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Mobility Guideline MG-03

CLOSURES & DETOURS (CAPACITY REDUCTION)

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/right-of-way-management>

Traffic congestion results when traffic demand exceeds the roadway capacity, causing excessive delays. Travel lane closures and detours create restrictions that further increase congestion. This is known as **Capacity Reduction**. Capacity Reduction leads to commuter stress and frustration, increased road user costs, elevated risk of crashes and additional carbon emissions generated by idling vehicles.

PROJECT REVIEW

Given the considerable impacts, projects that have the potential for significant capacity reduction must be closely evaluated and actively monitored by City staff. Closures that are not critical to other economic activities or not intended to immediately benefit mobility or safety may be delayed or halted.

Right of Way Engineers review projects that involve any of the following automatic qualifiers:

- Reducing an Arterial or Collector roadway by more than 50% in any direction.
- Blocking intersection turn movements for more than 7 hours for arterials and collectors.
- Working within more than one intersection at a time.
- Working during peak travel hours. **See Figure-1.**

Staff may also request that Area Traffic Engineers review projects involving:

- Long-term closures
- Critical Arterials
- Arterial and Collector roadways
- Pedestrian facilities (See Mobility Guideline-02, Pedestrian Considerations)

LONG-TERM CLOSURES – Long-term closure durations are 72 hours or greater. Though generally discouraged, sometimes these closures are unavoidable. Contributing factors include:

- Depth or location of work
- Specialized equipment needs
- Overhead work

- Poor soil or structural conditions

Permitted long-term closures will require:

- A two week advance notice for all roadways and detours. See Mobility Guideline-04, Providing Notification.
- Retroreflective and/or illuminated devices.
- Covered or removed conflicting signage and/or markings.

CRITICAL ARTERIAL ROADWAYS – Critical Arterials, **see Figure-2**, carry the highest volume of traffic and provide essential connections to the transportation network. Therefore, limitations are placed on both partial and full closures of critical arterials. Unless otherwise approved, these limitations include:

- No full road closures Monday through Friday.
- No double lane closures in the [Downtown Austin Project Coordination Zone \(DAPCZ\)](#) Monday through Friday.
- No lane restrictions Monday through Friday, from 6 – 10 a.m. and 3 – 7 p.m.
- No bus/transit priority lane restrictions.
- No work within 1,500 feet of an established closure along the same critical arterial.

Permitted Critical Arterial closures will also need to provide a two week advance notice for all roadways and detours. See Mobility Guideline-04, Providing Notification.

ARTERIAL AND COLLECTOR ROADWAYS – Arterial and Collector roadways also generate a lot of traffic and restrictions can greatly affect citizens' ability to navigate the city. Unless otherwise approved, limitations placed on partial and full closures of arterial and collector roadways include:

- No full road closures Monday through Friday.
- No double lane closures in the DAPCZ area, Monday through Friday.
- No lane restrictions Monday through Friday, from 6 – 9 a.m. and 4 – 6 p.m.
- No bus/transit priority lane restrictions.

PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES – Pedestrian facilities should be closed as a last resort, as pedestrians are reluctant to add distance or out-of-the-way travel to a destination. See Mobility Guideline-02, Pedestrian Considerations for details.

RESOURCES

Related Mobility Guidelines (MG):
 MG–02, Pedestrian Considerations
 MG–04, Providing Notification

FIGURE-1

PEAK TRAVEL HOURS		
	WEEKDAYS AM-PEAK	WEEKDAYS PM-PEAK
CRITICAL ARTERIALS	6:00 AM – 10:00 AM	3:00 PM – 7:00 PM
ARTERIALS/ COLLECTORS	6:00 AM – 9:00 AM	4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

FIGURE-2

Critical Arterial	Limits
5 th St.	MoPac to I-35
6 th St.	MoPac to I-35
7 th St.	I-35 to Airport Blvd.
15 th St.	MoPac to I-35
26 th St.	Guadalupe St. to I-35
35 th St./38 th St./38 th ½ St.	MoPac to I-35
45 th St.	Burnet Rd. to Lamar Blvd.
Airport Blvd.	Lamar Blvd. to FM 969/MLK
Anderson Mill Rd.	FM 620 to Parmer Ln.
Barton Springs Rd.	MoPac to Congress Ave.
Braker Ln.	US 183 to Dessau Rd.
Brodie Ln.	US 290 to Slaughter Ln.
Burnet Rd./FM 1325	US 183 to 45 th St.
Cameron Rd./Dessau Rd.	Parmer Ln. to 51 st St.
Cesar Chavez St.	MoPac to I-35
Congress Ave.	11 th St. to Wasson Rd.
Guadalupe St./Lavaca St./S 1 st St.	Lamar Blvd. to Slaughter Ln.
Howard Ln./McNeil Dr./Wells Branch Pkwy.	US 183 to Dessau Rd.
Lake Austin Blvd.	Exposition Blvd. to MoPac
Lamar Blvd.	US 183 to Panther Trl.
Manchaca Rd./FM 2304	Lamar Blvd. to Matthews Ln.
MLK/FM 969	Lamar Blvd. to Airport Blvd.
Pleasant Valley Rd.	7 th St. to Oltorf St.
Pleasant Valley Rd./Todd Ln.	Ben White Blvd. to William Cannon Dr.
Riverside Dr.	Lamar Blvd. to Ben White Blvd.
Rundberg Ln.	Metric Blvd. to Cameron Rd./Dessau Rd.
Slaughter Ln.	MoPac to I-35
Southwest Pkwy.	William Cannon Blvd. to MoPac
Springdale Rd.	US 290 to Cesar Chavez St.
William Cannon Dr.	Southwest Pkwy. to McKinney Falls Pkwy.

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