

DUVAL STREET (SAN JACINTO BLVD TO 53RD STREET) PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Funding was identified by Austin City Council [District 9](#) and through the [2016 Mobility Bond](#) for improvements along Duval Street from San Jacinto Boulevard to 53rd Street. This street was evaluated by Austin Transportation Department (ATD) staff for improvements to enhance the safety and mobility of everyone who uses the street. The following was considered:

- Duval Street provides north-south access in central Austin, including access to the University of Texas at Austin campus, the Hyde Park neighborhood, housing, schools, parks, and local businesses.
- Duval Street is one of the busiest bicycle corridors in the city, with people riding bicycles making up 9% of all traffic on the street.
- An analysis of crash data from the Austin Police Department (APD) shows that between 2012 and 2016, a total of 77 crashes occurred on this segment of Duval Street, 25% of which involved a person walking or bicycling.
- ATD has received over 60 [3-1-1](#) complaints regarding parking in the bike lane on Duval Street outside of designated hours (6:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.)
- ATD recently completed an extensive public engagement process called [Walk + Bike Talks](#) to help prioritize improvements for bicycling and walking across the city. Community feedback received through this process confirmed the desire for improved conditions for bicycling along Duval Street.
- Duval Street is within the Big Jump focus area.

PROJECT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

A public participation process was undertaken during November 2017 to obtain feedback from the community on the proposed safety and connectivity improvements. The process consisted of notifying 1300+ residents along Duval Street (including owners and renters) of the opportunity to provide their feedback via phone call, email and/or attendance at an open house held from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 17, 2017 at Ridgetop Elementary Library.

A notification of these opportunities was also emailed to the following local groups:

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| - North University Neighborhood Association | - University Area Partners |
| - The Midtown Alliance | - Ridgetop Elementary School |
| - North Austin Neighborhood Alliance | - Lee Elementary School |
| - North Loop Neighborhood Association | - University of Texas |
| - Hancock Neighborhood Association | - Ridgetop Baptist Church |
| - Eastwoods Neighborhood Association | - Trinity Chapel |
| - 45th St. Concerned Citizens | - Our Lady's Maronite Catholic Church |
| - Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team | - Hyde Park Christian Church |
| - CANPAC (Central Austin Neighborhood Plan Area Committee) | - Little Vine Primitive Baptist Church |
| - North University Neighborhood Association | - Evergreen Church of Austin |
| - Hyde Park Neighborhood Association | - Red River Church |
| - Friends of Sparky Park | - Trinity Church of Austin |
| - Friends of Hyde Park | - St. Paul Lutheran Church |

A notification of these opportunities was also emailed to the following city-wide groups:

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| - Austin Bicycle Advisory Council | - Austin Neighborhood Council |
| - Austin Pedestrian Advisory Council | |
| - Bike Austin | |
| - Bike Texas | |
| - Texas Homeless Neighborhood Association | |
| - Friends of Austin Neighborhoods | |

During the public process, the following requests, concerns and feedback were noted and addressed by staff:

Feedback	Response
Substantial support for the project.	The resulting project design will include upgraded bicycle facilities along the length of the project, as well as improvements to pedestrian safety.
Safety and aesthetic concerns with the use of concrete buttons or flexible delineator posts for physical protection of bike lanes.	Physical protection of the bikeway is no longer being considered on Duval Street as part of this project, but may be re-evaluated in the future.
Requests for sidewalk improvements and safer pedestrian crossings along Duval Street.	Feedback regarding existing and missing sidewalks was forwarded to the Public Works Department. ATD staff evaluated existing pedestrian crossings and determined that enhanced pedestrian crossing treatments will be implemented at Harris Avenue, 41st Street, and 43rd Street to improve visibility and safety.
Concerns about the prohibition of parking at all times in the Duval Street bicycle lanes from San Jacinto Boulevard to 50th Street resulting in crowding of side streets.	Staff conducted a parking analysis along Duval Street as part of feasibility analysis for the proposed project. Based on this analysis, ATD does not anticipate that parking demand levels in the area will result in a problematic shift to parking on side streets, as we expect that the capacity of adjacent streets will be able to meet the demand.
Concerns about further restricting parking from 50th Street to 53rd Street, especially given a new Home Slice Pizza location opening at 501 E. 53rd St in the spring.	Parking will be allowed on the east side of the Duval Street between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. from 51st Street to 53rd Street. Existing No Parking zones will remain as-is.
Requests to calm motor vehicle speeds on Duval Street as well as opposition to narrowing motor vehicle lane widths.	The proposed reconfiguration, including the narrowing of motor vehicle lane widths, is designed to encourage people driving motor vehicles on Duval Street to intuitively reduce their speed in order to improve safety for all street users, as speed is the most important factor in crash severity. Speed studies will be performed after the project to evaluate the effectiveness of the design.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

ATD will be implementing this project in two phases:

Phase 1:

- Modifications to parking restrictions on Duval Street south of 53rd Street to San Jacinto Boulevard
- Installation of northbound bicycle lanes between 51st Street and 53rd Street

Phase 2:

- Installation of painted buffers added to bicycle lanes south of 50th Street
- Modifications to striping near signalized intersections
- Installation of a northbound bicycle lane between 50th Street and 51st Street
- Installation of southbound bicycle lanes between 51st Street and 53rd Street
- Construction of a shared use path along the northbound approach to 45th Street
- Enhanced pedestrian crossing treatments at Harris Avenue, 41st Street, and 43rd Street

Please contact Alison Mills at 512-974-7166 or alison.mills@austintexas.gov with any questions or comments about the project.