ITDP India Programme

Smart City

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Government of India

FIT INDIA

AGARTALA

Streets for People

CHALLENGE

Design competition brief

January 2021

About

Streets for People

CHALLENGE

The ***Streets for People Challenge*** is an initiative of the Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India, to inspire cities to create walking-friendly streets through quick measures, in response to COVID-19.

The Challenge aims to create flagship walking initiatives in cities, which focus on placemaking and liveability. 113 cities have registered for this Challenge to reimagine their streets as public spaces through the lens of economic regeneration, safety, and child-friendly interventions, in order to ensure a green recovery from COVID-19.

The city-led design competition aims to crowdsource innovative ideas for designing and testing the pilot interventions through quick, low-cost solutions.

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City overview

AGARTALA

Agartala is the capital city of Tripura. It’s a small, but beautiful state located in the northeastern region of India. It is believed and further supported by many references that the name Agartala was derived from the words ‘Agar' and 'Tala', a mention to the density of Agarwood trees in the region. Situated on the banks of Howrah river, Agartala is just a few kilometers away from the geographical border of Bangladesh. Agartala entices the excursionists and sightseers with its past splendor. ‘Agar’ in Agartala is also referred in the context of great king Raghu, who tied up his elephant’s feet with Agar tree on the banks of Lauhitya. One of the earliest kings of Agartala was Patardan in B.C. 1900. It was the time long before the Manikya Dynasties. Chitrarath, Drikpati, Dharmapha, LoknathJivandharan have been the prominent kings in Agartala. In 1660, Maharaja Krishna Manikya (1748-1783) shifted the capital of Tripura from Udaipur to Old Agartala. Later, King Krishna Kishore Manikya (1830-1849) shifted his capital from Old Agartala to present day Agartala. Considered to be one of the oldest municipal bodies in India, Agartala Municipality was established by Birchandra Manikya in 1871. In the year 1936-37, the ruling king of the state prepared a Masterplan for Agartala which is said to be one of the first modern concepts of urban planning.

Register here for the competition

Call for ideas

The competition is an important step in the ***Streets for People Challenge.*** It aims to crowdsource innovative ideas from professionals and students from architecture, urban planning, and other relevant fields to design streets for people in their cities.

Following the **test-learn-scale approach,** the competition is looking for economical solutions that are quick, innovative, and easy to test.

The winning designs will be tested on ground using cost-effective tools, in collaboration with the local community.

The goal of the competition is to reimagine streets as

safe, healthy, and happy public spaces for all!

Design principles

01
Fair distribution of space

Streets for people ensure **efficient mobility** by offering multiple modes of travel, especially **high quality facilities for public and non-motorised transport.**

02
Safety & Security

Streets for people are **safe for all user groups** by providing segregated spaces for each and incorporating **traffic calming measures**. Personal safety is also ensured, with **good lighting** and **'eyes on the street'** through **active street edges and vending.**

Source: Bangalore mirror

03
Comfort

Streets for people are **accessible by all, including the differently-abled**. **Continuous and even-surfaced footpaths, table-top crossings, ramps, and tactile pavers, wherever level differences occur, seating and trees** are some measures to ensure universal accessibility and better comfort for all users.

04
Sensitivity to local context

Streets for people are **designed to suit the local context, factoring in street activities, patterns of pedestrian movement, nearby land uses, and the needs of the people**. Design interventions can range from contextual street elements to street-level interventions like shared or pedestrianised streets.

Source: Incredible India

05
Liveability

Streets for people are full of life, with **elements that enhance the liveability of the space**. These elements improve conditions for existing users, attract more users, increase retail activity, and **transform the street into a vital public space.**

06
Environmental sustainability

Streets for people promote sustainable modes of transport and **improve local climatic conditions.**Trees and plants help absorb pollutants and improve micro-climatic conditions.

Source: Townshend Landscape Architects

Source: codatu.org

Source: WRI India

Source: Flickr

Design tools

Tactical Urbanism is an approach that uses **short-term, low-cost, easy to build,** and **scalable interventions** to catalyze long term change.

