



In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for  
Barrett, the Honors College

## **Alex Baker and Jessica O'Malley**

Will defend their thesis

### **Impact and Feasibility Pedestrianization Proposals of Mill Ave. and the Downtown Tempe Area**

#### **Abstract**

The idea of a packed promenade, crowded with busy shoppers and completely empty of any cars may seem like a holdover from rustic 19<sup>th</sup> century Europe – but many examples can be found right here in the United States – in college towns like Madison, WI, big cities like Denver CO, and lots of places in between. Proposals to change Mill Ave. in Tempe – from University Dr. to Rio Salado Pkwy. – have been floated and introduced in the past to modify that segment of street into just that type of pedestrianized shopping mall, shutting it off to all car traffic outside of emergency vehicles.

As two students who are often near the hypothetically impacted area, we wanted to explore the feasibility of pushing forward such a proposal to continue to grow the Downtown Tempe economy. Our research is focused in several different areas - exploring positive and negative cases of street pedestrianization in the past (whether in Europe, the United States, or other countries), the impact a permanent street closure here in Tempe would have both on personal traffic and on Tempe's robust public transit system, potential security concerns that will arise, the thoughts of the business community on the proposed change, and the political feasibility of passing the proposal through all related political bodies.

Wednesday, April 16, 2019  
2:00-3:30PM

Wrigley Hall, Room 401 (tentative)

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.

Honors Thesis Committee: Dr. David King, Vice Mayor Lauren Kuby