

「Email Newsletter from Mayor of Okayama (46) May 8th Issue

【Traffic field trial on Nishigawa line, Prefectural office street】

Hello. This is Omori, the Mayor of Okayama city.

On both 3rd and 4th of May on Golden Week, traffic field trial aiming migratory improvement of the center city was taken place at Nishigawa line and prefectural office street to create an easy-to-walk space for pedestrians. I participated on 4th.

I had been worried that it might be postponed because previous day' s weather forecast said it would be rain on 4th, however, traffic field trial could make it somehow and I was relieved (I suppose the person in charge was extremely worried though...) .

On the day, I moved with my wife around AEON mall through Prefectural office street, Nishigawa line, and then walked Prefectural Office Street again toward Tenmaya, Omotecho direction from around 1 pm. I got an impression that everywhere was filled with more people than usual. I believe we fully obtained effects of generating footfall.

In particular, I saw children relaxed and played without a fear of traffic accident and passersby were with full of smile at Nishigawa Line that became pedestrian' s paradise as a first project.

After I arrived, along with the city hall staff and acquaintances I happened to meet, I had drinks, talked as eating with live performance behind us, and enjoyed open atmosphere. I had a great time.

In the future, if these activities will continuously be carried out and gradually fix, they will be killing three birds with one stone; they give moisture in civic life, lead to health promotion if walk becomes a habit and can expect economic effect by a lot of people gathered.

I' d like to keep taking various measures to improve migratory in the downtown.