Following this approach, we're looking for design and policy solutions that activate spaces to make it **safe, healthy, and happy,** by:

- **Using placemaking elements**
- **Reorganising existing activities**
- **Introducing new activities**

Source: Oasis Designs

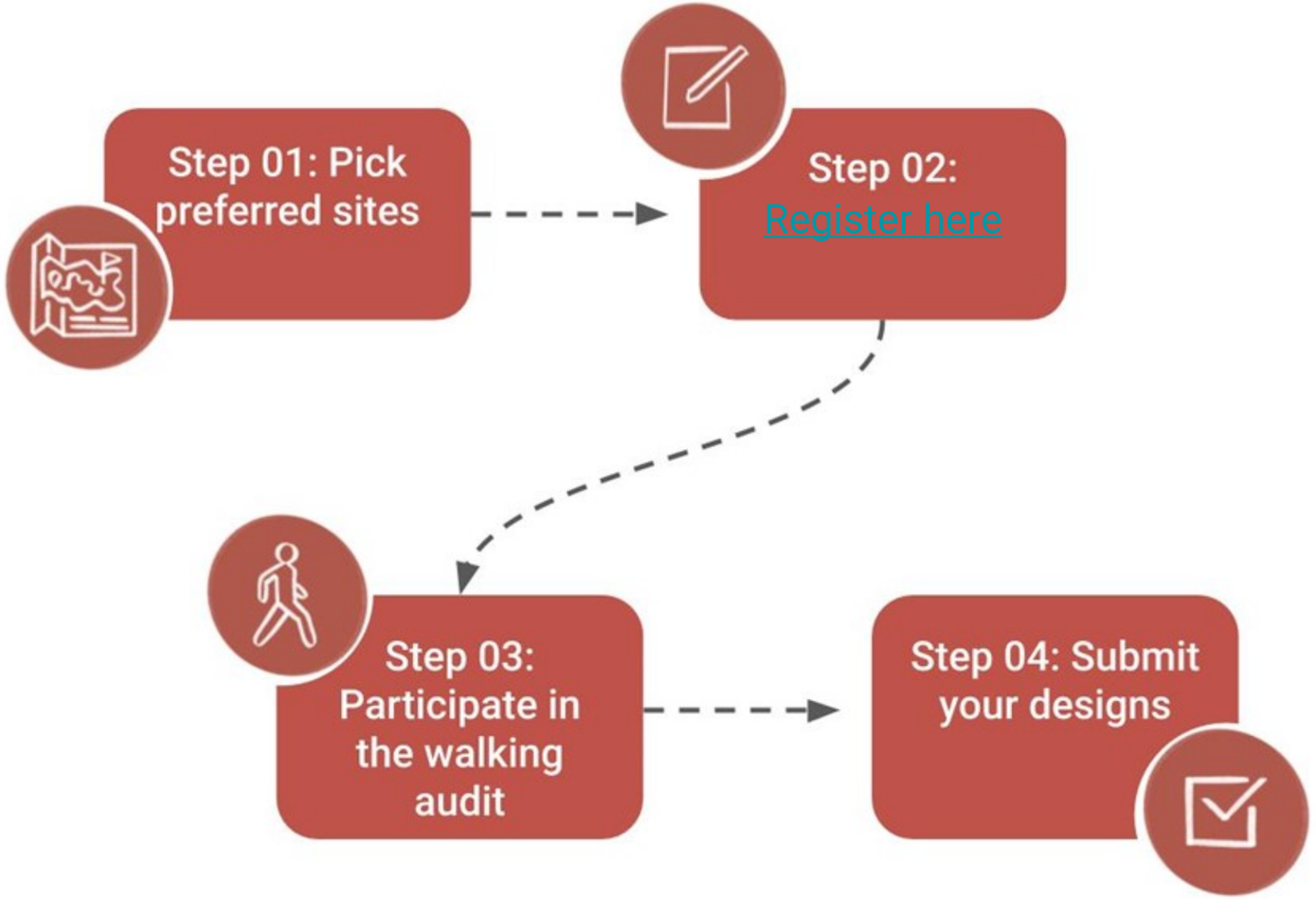
Importance of community

The ***Streets for People Challenge*** places the **community at the heart** of all design interventions. Emphasising on a bottom-up approach, all design solutions must be in alignment with the **needs of the community** for whom the design is implemented.

