



TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC WORKS



Austin Transportation and Public Works

Transforming Streets, Building Community

BAC / PAC Presentation – 12/04/2023

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What is The Living Streets Program?

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

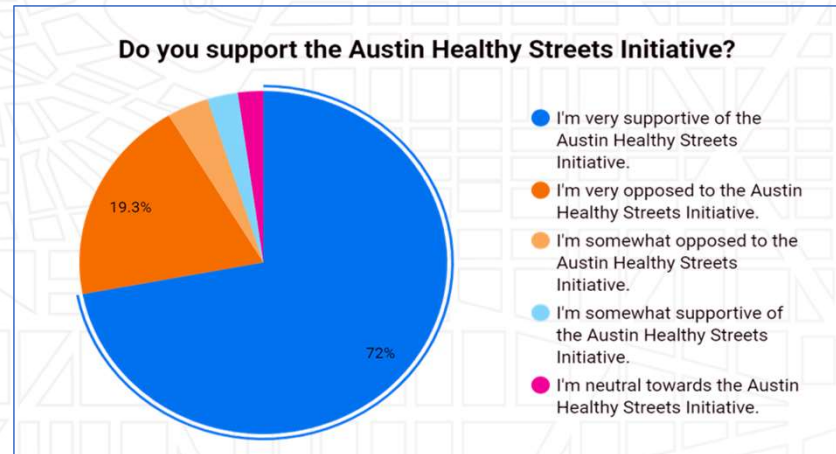
- Pandemic-era *Healthy Streets Initiative* expired
- Living Streets Program created through Council [Resolution No. 20211021-02](#) in October 2021. It includes three resident requested activations



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](#)





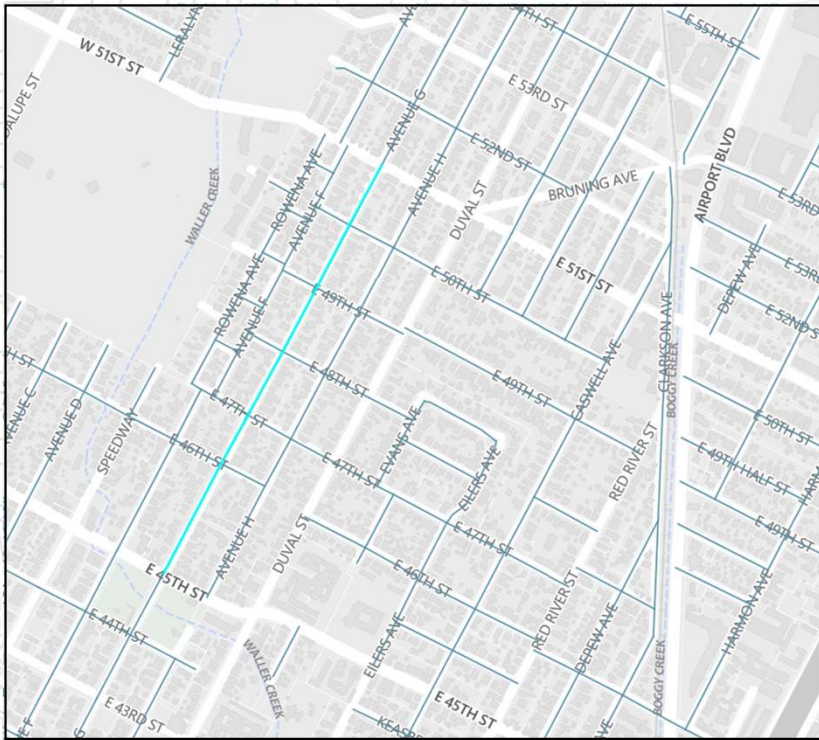
Play Streets

- 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

Equity	Public Amenities	Civic Destinations	Food and Entertainment	Multimodal Transportation Options	Sidewalks
 Equity Analysis Zones	 Parks	 Banks	 Movie Theaters	 Urban Trails	 No Sidewalks
 Young and Old People	 Libraries	 Post Offices	 Show Venues	 AISD Bus Stops	 Partial Sidewalks
 Park Deficient Areas	 Schools	 Hospitals & Urgent Care	 Museums	 Transit Stops	 Complete Sidewalks
	 Rec Centers		 Grocery Stores	 High Comfort Bike Routes	

