



# AUSTIN MOBILITY

## SPECIAL EVENTS ORDINANCE MEETING

06.03.13





## Community Impact

- Parking
  - Inadequate parking at some events
  - Event parking in neighborhoods
  - Inadequate ADA parking
  - Better communication about parking available
- Notification/Communication
  - Lack of notification especially for small events
  - Need better overall notification process
  - Ability to provide input during planning process
- Access
  - Events blocking residents in or out of neighborhoods
  - Events restricting access to homes, businesses, churches





## Community Impact – Staff response

- ✓ Staff is exploring a geo-coded system implementation for residents and business to call 311 for complaints and issues that will ID needed enforcement areas and hotspots for sanitation, parking and noise issues.
- ✓ A permanent downtown directional signage system will help direct motorists to parking locations. The city has also partnered with ParkMe to provide online and mobile parking indicator maps.
- ✓ We're exploring a one-stop, easy to find URL location, mobile apps and email updates; plus partnerships with web developers to develop online interactive features that have a responsive design that works on a smartphone or tablet.
- ✓ Better cross-department collaboration underway now will enable the City to track and monitor event impact on neighborhoods better, which in turn enhances the event experience for patrons and impacted residents and businesses.





## Frequency of events

- Amount of road closures in general
- Amount of Lady Bird Lake bridge closures
- Amount of events in parks







## Frequency of events – Staff response

- ✓ Right now, if an event applicant follows the rules and no stakeholders object to event all City of Austin staff are obligated to assist organizers reduce traffic and promote public safety.
- ✓ Road closures frequency changes would be a policy determination by the Austin City Council. A third-party study is underway now to determine what long-term impact events have on nearby areas, including event frequency, and that will be presented to the Council and public when completed.
- ✓ The City of Austin strives to ensure that events within the City limits are not only safe for those attending but also consider the impact on surrounding neighborhoods. A study prepared by economist Jon Hockenyos of Texas Perspectives found, music tourism was responsible for \$28 million in city tax revenue. It was also responsible for more than 10,000 jobs in 2010.





# Mobility

- Street Closures – frequency/location
- Traffic/Congestion
- Better detour routes/communication
- Better promotion of alternate transportation
- Keep downtown bridges open





## Mobility – Staff response

- ✓ ATD is currently implementing a state-of-the-art dynamic traffic control system that will enable engineers to monitor conditions and make real-time adjustments to relieve bottle necks at signals, among other improvements.
- ✓ COA and Capital Metro are continuing to examine better ways to marry transit and special events.
- ✓ COA is now requiring event promoters to provide bike parking for all city sponsored, fee-waived events and bike parking is encouraged for all events.





## Permitting Process

- Too many applications/departments
- Disparate timelines/deadlines
- No scalability – process/fees
- No single point of entry
- No online application
- Too many fee waivers







## Permitting Process – **Staff response**

- ✓ The City, through the maturation of the Austin Center Events, is increasing cross-department collaboration and reducing redundant or inconsistent applications, permits and timelines and will present its recommendations to Council.
- ✓ Having one application will enable the City to track and monitor events better, which in turn enhances the event experience for patrons and impacted residents and businesses.
- ✓ The Austin Center for Events is actively creating an adjusted and consolidated fee amount and schedule. Among its plans is a “package” of services offered at a flat rate for smaller scope or resource-constrained events.
- ✓ Fee waiver amount and frequency are determined solely by the Austin City Council.





## Public Safety/Health Safety/Enforcement

- Access issues for emergency vehicles during large events
- Large events tie up public safety resources
- Trash/Recycling issues
- Not enough enforcement of City Ordinances at events (particularly noise)





