neighbourhoods that are accessible places, well served with facilities and access to shops, healthy and good places for wellbeing that create opportunity for people to participate in the growing economy over the next 20 years.

[Practitioner's guide to movement and place](#)

NSW Government. Government Architect (2020)

This guide seeks to change some established working practices and standards to produce more consistent, higher quality outcomes, and asks professionals to think differently about their role in creating successful places.

[Street design manual : walkable neighbourhoods](#)

Institute of Public Works and Engineering Australasia. Queensland (2020)

A contemporary guide for the design and development of Queensland's residential neighbourhoods. Developed for industry by industry, the Manual recognises streets as an important connector to multi-purpose social spaces in

our neighbourhoods. It offers access options for active transport delivering safer neighbourhoods and a sense of community.

[Fast-tracked : a tactical transit study](#)

Transportation Research Board, TCRP Research Report, 207 (2019)

As transit agencies, local governments, and citizens look for ways to improve existing, and start new, transit service, many of them are turning to the Quick-Build (Tactical Urbanism) methodology

[Explorations with 'place' for ecologically responsive urban dwelling : a study of more-than-human place \(making\) and ecological design in two Australian cities](#)

RMIT University (2019)

This post-phenomenological study draws on more-than-human theories, non-representational theory, urban political ecology, the parts and wholes of assemblage thinking and the metaphors of lines and knots to better understand human experiences of place and designs for place in urban areas and what they might mean for ecologically responsive dwelling in cities.

[The pop-up placemaking tool kit](#)

AARP Livable Communities, and Team Better Block (2019)

This toolkit can help elected officials, planners, policymakers and involved residents use temporary projects to improve communities for people of all ages.

[Small change, big impact : a practical guide to changing London's public spaces : delivery the healthy streets approach](#)

Transport for London (2017)

This toolkit is primarily aimed at people and organisations who want to start temporary and light touch public space projects. Tactical urbanism is about getting started and going live quickly.

[The planners guide to tactical urbanism](#)

Canada. Regina Urban Ecology (2013)

In the last decade, numerous citizen-led initiatives have sprung up across North America, following examples in Europe, to improve public spaces using low-cost, temporary measures. These informal initiatives, popularly known as "tactical urbanism", have also inspired planners and municipal officials to experiment with low-cost pilot projects as a tool to make local improvements.

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websites & blogs

[Tactical urbanist's guide : to getting it done](#)

Tactical Urbanism is all about action. Also known as DIY Urbanism, Planning-by-Doing, Urban Acupuncture, or Urban Prototyping, this approach refers to a city, organizational, and/or citizen-led approach to neighbourhood building using short-term, low-cost, and scalable interventions to catalyze long-term change.

Guides:

- [Tactical urbanism 1](#)
- [Tactical urbanism 2](#)
- [Tactical urbanism 3](#)
- [Tactical urbanism 4](#)
- [Tactical urbanism 5](#)
- [Tactical urbanism : short-term action for long-term change](#)
- [Tactical urbanist's guide to materials and design](#)
- [Fast-tracked : a tactical transit study](#)
- [Asphalt art guide : how to reclaim city roadways and public infrastructure with art](#)
- [The open streets guide](#)
- [Public space stewardship guide](#)
- [Mercado : lessons from 20 markets across South America](#)

[Smart Growth America : improving lives by improving communities](#)

Smart Growth America empowers communities through technical assistance, advocacy and thought leadership to create livable places, healthy people, and shared prosperity. We work with elected officials at all levels, real estate developers, chambers of commerce, transportation and urban planning professionals, and residents to improve everyday life for people across the country through better development.

- [National complete streets coalition](#) : A Complete Streets approach integrates people and place in the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of our transportation networks.

[Innovating streets for people](#)

New Zealand Transport Agency

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's Innovating Streets for People programme aims to make it faster and easier to transition our streets to safer and more liveable spaces.

[Global designing cities initiative](#)

A program of NACTO, a New York based, 501c3, non-profit organisation whose mission is to inspire a shift toward safe, sustainable, and healthy cities through transforming our streets

- Design guides
 - [Global street design guide](#)
 - [Designing streets for kids](#)

[Pop-up transport](#)

NSW Government. Transport for NSW

Transport for NSW is fast-tracking pop-up transport changes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are working to ensure safe routes for walking, cycling, and exercise, access to essential services, and to go to work and school

[Living Streets Aotearoa](#)

New Zealand organisation for people on foot, promoting walking-friendly communities. We want more people walking and enjoying public spaces be they young or old, fast or slow, whether walking, sitting, commuting, shopping between appointments, or out on the streets for exercise, for leisure or for pleasure.

- [Walking awards](#)
 - Category: Walking and public transport initiative. Tactical urbanism can be used to make quick progress by testing and piloting projects to demonstrate value to the community
 - Category: Event. The Open Play Street event in Christchurch's central city showcased a form of tactical urbanism and to promote placemaking, play and active transport.

[Sustrans](#)

Custodians of the National Cycle Network, a UK-wide network of traffic-free paths for everyone; bringing people together to create places with clean air and green spaces where friends and facilities are a short walk away.

- [Tactical urbanism during covid-19 and beyond](#) [blog]
- [Streetspace for London](#)
- [COVID-19 temporary cycling and walking interventions](#)
- [Space to move](#)
- [Rapid cycleway prioritisation tool](#)

[Urban Design London](#)

Urban Design London is a not-for-profit organisation set up to help built environment professionals and decision makers create well designed spaces and places.

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ARRB Group, MG Lay Library
Arup Library
Austroads
Centre for Automotive Safety Research Library
Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development Library
Hargrave-Andrew Library, Monash University
Jacobs Library
Main Roads Western Australia Library
Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads Library
Transport Library, Transport for NSW
SMEC Library
Tasmanian Department of State Growth Library
University of Tasmania Launceston Campus, incorporating former Australian Maritime College Library
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Ministry of Transport Library
New Zealand Transport Agency Library
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