Emerging Technologies, COVID, and the Future of Public Space

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Streets are Places / Contested Spaces
COVID Impacts

Work From Home (WFH)
Reduced Overall Transportation and Travel
Increased Driving alone
Increased Bicycle Purchases and Use
Reduced Public Transit Ridership
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42% of US Labor Force Working from Home Full Time

Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR)
June 29, 2020

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±50%

Don’t Have That Option
Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR)
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**Impact of the COVID-19 recession on key economic indicators**
53 very large metro areas with populations over 1 million

August 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metro area</th>
<th>Labor market</th>
<th>Economic activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jobs</td>
<td>Unemp. rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA</td>
<td>-8.7%</td>
<td>+6.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley, CA</td>
<td>-11.6%</td>
<td>+8.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D...</td>
<td>-7.3%</td>
<td>+4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA</td>
<td>-8.1%</td>
<td>+6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown, TX</td>
<td>-4.0%</td>
<td>+5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH</td>
<td>-11.4%</td>
<td>+12.8%</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ</td>
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https://www.brookings.edu/interactives/metro-recovery-index/
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Transportation

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Retail/Rest.

- Reduced Economic Activity
- Small Businesses Closing
- Reduced Venture Capital Funding

Econ.

- Reduced Economic Activity
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Trips Per Week (US)

- September 2020
- 77% of Pre-Pandemic levels

Bureau of Transportation Statistics, USDOT

https://www.bts.gov/daily-travel
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MTA (New York City) Subway Ridership week beginning September 20, 2020

- September 2020

MTA Subway Ridership

- 27% of Pre-Pandemic levels

https://www.bts.gov/covid-19/week-in-transportation#transit
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A Boom Year For Bicycling
Bike trips on Strava surged during the pandemic in several U.S. cities

Data: Strava Metro
Chart shows year-over-year percent change in Strava bicycle trips each month, 2019 vs 2020.

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E-COMMERCE SALES PENETRATION, UNITED STATES
E-Commerce as a % of Total Retail Sales

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Euromonitor, Prologis Research forecast
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Meal Delivery - Monthly Sales

* Indexed to meal delivery Jan. 2018 sales (=100)
* Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

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More than 100,000 restaurants and bars have permanently closed due to COVID

National Restaurant Association Survey, July 2020

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Retail Vacancy Rates in the US (Q2-2019 to Q2 2020)

COVID IMPACTS ARE NOT EQUITABLE
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR PUBLIC SPACE?
Public Spaces Used as Public Spaces
Shift From Urban Cores to Neighborhood Centers (?)
WHAT WILL STICK?
NOT KNOWING EVERYTHING ABOUT THE FUTURE DOESN’T MEAN WE DON’T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE FUTURE
Variables That Will Decide What Sticks

- Length of Time in Pandemic (Habits)
- Entry Barriers Overcome
- Business Model Maturity – and Consolidations
- Large Decision Points
- Timeline Thresholds
- Continued Fear of Future Pandemics
- Policy Decisions
CITIES ARE CHANGING HOW THEY WORK.
Typical Planning Process

Plan → Implement
Planning In Uncertainty
Planning In Uncertainty

Plan

Focus on Desired Outcomes
Planning In Uncertainty

Plan → Pilot → Evaluate → Pivot

Focus on Desired Outcomes
Planning In Uncertainty

Focus on Desired Outcomes

Plan → Pilot → Evaluate → Pivot

(Repeat)
Planning In Uncertainty

Continuous Community Involvement

Focus on Desired Outcomes

Plan → Pilot → Evaluate → Pivot

(Repeat)
Planning In Uncertainty

Continuous Community Involvement

Plan → Pilot → Evaluate → Pivot

Focus on Desired Outcomes

(Repeat)

- New Policy/Regs
- Modify Existing Policy
- Pilot Scale-Up
- Develop Capabilities
- Modify Processes
- New Initiatives
- Modify Existing Goals
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