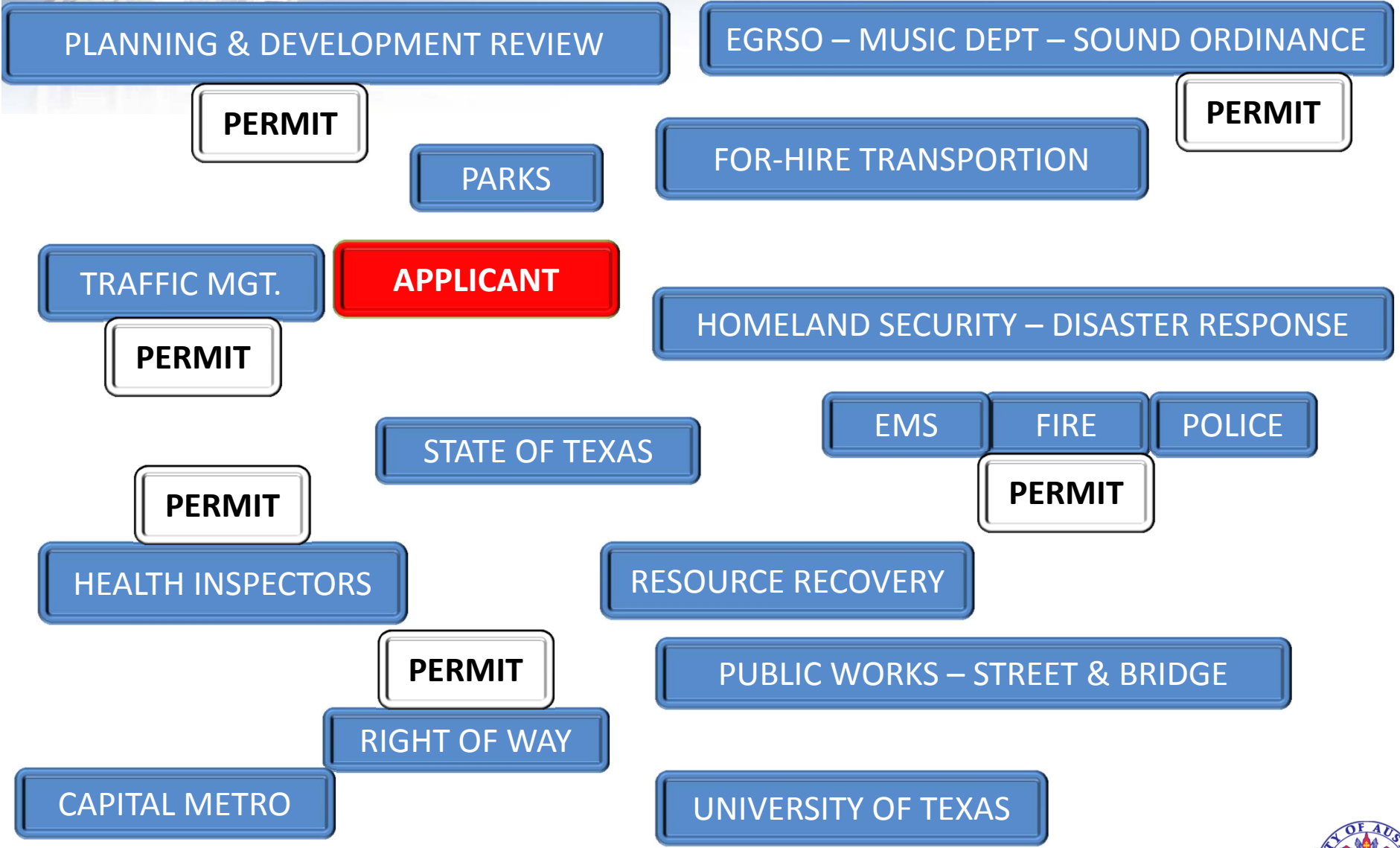
## Public Safety/Health – Staff response

- ✓ As part of its continued efforts to protect the safety and quality of life of Austin residents, the City of Austin has formed the Austin Center for Events, which ties emergency responders all under one roof with traffic safety staff to ensure access and adequate planning.
- ✓ Austin Resource Recovery is exploring requiring recycling receptacles at level equal to or near the amount of general trash receptacles at all events.
- ✓ Enhanced communication and comprehensive applications process will increase the ability of departments to track and monitor events better, and prosecute code and ordinance violators, including dedicated noise ordinance enforcement.





