



TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC WORKS



Austin Transportation and Public Works

Transforming Streets, Building Community

BAC / PAC Presentation – 12/04/2023

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Smart Mobility Office



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What is The Living Streets Program?

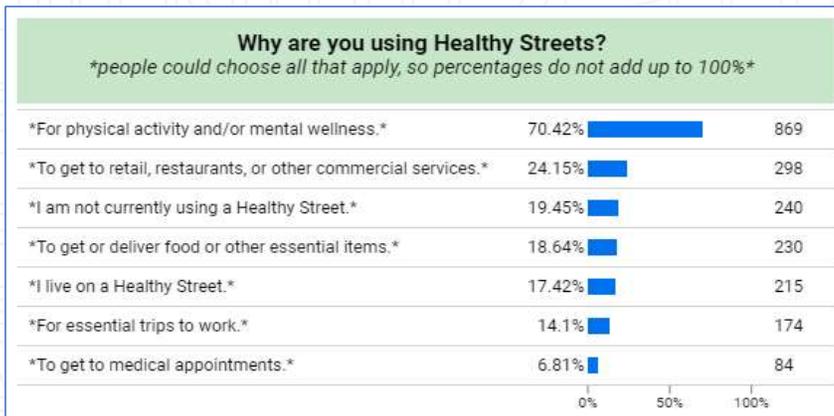
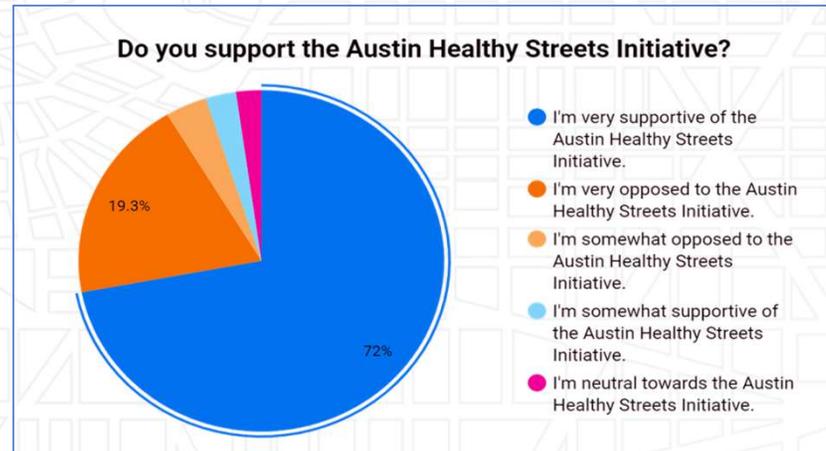
Envisions residential streets as places where communities can walk, bike, gather, and connect

- Pandemic-era *Healthy Streets Initiative* expired
- Living Streets Program created through Council [Resolution No. 20211021-02](#) in October 2021. It includes three resident requested activations



Precursor to Living Streets Pandemic-era Healthy Streets Initiative

- Started May 2020
- 16 installations throughout the city
- September 2020 resident survey showed high levels of support for the initiative
- Lessons Learned:
 - Residents wanted notice and inclusion in the process
 - The street type matters





Resolution No. 20211021-02 Key Notes & Goals

- **Residents were supportive** of Pandemic Program
- Council directs the City Manager to create the "Street Programs" - Living Streets
- Residential streets can help **build community, increase safety, and improve quality of life**
- **Community building** to aid with **disaster relief**
- Supports **Austin Strategic Mobility Plan**
- Use "**soft**" closures to create connectivity and community
- Address **equity issues** by making Living Streets accessible



Resolution No. 20211021-02 Requirements

- Make the program “as straightforward, easy, accessible, affordable, inclusive, and equitable as possible”.
- Living Streets will be a resident-led process.
- 60% of the residents of a proposed street must approve with a signature to support an activation.
- 3-6 months with an option for renewal (except NBP).
- Develop low-cost options for street access points.
- Simplify the process.

