

Traffic and Safety

EQUAL ACCESS, LOW SPEEDS, AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY
MAKE FOR A SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL PORCHFEST.



The Oakhurst Porchfest maintains a considered approach to traffic and safety management, orchestrated in conjunction with the City of Decatur and its police department.

Because we're unique from more conventional, top-down events—particularly as it relates to our ethos of collective and personal responsibility—questions arise as to why we manage traffic as we do.



In short, we **prioritize pedestrians, bicyclists, the disabled, and equitable emergency response above all else.**

This results in certain intentional choices that, at times, can cause minor and temporary inconvenience for motor vehicles. This is a necessary trade off to accommodate our larger objectives.



First and foremost, we do not close streets. When streets are closed, the automotive traffic they might have otherwise accommodated is distributed to streets that remain open, increasing the level of congestion on those streets. The net effect of this, from an emergency response perspective, is that emergency vehicle access becomes increasingly compromised across the entire neighborhood—on closed streets by virtue of their being blocked off; on the remaining open streets by virtue of diverted automotive congestion.



The highest level of emergency response neighborhood-wide is achieved through all streets remaining open and automotive traffic being slowly and safely distributed as broadly as possible.

Accordingly, Porchfest relies on a network of **shared streets** where motorists, though encouraged to seek alternate routes, can cautiously proceed as necessary, and all those choosing to make use of public space—walking, rolling, or behind the wheel—do so at their own discretion, recognizing that additional care and accommodation for themselves, their dependents, or others may be necessary and/or appropriate.



Ultimately, access throughout the neighborhood is **unrestricted and all those using streets and sidewalks in any capacity remain responsible for their own welfare, actions, and impacts on others, just as they would at any other time.**



From a safety perspective, every decision that prioritizes automotive convenience increases vehicle speeds, which are the number one determinant of serious injury to pedestrians and bicyclists. Instead, Porchfest works intentionally to slow traffic, creating space for pedestrians, bicycles, and the disabled on interior streets and favoring any interventions—including the sharing of space—that prompt vehicles to operate under 10mph, the speed at which braking distance and injury risk are at their absolute lowest.

All modes of travel are welcome at Porchfest but human-powered travel takes precedence. **Motor vehicles will be inconvenienced, particularly on shared streets, and will encounter other, more vulnerable users in certain areas.** All participants should plan and act accordingly.

OAKHURST
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