Designers must **study and understand the local context** thoroughly and incorporate the findings in the suggested design solutions. Response to local context is a key criteria for final assessments.

The Challenge includes various activities to strengthen the citizen-led approach such as open streets campaigns, walking audits with participants, and perception surveys.

Participation procedure



Here are four steps towards the submission!

1 | **Select the sites** for which you wish to develop the design solutions. The information about the sites is provided in the following pages.

2 | Next, please **register** through the given link and let us know!

3 | Join us for the **walking audit** at the pilot sites.

4 | Using the insights from the walking audit, to **develop the design** and **submit them before the deadline!**

We look forward to seeing your awesome design solutions!

Proposal for pilot

Under the ***Streets for People Challenge,*** the cities will test at least one pilot; comprising of a flagship public space project and a liveable neighbourhood. Hence, this **'call for ideas'** include sites for both components. Participants can select either or both of the sites to provide design solutions.

The sites fall under any of the typologies listed below:

Flagship public space:

1 | Market / Retail areas
2 | Transit hubs

Liveable neighbourhood:

1 | Mixed-income neighbourhoods
2 | Resettlement colonies
3 | Unplanned low-income neighbourhoods

Designing the pilot

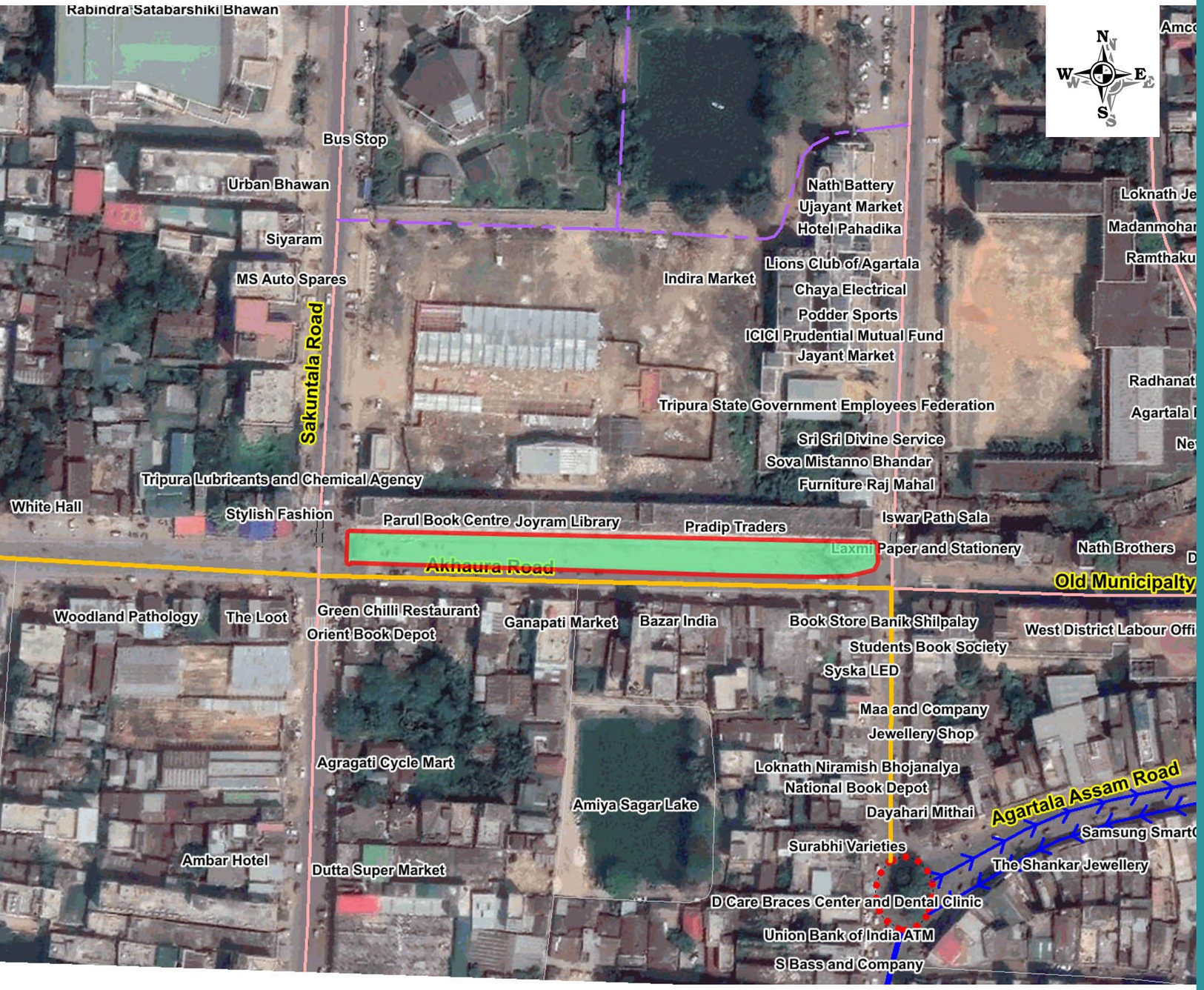
Flagship public space

- Understand the local context and city's aspirations
- Demonstrate implementable design concepts through complete or partial pedestrianisation strategies
- The design should respond to the vision of the challenge, to create city-level impact

Liveable neighbourhood

- Understand the local context
- Demonstrate implementable design concepts for creating walkable and liveable neighbourhood in holistic manner.
- The design should respond to the needs of local community and ensure safe, inclusive, and comfortable access to amenities and services.