# Special Events management is complex





# City staff increasing coordination



**BEST PRACTICES  
FROM PEER CITIES**



- **SPECIAL EVENTS ORDINANCE**
- **COHESIVE TIMELINES**
- **MASTER APPLICATION**





# Various ordinances relating to special events

## **Title 8. Parks and Recreation**

Chapter 8-1 Parks Administration

Chapter 8-3 Restriction on Food, Beverages, and Containers

## **Title 9. Prohibited Activities**

Chapter 9-2 Noise and Amplified Sound

## **Title 10. Public Health and Sanitation**

Chapter 10-2 Emergency Medical Services

Chapter 10-3 Food and Food Handlers

## **Title 12. Traffic Regulations**

Chapter 12-5 Section 38. Sidewalk or Right-Of-Way

## **Title 13. Transportation Services**

Chapter 13-2 Ground Transportation Passenger Services

Chapter 13-5 Valet Parking Services

## **Title 14. Use of Streets and Public Property**

Chapter 14-6 Temporary Street Closure for Non-Construction Use

Chapter 14-8 Temporary Closure for a Right-Of-Way Event

Chapter 14-9 Traffic or Sidewalk Obstructions

Chapter 14-11 Use of Right-Of-Way

## **Title 25. Land Development**

Chapter 25-2 Temporary Uses Described

Chapter 25-10 Sign Regulations

Chapter 25-11 Section 32 Building Permit Requirement





## Various deadlines for special events

- **Street Closures:** 180 days before event
- **Health:** 10 days before event
- **Music:** 21-30 days before event
- **Building/Plan Review:** No deadline
- **Fire Department:** 7 days before event to apply for Temporary Change of Use for indoors; 10 days to apply for Temporary Use Permit for outdoors.
- **Capital Metro Rail:** 60 days before event near rail
- **Capital Metro Bus Stop Closures:** No deadline
- **Police Department:** 5 days before a political/freedom of speech event
- **Parking:** 2 days before blocking on-street parking

\*Deadlines listed are simplified for this presentation and do not substitute for deadlines given on permits, applications or in consultation with city staff.





## Draft Special Event definitions

A Special Event is an event that creates a public safety concern, is being held on private or public property or promoted to the general public, requires full or partial closure or occupation of a public right of way for non-construction or non-parking related use or an area adjacent to a public right of way, and involves two or more of the following:

- Set up of temporary structures (stages/tents/fences, etc.)
- Amplified Sound
- Consumption of food/alcohol
- Temporary promotional or advertisement signage and/or displays



## New Special Events Ordinance





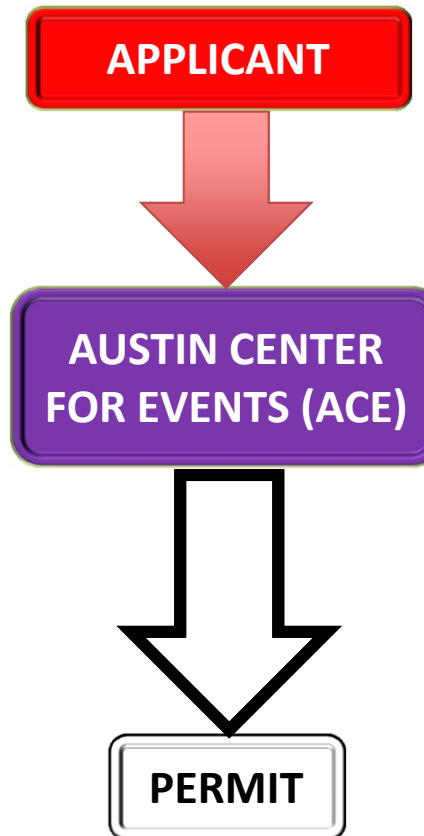
# New Special Events Ordinance

- Potential Issues to Address
  - Process/ Relationships to other ordinances
  - Scalability > Tiers 1 (block party) to Tier 4 (SXSW)
  - Timelines set by Tier
  - Notifications Parameters set by Tier
  - Conditions to not allow events (Capacity)
  - Waiver Process/ Appeal Process
  - Issuance of Final Permit
- Need to modify some existing ordinances to fit





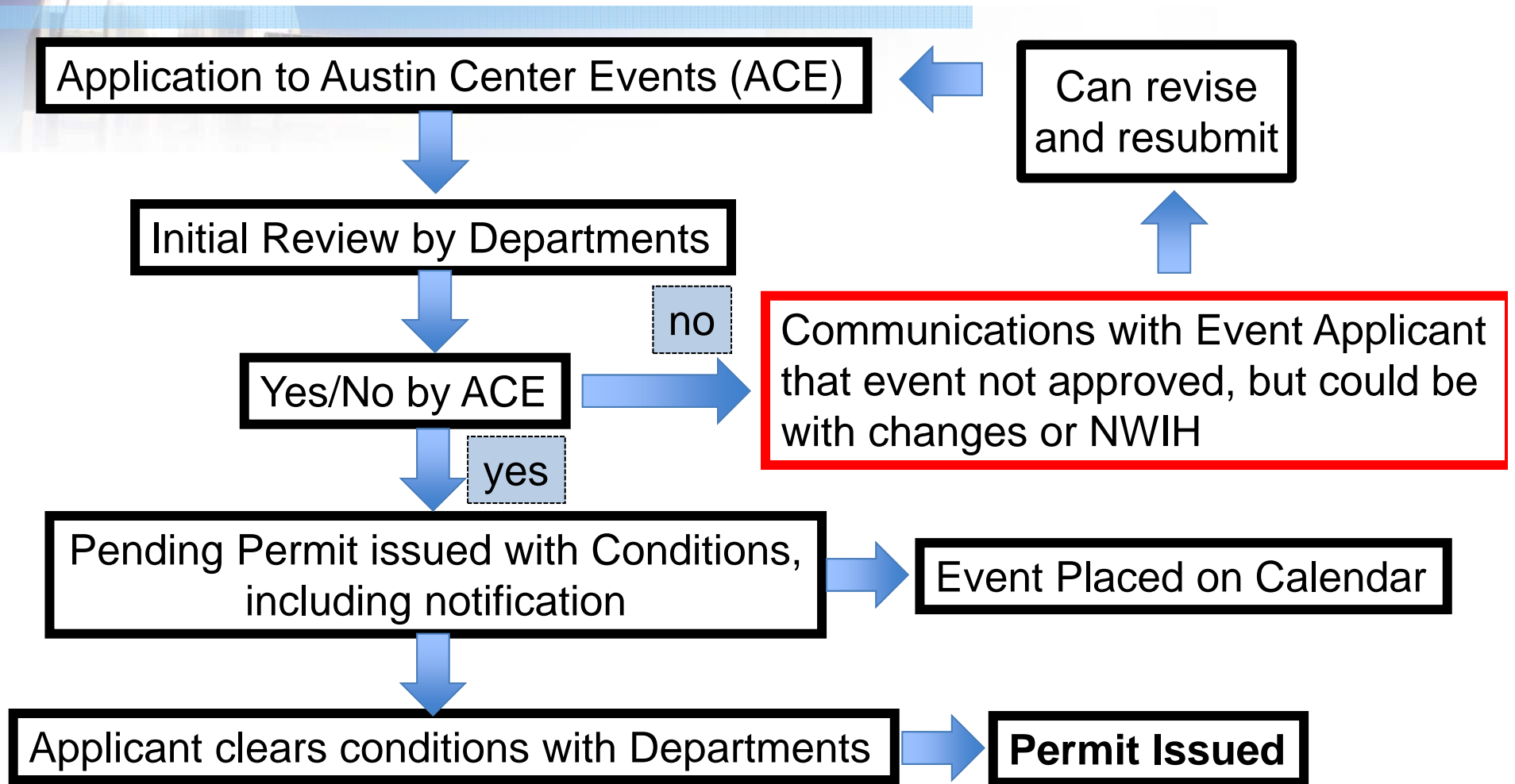
# New Special Events Ordinance







# Proposed basic application process







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