Neighborhood Block Parties

- Applied for and managed by a resident who resides on the street
- City has a first come, first served barricade loan program with signage, lights and safety vests.
- 1 block in length.
- A one-time closure, up to 24 hours in length that abides by noise regulations.

[Apply for a Neighborhood Block Party](#)





Healthy Streets

- Applied for by a resident who resides on the street
- The city installs and manages cones, barrels, barricades and signage to create street access points
- ~3-4 blocks in length
- Around the clock “soft” closures that are meant to deter through traffic
- 3-6 months, with the opportunity to renew

[Apply for a Healthy Street or Play Street](#)





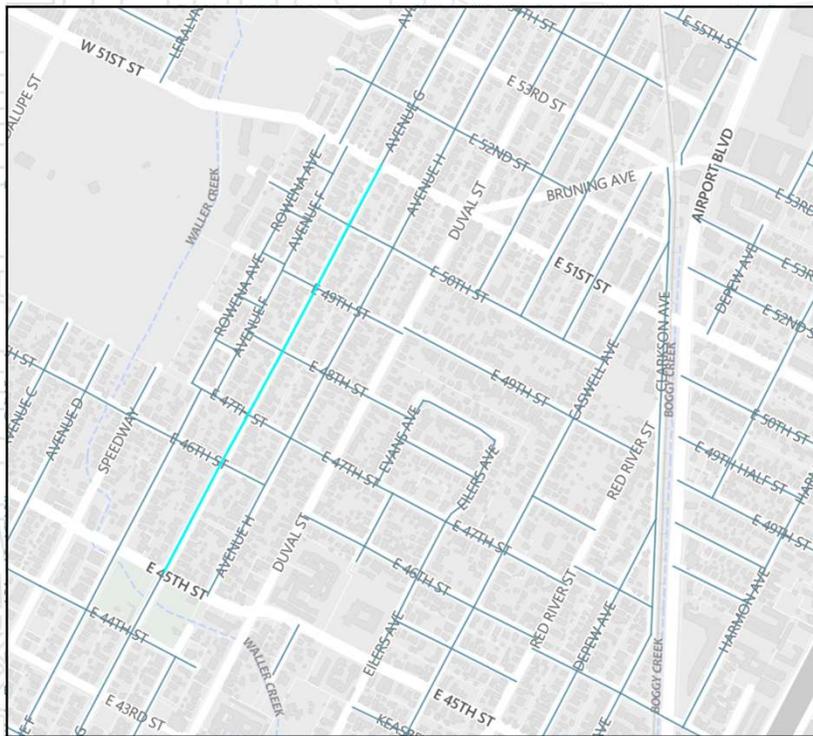
Play Streets

- Applied for and managed by a resident
- Resident will set up and take down Play Street barricades and signage provided by the City
- 1 block in length
- Uses “soft” closures with city provided barricades
- Up to 3 days a week for up to 12 hours a week
- 3-6 months in duration, with the opportunity to renew

[Apply for a Healthy Street or Play Street](#)