To know more about the typologies, please check out the *Online Workshop 01 presentation*



Flagship pilot site

(Commercial Stretch)

Site A: From Orient Chowmuhani To Jackson gate infront of newly built book market complex open space.
Area of pilot: 10mx160m

The site proposed is one of the most prominent books and stationary market of Agartala city. Located in the central business district as well as in a close proximity of Ujjanta Palace, Shakuntala Market and Rabindra Bhawan, the place acts as a focal point to major commercial, cultural and leisure activities. Currently, vehicles, service trucks, 2 wheelers, hand-carts, labourers and shoppers are merged together on streets of the market area leading to an unsafe and chaotic environment.

The site for the competition extends from Orient Chomuhani to Jackson gate. The front plaza infront of newly constructed book market building has to be used for creating pedestrian friendly desin.The design solution should also include a a strategy to make the area around the street walking friendly.

Click here to download site details

Neighbourhood site

Site B: Heritage park main Gate to Ashray Home
Length of pilot stretch 400 m

The quiet road is situated amidst greener surroundings of heritage park and major Institutions like Acharya Prafulla Chandra Roy Smrity Vidyamandir & Institute of Advanced studies and Ashray Old age home , it connects VIP road near Gorkhabasti and Kunjaban residential area. Its an ideal site for pedestrians seeking refuge from busy vehicular streets and acts as a quick shortcut between major residential areas.

The site for the competition extends from *Heritage park main Gate to Ashray Home for a stretch of 400 meters.* desin.The design solution should also include a a strategy to make the area around the street walking friendly.

Click here to download site details

Timeline

Any changes to the timeline will be notified to the participants in advance.

Note

All winning teams are expected to assist the city with:

- Refining the design based on the inputs from community, city officials, and other stakeholders;
- Testing the design on the ground;
- Monitoring and Evaluation of implemented design.

