



Council Resolution No. 20211021-027 Living Streets Staff Recommendations and Update March 10, 2022



TRANSPORTATION

Overview

Resolution Summary +
Recommendations

- ✓ Neighborhood Block Party Program
- ✓ Play Streets Program (Exploring)
- ✓ Healthy Streets Program (Exploring)

Next Steps

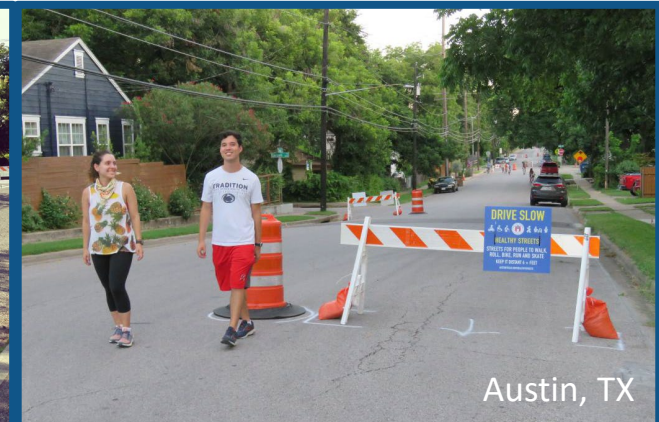




General Summary

- **Neighborhood Block Party (NBP) Program:**
Improved, easily accessible, and more equitable version of the **existing program**.
- **Play Streets Program:**
Create a **new program** intended to be a permit-based, complete street closure occurring for several hours, multiple times per week.
- **Resident-Led, 1-block Healthy Streets Program:**
Create a **new program** similar to the existing **staff-led** Healthy Streets program established under Resolution 20200507-062, but **resident-led**.
- **Living Streets Webpage:**
Create a **public-facing webpage** to easily connect the public to a **menu of programs**.

Living Streets - Concepts



	Neighborhood Block Party	Play Street	Healthy Street
Existing Program	Yes	No	No*
Funded	Yes	No	No
Permit Application	Yes	Likely	Likely
Approval + Notification %s	Yes	Likely	Likely
Resident Monitor	Yes	Likely	Unlikely
Engineering Design	Standard Template	Standard Template Likely	Yes
Barricades	Yes	Yes	Yes
Semi-Permanent Devices	No	Unlikely	Likely

*Healthy Streets is the title of a current program established by Council in May of 2020. A resident-led program does not presently exist.

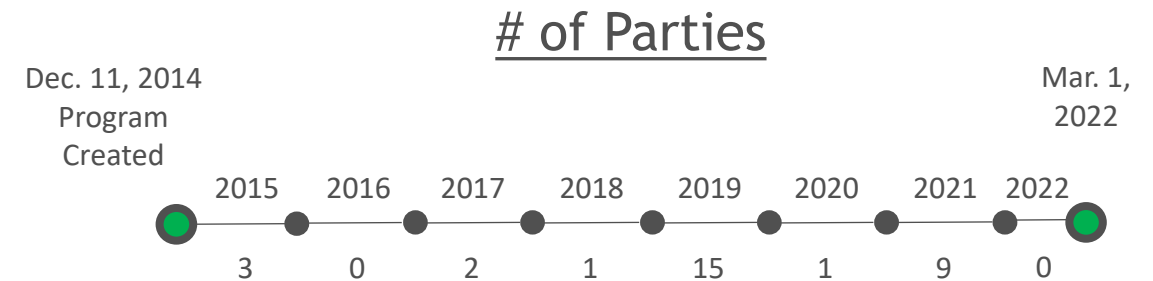
Neighborhood Block Party Program



Neighborhood Block Party (NBP) Program

Existing Program

- Eligible Street Blocks
 - ✓ 1 block w/residential single-family dwellings or duplexes
 - ✓ No bus routes
 - ✓ Avoids intersections
 - ✓ Does not affect a traffic signal
- Program
 - ✓ Application process
 - ✓ Notification: 100% residents (signatures)
 - ✓ Approval: 80% of residents (signatures)
 - ✓ \$50 permit fee
 - ✓ City loans barricades at no cost





Neighborhood Block Party (NBP) Program



Requested Change (from resolution)	Current Program	Recommendation
1.1. Allow simple resident majority approval < 8 hr party	80%	60%
1.2. Allow 2/3 resident majority approval > 8 hr party	80%	60%
1.3. Provide flexibility for alternative notification methods	100%	60% Remaining: Door hangers, flyers...
1.4. Fix map tool in permit portal to make it easier to select party location	Difficult to select location, email support	Improve map tool, Increase access to support (webpage, include phone #)
1.5. Provide alternative application process for anyone unable to submit online application	Submit thru 3-1-1, 3-1-1 transfer to ATD	Continue current program
1.6. Provide application and information in Spanish	Website in 80 languages, 3-1-1 translation services, English only application (PDF)	Provide PDFs in Spanish and other common languages
1.7. Continue minimizing permit fees	\$50	Explore during FY23 budget process

Neighborhood Block Party (NBP) Program



Requested Change (from resolution)	Current Program	Recommendation
2.1. Continue, but minimize required unobstructed travel lane for emergency vehicles	25 feet	25 feet if block has following characteristics, otherwise 15 feet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-Street Parking • Buildings ≥ 3 stories • Church, school, commercial area • No connectivity at end of block
2.2. Allow on-street parking if emergency travel lane maintained	Parking not allowed	Allow parking if 25-foot emergency lane maintained
2.3. Not requiring monitors to be stationed at barricades	Monitors required at barricades	Monitors required in view of barricades
2.4. Ensure City continues to provide barricades	ATD loans barricades at NO COST	Continue current program

Neighborhood Block Party (NBP) Program



Requested Change (from resolution)	Current Program	Recommendation
3.1. Allow schools and places of worship to be present within block	Single family and duplexes	Allow schools + places of worship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their approval required • Outside facility hours • If participate, Tier 2 permit likely • Update City Code
3.2. Allow multifamily residential buildings to be present within block	Single family and duplexes	Allow multifamily buildings on residential streets develop criteria: size, location... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update City Code
3.3. Allow mixed use and/or commercial properties	Single family and duplexes	Pursue Tier 2 Event Permit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety concerns • Unpredictable attendee size • Vehicle access
3.4. Establish additional sites for barricade pick-up to improve equity regarding accessibility	Central location (1501 Toomey Rd.)	Expand pick-up sites
4.1. Public Input: Work w/past applicants, community-based organizations (CBOs), B+C, peer cities	N/A	Completed: past applicants, peer cities To Do: CBOs, B+C

Neighborhood Block Party (NBP) Program



Public Input

- **Past Applicants Survey**
 - ✓ 13 of 63 (~20%) past applicants responded
 - ✓ Barricade loan program is a success
 - ✓ Cumbersome application process
 - ✓ Included survey feedback in recommendations (e.g., reduce approval %, expand barricade lending program)
- **Peer City Review**
 - ✓ 26 cities reviewed
 - ✓ Austin is comparable to other cities around 1,000,000 population (Charlotte, Columbus, Ft. Worth)
 - ✓ Similarities: residential streets, standardized barricades, emergency lane requirements
 - ✓ Differences: barricade monitor, streets with multifamily buildings
- **Seek Input** (*Still To Do*)
 - ✓ Community Based Organizations (e.g., Walk Austin)
 - ✓ Urban Transportation Commission

Play Streets Program

Where We Are Today

- Program Does Not Currently Exist
- Exploring Establishing Program

Play Streets Program

Program **DOES NOT** Exist Today

Request in Resolution

5.1. Establish a **Play Street** to be recurring, complete street closure that may occur for several hours, multiple times per week

- Program Does Not Exist Today
- Considerations
 - ✓ Safety
 - ✓ Develop **criteria** for qualifying streets
 - ✓ Maintain **access**
 - ✓ **Permitting process** like Neighborhood Block Party Program
 - ✓ **Resourcing:** staff, barricades, inspection, **coordination**
 - ✓ Existing Programs: Seattle, Portland, Philadelphia



Healthy Streets Program

Where We Are Today

- Staff-Led Program Established During Pandemic
- Exploring Resident-Led Program

Healthy Streets Program

Program **DOES NOT** Exist Today

Request in Resolution

5.2. Establish a resident-led **Healthy Street** as 1-block, on-going, partial street closure to through traffic, like City's existing staff-led Healthy Streets.

- **Program Does Not Exist Today**

- **Existing Program**

- ✓ Resolution 20200507-062 established a **staff-led** Healthy Streets Program **during pandemic** to open street space for physical distancing.
- ✓ Streets Today: Bouldin Ave./S. 3rd St.; Avenue G
- ✓ Several blocks
- ✓ **Rented** traffic barricades
- ✓ Barricades placed based on **engineering plan**
- ✓ **Frequent recurring maintenance**

- **Considerations**

- ✓ **Safety**
- ✓ **Application process (resident-led)** like Neighborhood Block Party Program
- ✓ Develop **criteria** for qualifying streets
- ✓ Maintain **access**
- ✓ Resourcing: staff, **engineering design** for traffic control, barricades, inspection, **maintenance**
- ✓ Existing Programs: Seattle, New York



Play Streets & Healthy Streets Program

Programs **DO NOT** Exist Today

Requests Apply to Both Programs in Resolution	Considerations
5.3. Require 60% resident approval to support application.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ATD is supportive
5.4. Allow permit to be valid for 6 months .	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ATD is supportive• ROW permits currently valid for 180 days as per City Code• Over 4,000 active ROW permits/day, coordination needed
5.5. Establish 60% resident approval for removal AND establish 6-month cooling off period – same permit not approved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ATD is supportive• Will also consider renewals and modifications
5.6. Strive to design programs + permit processes to be easy , accessible, affordable, inclusive, and equitable while ensuring public safety, community awareness, and support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ATD is supportive• Many existing and recommended strategies for NBP will be applicable to these processes (e.g., loan barricades, multiple sites, applications in a variety of languages)• Other considerations: staff to clear conflicts, standard approaches to easily set traffic control devices
5.7. Seek input from community based organizations (e.g., Walk Austin), relevant Boards and Commissions, and peer cities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ATD anticipates opening a community conversation to further develop this program as staff are identified to lead this effort
5.8. Adopt all feasible options for barricades to reduce program costs while maintaining street safety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ATD is supportive• Expect to expand barricade loaner program to Play Streets• Develop traffic control templates for Healthy Streets
6.1. Create webpage providing a menu of Living Streets options available to neighborhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ATD is supportive and preparing this resource



2022

- Publish Living Streets Webpage
- Update NBP Process + Webpage
- Engage Stakeholders
- Update City Code
- Develop Play Streets Program
- Develop Healthy Streets Program
- Estimate Resource Needs for FY24 Budget
(*may be able to provide initial funding in FY23*)

2023/2024

- Launch/pilot programs depending on resource availability



TRANSPORTATION

THANK YOU