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



Applicants fill out online form



City staff review and coordinate with applicants



Activations installed

Installation goals

Healthy Streets	10
Play Streets	6
Grand Total	16

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

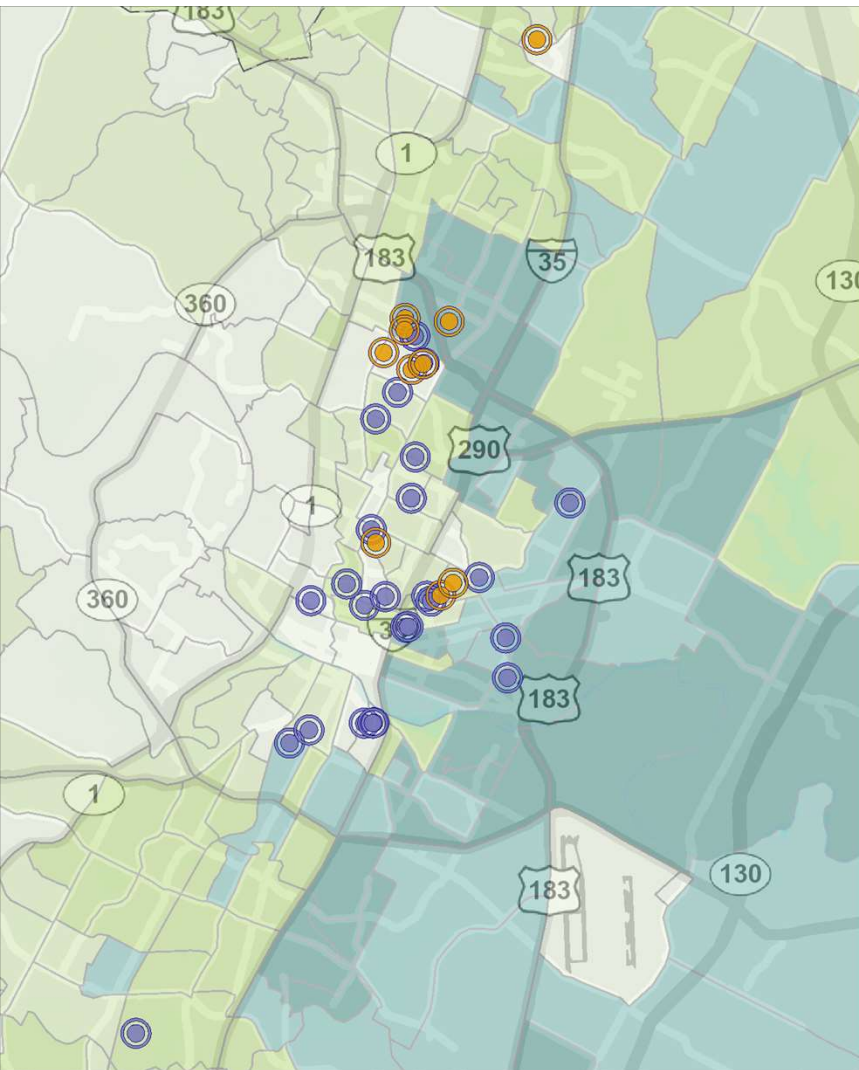
2. Coordinate with City staff – Program staff will communicate with the resident to choose the best nearby street for an activation.

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

11
11/30/2023



Equity Analysis Zones and Living Streets Applications

- Healthy Streets Applications
- Play Streets Applications

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

A faint, light gray background map of Austin, Texas, showing the city's street grid and the outline of the city limits. The map is centered on the city, with the downtown area and surrounding suburbs visible.

Thank You!

Questions?

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

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