Eligibility criteria

Professionals

Students

Multi-disciplinary collaborations

- Professionals and students in the fields of architecture, urban design, planning & other relevant fields are eligible.
- At least 1 team member should be a local resident of the city, who will serve as the representative.
- Multi-disciplinary collaboration is highly encouraged.
- There is no restriction on the number of members per team.

Evaluation criteria

All submitted design proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Originality of idea
- Understanding of the local context
- Inclusivity of the design solutions
- Feasibility of implementation
- Fulfilment of submission requirements in the prescribed format

The entries will be evaluated by local officials, citizens, experts, and other stakeholders.

Participation guidelines

- Participants are free to submit multiple entries per team.
- Participants are free to submit entries for multiple cities and for multiple sites per city.
- Any team assisted by a competition organiser or jury member will be disqualified.

Plagiarism of any ideas or images will be disqualified with a notice.

Register here for the competition

Any change in the timeline will be updated on the competition page in the *Streets for People Challenge website*

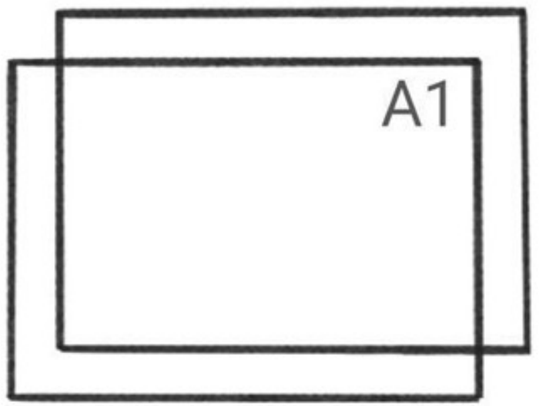
Submission guidelines

1 | Participants should create a shared folder (to be renamed with the competition ID), which must contain the **2 A1 sheets and the slide deck (20 slides). Maximum folder size : 25MB**

2 | Team registration ID and sheet number should be mentioned at the right bottom corner of every sheet. Team names, logos or organisation names **should not be mentioned** on the sheets.

3. Participants should share the drive link to the shared folder at (city to update email here).

For any queries, email us at iecascl@gmail.com



2 A1 Sheets must be submitted in .pdf/.jpeg format

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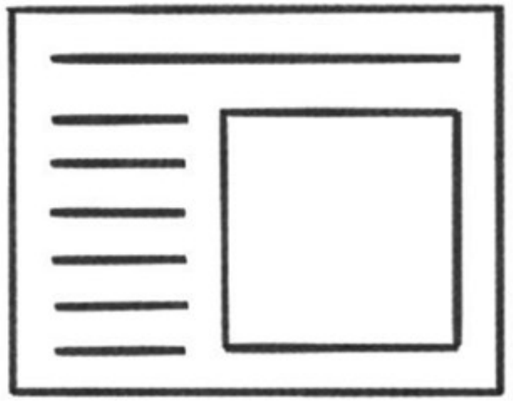

Slide deck of maximum 20 slides

The submission should cover the following :

- Key plan
- Design concept & diagrams
- Detailed plan and sections of the design intervention
- Implementation strategy addressing parking, vending and other on-site challenges
- Rough budget estimate and phasing
- At least 3 renders / views of the design intervention
- 200-300 word write-up about the design intervention

Awards

Shortlisted Entries

Shortlisted entries will be displayed at the *Agartala Streets for People Exhibition,* and circulated via the Agartala Smart city's social media platforms.

Winning Entries

All winning teams will get the opportunity to present, discuss, and develop their ideas with city officials, experts, and the community.

The winning designs will be tested on ground using quick, innovative, and cost-effective tools.

	Winner
Site A (Flagship Site: Commercial stretch) *Orient Chowmuhani to Jackson gate*	**- Rs. 5000 -**
Site B (Neighborhood Site) *Heritage park main Gate to Ashray Home*	**- Rs. 5000 -**

AGARTALA

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A programme of

ITDP India Programme

Smart City Mission Transformation

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Government of India

FIT INDIA

Agartala Smart City Limited

smartnet.niua.org/indiastreetchallenge/competition/