# Oxford Street prepares for one-day pedestrianisation showcase promoting future of the high street



Oxford Street, one of the world’s busiest shopping areas with around half a million daily visitors, will see a significant transformation this Sunday as part of Mayor Sir Sadiq Khan’s pedestrianisation initiative. For one day, vehicles will be banned from a half-mile stretch between Oxford Circus and Orchard Street from noon until 8pm. The event, titled This Is Oxford Street, will utilise the road space to host activities including live music performances, art installations, food and drink stalls, and a literary festival, offering Londoners and visitors a preview of the proposed future of the iconic shopping street.

Sir Sadiq Khan has made it clear that pedestrianising Oxford Street is a priority to unlock the area’s full potential as a world-class, accessible, clean, and green high street. The plan envisages closing a 0.7-mile stretch of the street between Oxford Circus and Marble Arch, with possible further pedestrian-friendly changes extending towards Tottenham Court Road. Detailed proposals on how traffic will be managed, including the rerouting of buses, are expected to be consulted on later this year.

This latest push for pedestrianisation follows a previous attempt which was blocked in 2018 by the then Conservative-run Westminster City Council. The success of the new plan depends on government approval to establish a Mayoral Development Corporation granting the Mayor enhanced planning powers, with aspirations for this entity to be operational by early next year. The mayor’s vision takes inspiration from successful pedestrianisation and urban renewal projects such as New York’s Times Square and Barcelona’s La Rambla.

The pedestrianisation initiative is part of a broader strategy to regenerate Oxford Street, which has faced significant challenges in recent years. The street has suffered retail decline, with many flagship shops closing, a trend accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the rise of online shopping. The reduced footfall and shifting consumer behaviour have made sustaining the traditional retail environment difficult. However, the plan has garnered notable support from both the public and businesses, with a recent consultation showing nearly 70% backing the regeneration proposals and two-thirds specifically supporting pedestrianisation.

Further backing has come from political figures such as Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner, who emphasised the scheme’s potential to stimulate economic growth, create new jobs, and bolster London’s night-time economy. Major retailers including Selfridges, John Lewis, and Ikea have also publicly welcomed the proposals. Nonetheless, some local authorities and stakeholders have expressed concerns, particularly around the complexities of traffic rerouting and access for buses and deliveries in the area.

Crucially, the forthcoming detailed consultation will address these logistics to ensure that pedestrianisation balances the needs of shoppers, businesses, and transport networks. Meanwhile, the upcoming one-day traffic ban event aims to provide a tangible demonstration of the benefits of a more pedestrian-friendly Oxford Street, allowing Londoners a glimpse of a cleaner, greener, and more vibrant urban space that prioritises people over cars.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/one-day-pedestrianisation-of-oxford-street-will-give-glimpse-of-future-C5F5W4UNN5K2NNHY3RSGOJ62SU/), [[4]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx24414r967o)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/one-day-pedestrianisation-of-oxford-street-will-give-glimpse-of-future-C5F5W4UNN5K2NNHY3RSGOJ62SU/), [[3]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx244r3n50xo), [[6]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/oxford-street-pedestrianisation-sadiq-khan-traffic-free-consultation-decision-mayor-b1233250.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/one-day-pedestrianisation-of-oxford-street-will-give-glimpse-of-future-C5F5W4UNN5K2NNHY3RSGOJ62SU/), [[4]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx24414r967o)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/business/retail-consumer/londons-oxford-street-go-traffic-free-shopping-area-makeover-says-mayor-2025-06-16/), [[7]](https://www.london.gov.uk/overwhelming-support-for-mayors-oxford-street-plans), [[3]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx244r3n50xo)
* Paragraph 5 – [[3]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx244r3n50xo), [[5]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/londons-oxford-street-could-go-traffic-free-under-mayors-plan-2024-09-17/), [[7]](https://www.london.gov.uk/overwhelming-support-for-mayors-oxford-street-plans), [[4]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx24414r967o)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/one-day-pedestrianisation-of-oxford-street-will-give-glimpse-of-future-C5F5W4UNN5K2NNHY3RSGOJ62SU/), [[4]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx24414r967o), [[5]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/londons-oxford-street-could-go-traffic-free-under-mayors-plan-2024-09-17/), [[6]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/oxford-street-pedestrianisation-sadiq-khan-traffic-free-consultation-decision-mayor-b1233250.html)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/one-day-pedestrianisation-of-oxford-street-will-give-glimpse-of-future-C5F5W4UNN5K2NNHY3RSGOJ62SU/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/business/retail-consumer/londons-oxford-street-go-traffic-free-shopping-area-makeover-says-mayor-2025-06-16/> - In June 2025, London Mayor Sadiq Khan announced plans to pedestrianise Oxford Street, aiming to revitalise the area and create a world-class, accessible hub for shopping, leisure, and outdoor events. The proposal received majority support from Londoners and businesses during a public consultation. Inspired by transformations in Times Square and La Rambla, the initiative seeks to rejuvenate the mile-long stretch, which attracts around 500,000 visitors daily but has faced retail closures and decline. The plan requires government legislation and rerouting of buses to implement.
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx244r3n50xo> - In September 2024, Mayor Sadiq Khan announced plans to pedestrianise part of London's Oxford Street, aiming to regenerate the area affected by online shopping and the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposal involves closing a 0.7-mile stretch between Oxford Circus and Marble Arch, with potential further changes towards Tottenham Court Road. The plan has received backing from Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner, who believes it will drive growth by creating new jobs and boosting London's night-time economy.
4. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx24414r967o> - In September 2024, London's Mayor Sadiq Khan faced opposition to his plan to ban traffic from part of Oxford Street. The proposal includes pedestrianising the stretch between Marble Arch and Oxford Circus, with potential restrictions towards Tottenham Court Road. This follows a previous attempt in 2018, which was blocked by the then-Conservative local authority. Oxford Street is one of the world's busiest shopping areas, with about half a million visitors daily. The plan aims to revive the area, which has suffered from big-name shop closures in recent years.
5. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/londons-oxford-street-could-go-traffic-free-under-mayors-plan-2024-09-17/> - In September 2024, Mayor Sadiq Khan proposed pedestrianising Oxford Street to attract more shoppers and boost economic activity. The plan has gained support from Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner, who believes it will create new jobs and enhance the night-time economy. Oxford Street attracts around half a million visitors daily but has faced challenges, with many flagship stores closing post-COVID pandemic. The area's recovery has been slow as more people turn to online shopping and reduced office returns. Retailers and local councils have shown both support and concern, particularly regarding the rerouting of buses and access implications.
6. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/oxford-street-pedestrianisation-sadiq-khan-traffic-free-consultation-decision-mayor-b1233250.html> - In June 2025, Mayor Sadiq Khan announced plans to proceed with the pedestrianisation of Oxford Street after receiving overwhelming support from Londoners and businesses. The changes will involve more of the road being closed to traffic than initially thought, including the eastern section between Oxford Circus and Great Portland Street, in addition to the western section between Oxford Circus and the western edge of Selfridges. The Oxford Circus junction itself will not be pedestrianised, as buses will continue to run north-south on Regent Street.
7. <https://www.london.gov.uk/overwhelming-support-for-mayors-oxford-street-plans> - In June 2025, the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, announced plans to pedestrianise Oxford Street following overwhelming public and business support. A consultation showed that almost seven in ten expressed support for the proposed interventions to regenerate Oxford Street, with two-thirds specifically supporting the idea of pedestrianisation. Major businesses, including Selfridges, John Lewis, and Ikea, have welcomed the plans, which aim to boost retail and drive growth for London and the wider UK economy.