Healthy and Play Streets Viability Street Analysis



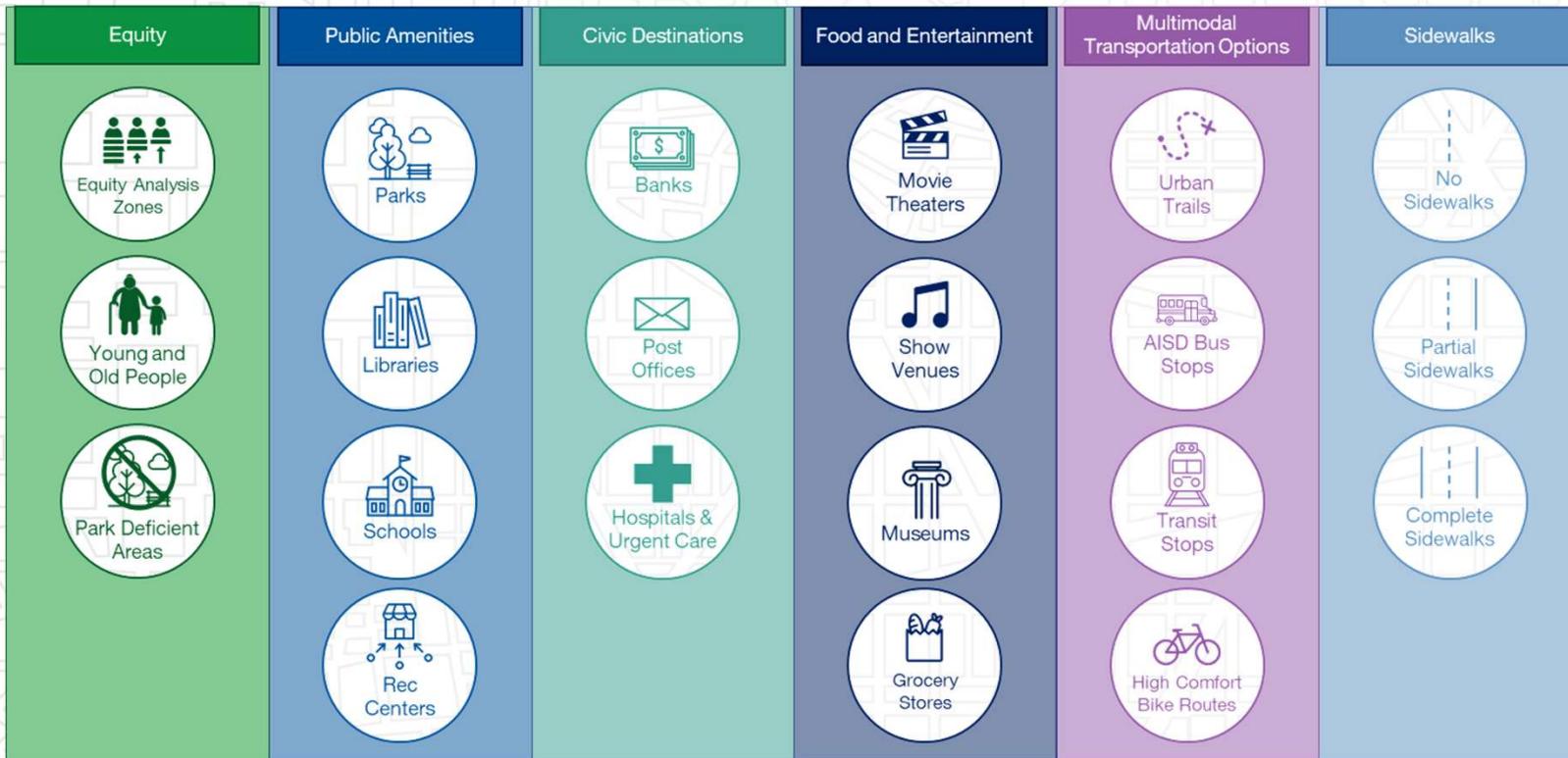
Eligible streets:

- Be a residential street (ASMP Class 1 road or lower)
- Be approximately 25-40 feet wide (typically a 2-lane road with parking and partial or no sidewalk)
- Have 90% or more residential parcels. Streets with multifamily buildings will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Ineligible streets :

- Connect directly to a major arterial road
- Affect a traffic signal
- Affect a transit route

Healthy and Play Streets Prioritization



Expression of Interest, Applications, and Installations

EOI Submitted EOI Reviewed Soft Launch Grand Total

Healthy Streets	14	7	3	24
Play Streets	9	2		11
Grand Total	23	9	3	35

- Application window opened 11/2/23
- ** Information as of 11/28/23



Installation goals

Healthy Streets	10
Play Streets	6
Grand Total	16

1. Express your interest – The resident fills out an Expression of Interest online.

2. Coordinate with City staff – Program staff will communicate with the resident to choose the best nearby street for an activation.

3. Complete the application – The resident will collect signatures, find a sponsor if needed, and complete the application.

4. Staff review – City staff will review all applications submitted and choose the applications that best fit program intentions and resources.

5. Project installation – City staff will install or deliver the equipment for the activation

Communications and Outreach

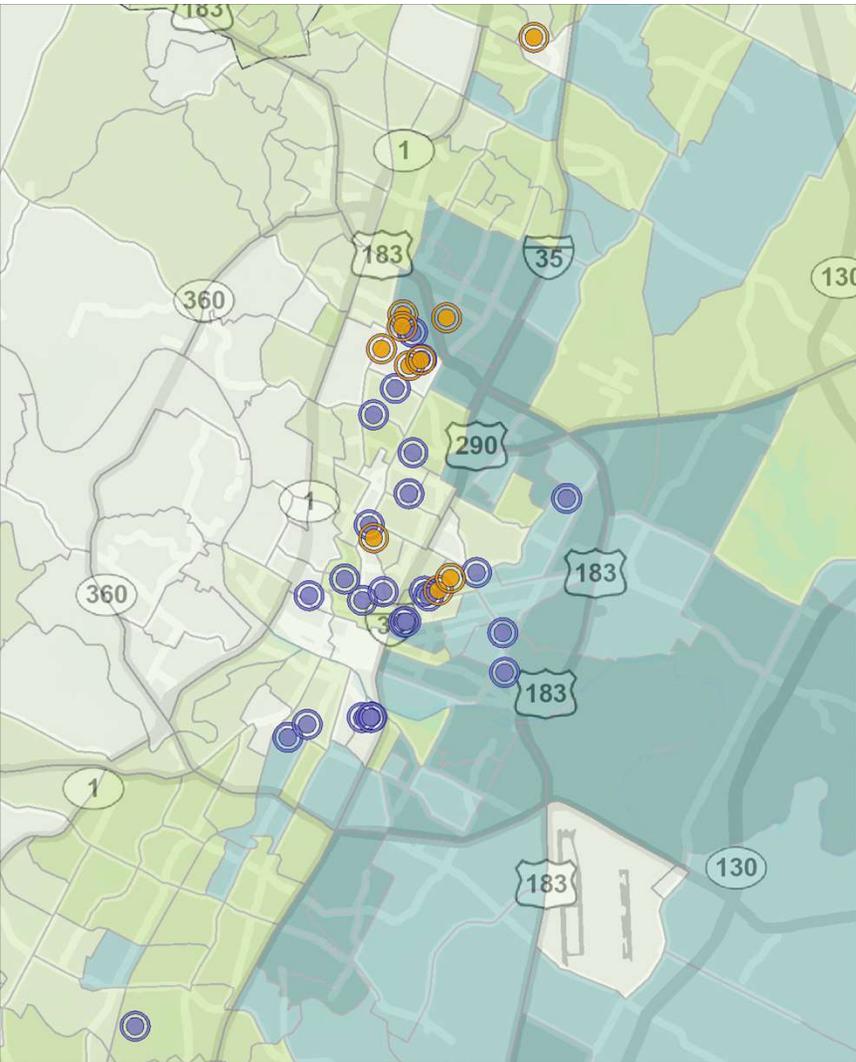
Goal: *Living Streets will be accessible, affordable, inclusive, and equitable.*

Community outreach will focus on Equity Analysis Zones.

- “Medium-High Vulnerable” (light blue)
- “Most Vulnerable” Equity Analysis Zones (dark blue)

Methods:

- Tabling and pop-up events
- Tri-fold pamphlet and flyers
- Sign campaigns:
- Presentations to Committees, Council and NGO partners
- Social Media Campaign



Equity Analysis Zones and Living Streets Applications

- Healthy Streets Applications
- Play Streets Applications

Thank You!

Questions?

<https://www.austintexas.gov/LivingStreets>

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13

11/30/2023



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