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Mobility Guideline MG-08

RIGHT OF WAY ACTIVITY MORATORIUM

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

In an effort to reduce traffic congestion and increase mobility, the Austin Transportation Department mandates that construction activities be restricted during **large scale events** (e.g. South by Southwest, Austin City Limits) that generate high demand for right of way space in the Austin area.

Typically, the primary area of impact is the [Downtown Austin Project Coordination Zone \(DAPCZ\)](#), an area of Central Austin with a high concentration of critical arterial roadways. **See Figure-1.** However, the impact area may vary from event to event. Secondary areas, for example, along corridors with hotels and high activity centers, will be closely monitored to determine if the restriction area of influence needs to be extended. Further, these areas may be modified and subdivided into various impact zones, if necessary.

PURPOSE

The City of Austin uses restrictions to better manage an increase in traffic generated by events by freeing travel lanes and sidewalks that might otherwise be used for construction activities. Restrictions also provide City crews and the contracting community an opportunity to focus on cleaning up their work sites and perform any necessary right of way maintenance.

EVENTS

The City of Austin hosts numerous events that attract a lot of interest and attendees from around the world. During these events all construction activity in the City of Austin public right of way shall be restricted, starting a minimum of two days prior to the start the event and will resume a day after the event conclusion.

RESTRICTIONS

Projects may request review for exemption from restrictions. The Directors of Public Works and Transportation departments will authorize the Exemption Committee to determine if the exemption can be granted. All exemption requests must be delivered a minimum of 60 calendar days, prior to the start

date of the event. Contractors will be notified of the final decisions associated with exemption requests at least 30 calendar days prior to the date that the restrictions go into effect. The time-frame for responses will be published on the websites of Austin Transportation Department, Public Works Department, as well as the Austin Center for Events. Factors to consider include:

- Will the activity impact public safety and mobility within the right-of-way, including that of pedestrians, cyclists, or scooters?
- Will traffic patterns (e.g. potential cut-through traffic in neighborhoods, congestion in the downtown) be adversely impacted?
- Will access to surrounding properties be adversely impacted?
- Can the work occur behind an established, long-term closure?
- What is the work:
 - scope,
 - duration, and
 - daily hours?
- What are the expected haul routes?
 - Standard haul route hours will be from 3 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- Incomplete applications will be denied/rejected.

FIGURE-1

Downtown Austin Project Coordination Zone

