



# Austin's Healthy Streets Initiative



**Urban Transportation Commission**

September 11, 2020



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# City Council Direction:

## BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City Manager is directed to immediately create a slow streets initiative for Austin entitled "Healthy Streets" that will facilitate safe, socially distanced walking, bicycling, and other outdoor exercise and active transportation on neighborhood streets and discourage automobile through-traffic while still allowing local automobile movement.

### Higher Risk Individuals

Age over 65, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart, lung and kidney disease, immunocompromised, obesity

### Lower Risk Individuals

For more information: <http://austintexas.gov/covid19>

### Workplaces Open

Practice Good Hygiene

Stay Home

Avoid Sick

Social Distancing

Wear Facial Coverings

Avoid Gatherings

Avoid Non-Essential Travel

5 - 19

Stage 3

•

•

•

social and greater than 10

20 - 70

Stage 4

•

•

•

social and greater than 2

> 70

Stage 5

•

•

•

outside of household

Hospitalized

122

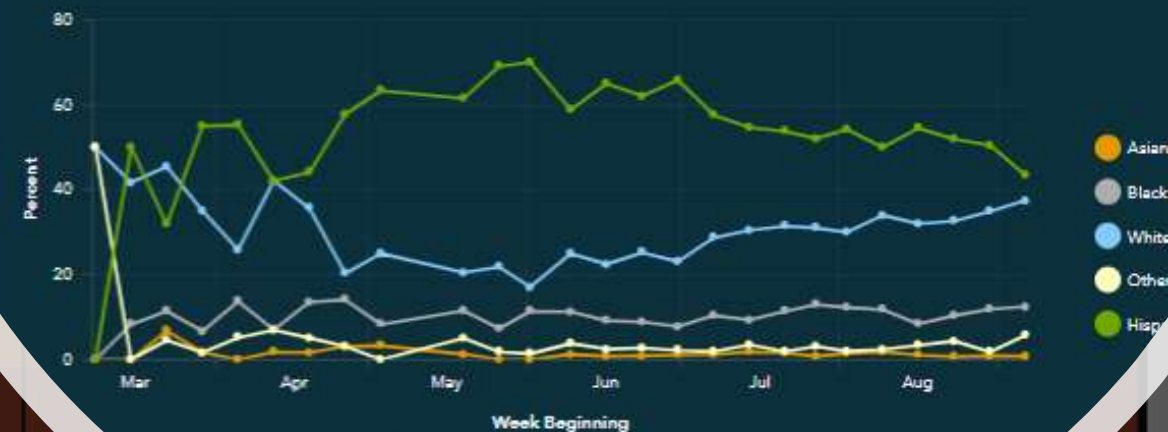
ICU

42

Ventilators

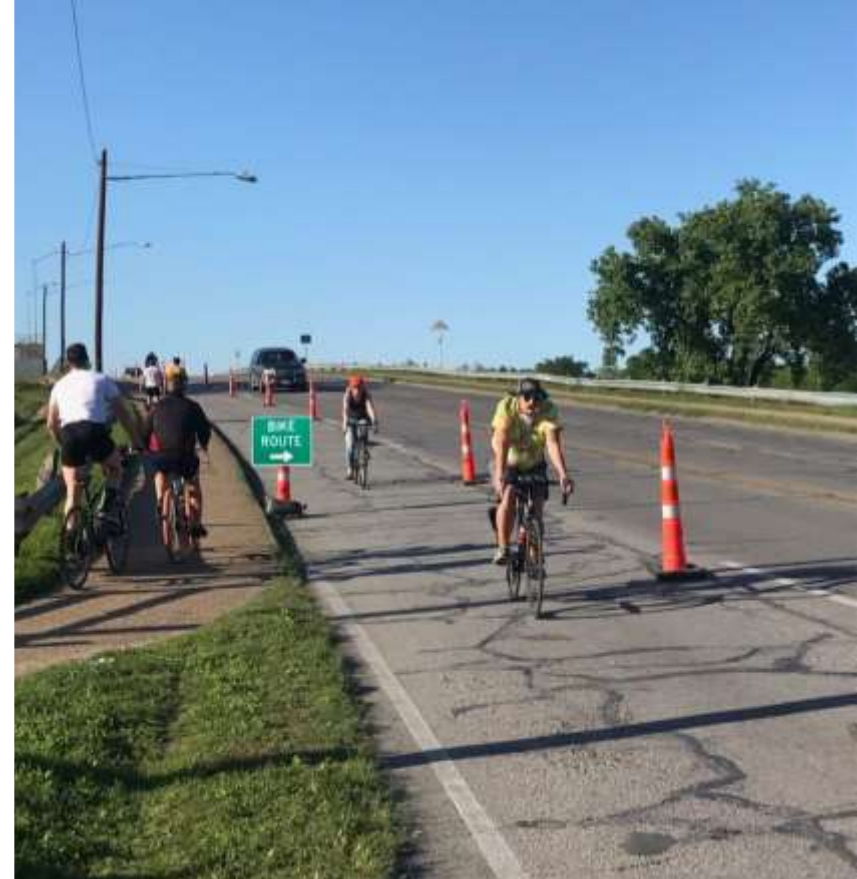
26

Weekly Hospitalizations by Race & Ethnicity - MSA  
Week Ending September 7 2020



Weekly Hospitalizations - Race & Ethnicity

MSA ICU and Vent 7d Mov. Avg.



# Early Efforts – April 2020

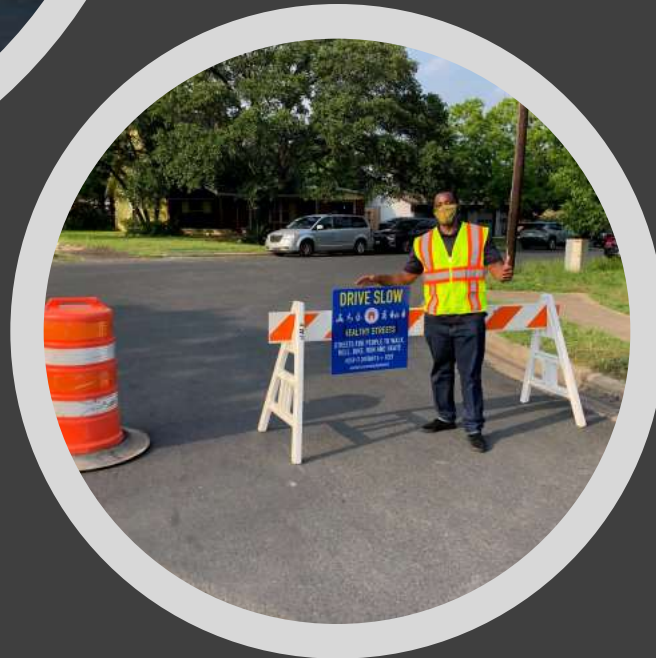


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# Batch 1 – May 2020



- Installed quickly
- Approximately 5 miles
- Criteria included:
  - Lack of park space
  - Disproportionate COVID impacts
  - Lack of comfort for people walking or bicycling using existing infrastructure
  - Alternative to crowded trail system
  - Connection to existing infrastructure



