




AUSTIN TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

CC: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Robert Goode, P.E., Assistant City Manager
Ray Baray, Chief of Staff

FROM: Robert Spillar, P.E., Director, Austin Transportation 
William Manno, Corporate Special Events Program Manager

DATE: August 27, 2018

SUBJECT: Continuation of moratorium on new downtown street events

The Austin Transportation Department (ATD), along with the Austin Center for Events (ACE), is declaring a continuation of the moratorium on new street events in the downtown area through December 2020. The primary area of influence affected by this moratorium is the Downtown Austin Project Coordination Zone, bounded by Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard to the north, Oltorf Street to the south, MoPac/Loop 1 to the west and Chicon Street to the east.

This area continues to experience tremendous growth in both residential and workforce populations. A number of major public utility projects and private development projects are underway with more scheduled in the future. A few examples include:

Construction Projects:

- [Capitol Complex](#)
- [Sabine Promenade](#)
- [Plaza Saltillo](#)
- [Capital Metro Downtown Station](#)
- Third Street Reconstruction Phase 4, Guadalupe to Nueces streets
- Waterloo Park redevelopment
- Block 71 (200 W. Sixth St.) – New office tower
- Brackenridge Campus redevelopment (1400 Red River St.)
- Marriott Cesar Chavez (304 E. Cesar Chavez St.)
- 300 Colorado St. – New high-rise office building, demolition of existing structures
- 405 Colorado St. – New mixed-use high-rise
- 501 Colorado St. – New restaurant
- 721 Congress Ave. – New high-rise
- 710 E. 3rd St. – New residential building
- 703 E. 9th St. – New residential building
- 700 E. 11th St. – New residential/mixed-use high-rise

Utility Work:

- [Small Cell](#) – Downtown area
- District Cooling Plant 1 Cooling Capacity Utility Upgrade – Third & San Antonio streets
- Austin Energy Chilled Water Transmission Utility Upgrade – Fourth & Rio Grande streets

In addition to ongoing and planned construction, during most weekends in the downtown area many special events take place in the right of way. In the spring and fall, our two primary festival seasons, there are multiple large annual events in the area with associated street closures. ATD and ACE believe that additional events/street closures in the area, in conjunction with construction activities, would negatively affect safe mobility in the downtown core.

Exemptions may be allowed based on review by the ATD Director and ACE Program Manager. First Amendment/free speech events will not be affected and will still require review by Austin Center for Events staff so that we may make the appropriate safety preparations. Events outside the downtown core will also continue to be permitted as long as the Austin Center for Events has adequate staffing to facilitate.

If you have any further questions, please contact Bill Manno, Austin Center for Events Corporate Special Events Program Manager (william.manno@austintexas.gov).