

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, Austin prides itself on physical activity, street activations, and social engagement; and

WHEREAS, public spaces can help create the social bonds that can keep communities safe and inclusive; and

WHEREAS, Imagine Austin encourages the creation of pedestrian and bike-friendly streets, as well as community gathering spaces; and

WHEREAS, Ciclovía Open Streets events have grown in cities across the world and attract hundreds of thousands of participants in cities like Los Angeles, New York, and Bogota, Columbia; and

WHEREAS, Ciclovía Open Streets events have lasting benefits in terms of promoting individual health as well as neighborhood pride and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, City Council Resolution No. 20091119-070 directed the City Manager to conduct outreach with the community, bicycling advocates, other governmental entities, and neighborhood representatives to establish a “Ciclovía type event” in May 2010 and to analyze the potential for future Ciclovía events and partnerships; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, City staff held a Town Hall to discuss the creation of a Ciclovía event and committed to creating an Austin Ciclovía Strategic Plan to identify partners that could assist in ensuring the successful and long-term sustainability of the event; and

WHEREAS, Austin has hosted several Ciclovías around the city, including in the Mueller neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Bike Austin hosted two Ciclovía Open Streets events at the Dove Springs Recreation Center and the North Austin Events Center with bike rodeos, bike education, and pop-up bike lanes; and

WHEREAS, Bike Austin will host another Ciclovía event on Palo Blanco Lane in Dove Springs this fall; and

WHEREAS, Bike Austin and the Downtown Austin Alliance have expressed interest in hosting a Ciclovía event that would temporarily close Congress Avenue from 11th Street to Mary Street for several hours on a yet-to-be-determined weekend day to encourage multi-modal transportation and the convivial activation of public space; and

WHEREAS, in September of 2016, the Austin Transportation Department and the Austin Center for Events (ACE) declared a continuation of a moratorium on all new street events in the Downtown area through December 2018; and

WHEREAS, exemptions may be permitted based on review by Director of Transportation and the ACE Corporate Special Events Program Manager; and

WHEREAS, the South River City Citizens Neighborhood Association, Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association, and the South Congress Merchants Association have voted in support of the creation of such an event; **NOW, THEREFORE;**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to estimate total costs of a street closure from 11th Avenue to Mary Street along Congress Avenue for several hours on a weekend day and to recommend whether this event would be eligible for a Downtown event moratorium exemption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is also directed to identify organizations that may be interested in co-sponsoring a Ciclovía Open Street event, such as Bike Austin and other bicycle advocacy groups; Congress Avenue merchants; nonprofit organizations; and neighborhood groups. The City Manager is also directed to identify any additional resources that would be needed to successfully execute the event along Congress Avenue from 11th Street to Mary Street.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to report back to Council by September 1, 2017.

ADOPTED: _____, 2017

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk