



RECOMMENDATION

Bicycle Advisory Council

Recommendation Number 20170620-03B: Pedicab Access During Street Closures and Special Events

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Bicycle Advisory Council (BAC) is to advise the City of Austin, and other jurisdictions, on all matters relating to the use of the bicycle;

WHEREAS, Austin's 503 currently licensed pedicabs are an established short-distance transportation option in the central business district, especially for first and last mile transportation;

WHEREAS, pedicabs provide transportation by bicycle for people of all ages and abilities including those with ADA needs, personal injuries, physical limitations, medical conditions, and special needs;

WHEREAS, congestion caused by car traffic is a recognized problem in Austin, especially during major events such as UT Football Games, SXSW, ACL, Texas Relays, Halloween, New Year's Eve, July 4th, Pecan Street Festival, ROT Rally, and others, including the regular weekend 6th St. closure;

WHEREAS, an increase of the percentage of short-distance trips by bicycle is an important part of the city's strategic planning efforts to manage congestion, increase mobility, and reduce vehicle miles traveled.

WHEREAS, according to city policy adopted in 2014, Complete Streets serve all users and modes, require connected travel networks, and include all roadways and all projects and phases.

WHEREAS, the closure of the bike lane and the reversal of the one-way travel lanes on Trinity between 15th St. and MLK Blvd. for car traffic only during UT Football games does not align with the principles of the city's Complete Streets policy and the aspirational goals of an all-ages-and-abilities bike network;

WHEREAS, the prioritization of travel lanes for car traffic or the closure of bike lanes during any special event is not in alignment with the principles of the city's Complete Streets policy and an all-ages-and-abilities bike network;

WHEREAS, the city has implemented permanent contraflow bike lanes already within the built bike network, such as on Rio Grande, Pedernales, and Bluebonnet Streets, and a temporary contraflow bike lane on Brazos between 6th and 6 1/2th St. within the regular weekend 6th St. traffic plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bicycle Advisory Council supports the use of pedicabs at special events and requests that all appropriate city departments, UT Austin departments, and other jurisdictions recognize the safe, clean, convenient service provided by pedicabs to people for the first and last mile of transportation for special events, and to provide reasonable accommodations and access for effective pedicab service during events and in traffic plans.

This support includes a request for:

- All city and UT-Austin offices related to transportation and special events take steps to make traffic planning consistent with the aspirational goals of high-level city planning and policies for safety and mobility;
- A permanent Austin Police Department Liaison for the Pedicab community, with clear and consistent communication of regulations, rules and routes to Pedicab drivers;
- Safe, consistent, direct, predictable, established routes for Pedicabs throughout and to serve events held downtown, in Zilker Park, on Auditorium Shores, and other activity centers, and at UT football games and events, with consideration of the Pedicab drivers' need for safety, especially in regard to climbing hills;
- Support for pedicabs as an accessible transportation option through 1) more locations for pedicabs to stand, pick up, and drop off passengers at special events and on 6th St. and 2) the removal of barriers to people seeking safe, short-distance transportation by pedicab.
- Access to pedicabs in special event locations and on 6th St. for people with ADA needs, personal injuries, physical limitations, medical conditions, and special needs.
- Creation of a temporary (or permanent) contraflow bike lane on Trinity between 15th St. and MLK Blvd. that stays open to bike traffic during football games.

Date of Approval:

Record of the vote:

Attest: