

Congress Avenue Urban Design Initiative

Support for additional proposals made by the Pedestrian Advisory Council

Congress Avenue between Cesar Chavez Street and 11th Street is known as “the main street of Texas”, a social, cultural, and economic center for Austin and all of Texas. The Congress Avenue Urban Design Initiative (CAUDI) recently released a report proposing various enhancements to allow Congress to better perform in these aspects.

Subsequently, the Pedestrian Advisory Council (PAC) released a recommendation for Congress, building on the CAUDI’s proposals in numerous areas, with a focus on creating a physical, cultural, and regulatory structure that allows Congress to change constantly and incrementally over time by inviting participation from a wide range of community stakeholders.

Key elements of the PAC recommendation include:

- Converting all on-street parking spaces on Congress between Cesar Chavez Street and 11th Street into car-free programmable “flexi-spaces” that facilitate various ongoing commercial and non-commercial uses
- Encouraging more street events, especially between 7th Street and 11th Street, and for longer periods of time, that would allow Congress to be tested as a potential permanent car-free public space; and to convert Congress between 7th Street and 11th Street into a “festival street” design that facilitates easier closures for events
- Reducing the number of vehicle lanes between Cesar Chavez Street and 11th Street by more than the CAUDI’s recommended one lane reduction
- Installing public restrooms at regular intervals along Congress

The Bicycle Advisory Council supports the PAC’s recommendation and urge the Austin City Council to integrate the recommendation’s proposals into the final plan for Congress Avenue and pursue funding for implementation.

Date approved: June 18, 2019

Vote: 6 – 0 with Alcorn and Ortega absent

Attest:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'K. Flowers', with a stylized, flowing script.

Kathryn Flowers, BAC Chair