



# 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





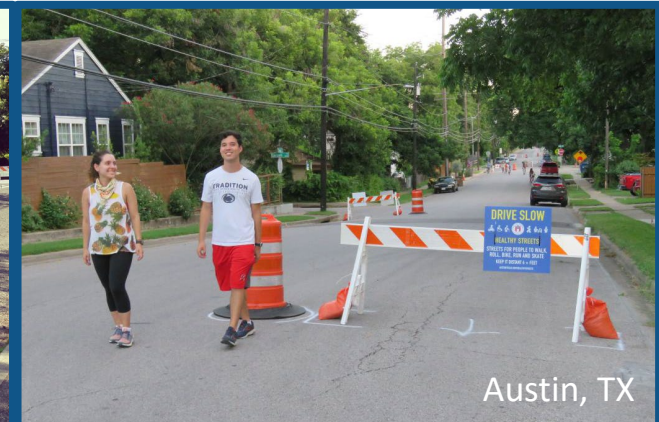




## General Summary

- 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	Resident-Led Healthy Street
Frequency	Once	Recurring	Continuous
Existing Program	✓	ⓧ	ⓧ*
Funded	✓	ⓧ	ⓧ
Permit Application	✓	Likely	Likely
Approval + Notification %s	✓	Likely	Likely
Engineering Design	Standard Template	Standard Template Likely	Custom Design Likely
Semi-Permanent Devices	ⓧ	Unlikely	Likely
Resident Monitor	✓	Likely	Unlikely

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

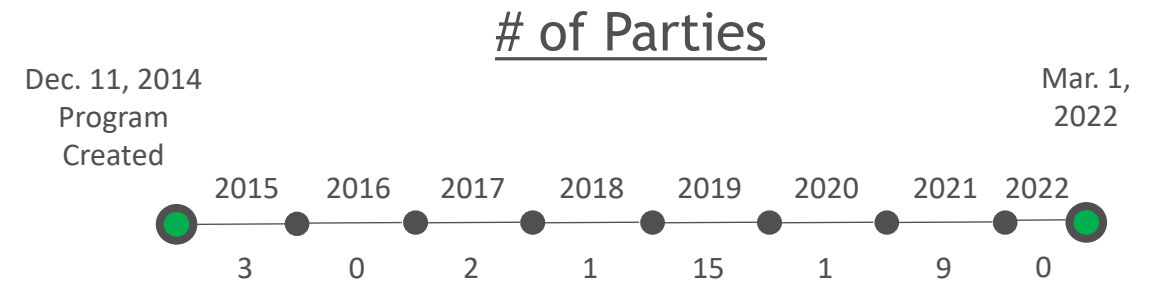
# Neighborhood Block Party Program



# 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	Staff Recommendation
1.1. Allow simple resident majority <b>approval</b> < 8 hr party	80%	60%
1.2. Allow 2/3 resident majority <b>approval</b> > 8 hr party	80%	60%
1.3. Provide flexibility for alternative <b>notification</b> methods	100%	60% Remaining: Door hangers, flyers...
1.4. Fix <b>map tool</b> 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 <b>alternative application process</b> 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 <b>Spanish</b>	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 <b>permit fees</b>	\$50	Explore during FY23 budget process



# Neighborhood Block Party (NBP) Program



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

# Neighborhood Block Party (NBP) Program



Requested Change (from resolution)	Current Program	Staff Recommendation
3.1. Allow <b>schools and places of worship</b> to be present within block	Single family and duplexes	Allow schools + places of worship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Their approval required</li> <li>• Outside facility hours</li> <li>• If participate, Tier 2 permit likely</li> <li>• Update City Code</li> </ul>
3.2. Allow <b>multifamily residential buildings</b> to be present within block	Single family and duplexes	Allow multifamily buildings on residential streets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop criteria: size, location...</li> <li>• Update City Code</li> </ul>
3.3. Allow <b>mixed use</b> and/or <b>commercial properties</b>	Single family and duplexes	1. NBP: precluded unless approved by Director 2. Special Event: Tier 2 Permit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety concerns, unpredictable attendee size, vehicle access, develop criteria</li> <li>• Update City Code</li> </ul>
3.4. Establish <b>additional sites for barricade pick-up</b> to improve equity regarding accessibility	Central location (1501 Toomey Rd.)	Expand pick-up sites
4.1. <b>Public Input:</b> 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.

- **Resident-Led Program Does Not Exist Today**

- **Existing Staff-Led 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. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 <b>60% resident approval</b> to support application.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ATD is supportive</li></ul>
5.4. Allow <b>permit</b> to be <b>valid</b> for <b>6 months</b> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ATD is supportive</li><li>• ROW permits currently valid for 180 days as per City Code</li><li>• Over 4,000 active ROW permits/day, <b>coordination needed</b></li></ul>
5.5. Establish <b>60% resident approval for removal</b> AND establish 6-month cooling off period – same permit not approved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ATD is supportive</li><li>• Will also consider renewals and modifications</li></ul>
5.6. Strive to <b>design programs</b> + permit processes <b>to be easy</b> , accessible, affordable, inclusive, and equitable while ensuring public safety, community awareness, and support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ATD is supportive</li><li>• 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)</li><li>• Other considerations: staff to clear conflicts, standard approaches to easily set traffic control devices</li></ul>
5.7. <b>Seek input</b> from community based organizations (e.g., Walk Austin), relevant Boards and Commissions, and peer cities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ATD anticipates opening a community conversation to further develop this program as staff are identified to lead this effort</li></ul>
5.8. Adopt all feasible <b>options for barricades to reduce</b> program <b>costs</b> while maintaining street safety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ATD is supportive</li><li>• Expect to expand barricade loaner program to Play Streets</li><li>• Develop templates for Play Streets.</li></ul>
6.1. <b>Create webpage</b> providing a menu of Living Streets options available to neighborhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ATD is supportive and preparing this resource</li></ul>



## 2022

- Publish Living Streets Webpage
- Update NBP 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**