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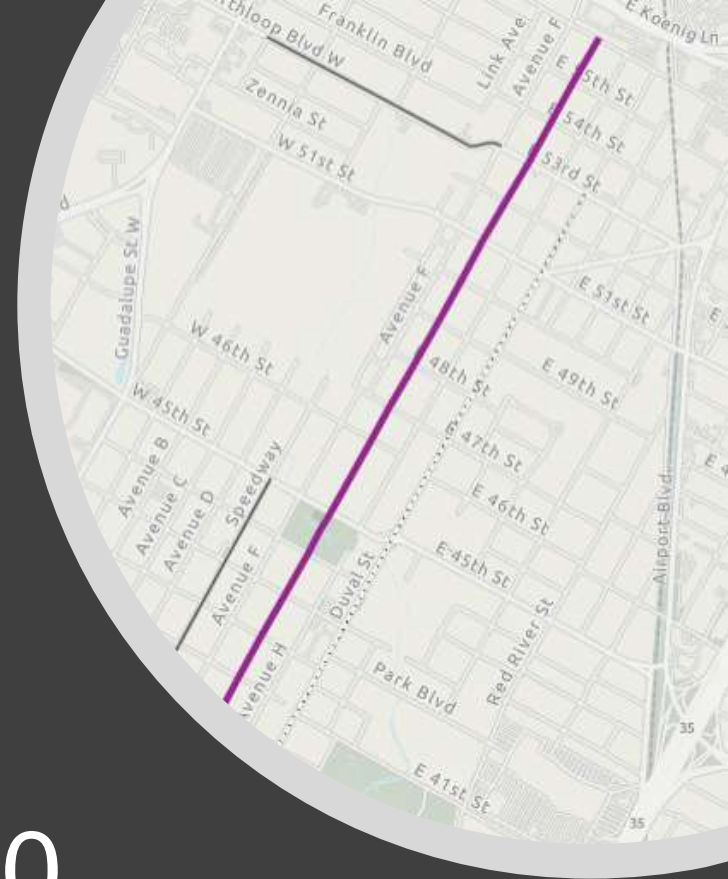
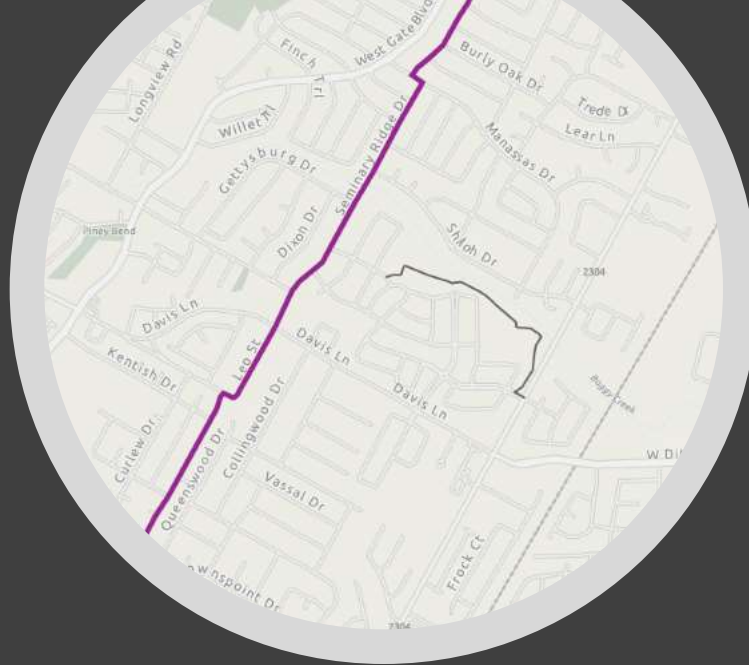


# Listen, adjust, iterate, modify...



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## Batch 2 - July 2020

- Installed after public engagement process
- Added another 5 miles
- Focused on neighborhoods further north and south



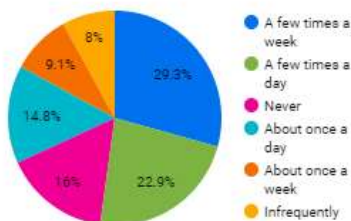
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# How are people using Healthy Streets?

Survey respondents are asked several questions about how they use Healthy Streets so the the project team can evaluate if the initiative is successfully creating space for physical and mental wellness. Respondents are also asked about their priorities for broader transportation issues that the City could address related to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as supporting essential trips and slowing vehicles.

How often do you use Healthy Streets?	# of Respondents
A few times a week	288
A few times a day	225
Never	157
About once a day	145
About once a week	89
Infrequently	79



Who do you use Healthy Streets with?		
<i>*people could choose all that apply, so percentages do not add up to 100%*</i>		
*I use them with other adults who are part of my household.*	58.8%	498
*No one; I use them by myself.*	45.69%	387
*I use them with children from my household.*	26.45%	224
*I use them with people who aren't part of my household.*	17.95%	152

## What transportation issues are important to your ability to thrive as best as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic?

*\*people could choose all that apply, so percentages do not add up to 100%\**

*Creating safe spaces to walk, jog, roll, ride a bicycle, and use other active transportation modes.*	77.61%	780
*Slowing speeding traffic.*	55.02%	553
*Supporting transportation options for me to get to essential locations like work, medical appointments, and stores.*	32.44%	326

## Why are you using Healthy Streets?

*\*people could choose all that apply, so percentages do not add up to 100%\**

*For physical activity and/or mental wellness.*	68.71%	718
*To get to retail, restaurants, or other commercial services.*	23.92%	250
*I am not currently using a Healthy Street.*	21.63%	226
*To get or deliver food or other essential items.*	19.52%	204
*I live on a Healthy Street.*	16.56%	173
*For essential trips to work.*	14.35%	150
*To get to medical appointments.*	7.27%	76

## What ways are you using Healthy Streets?

*\*people could choose all that apply, so percentages do not add up to 100%\**

*Walking*	67.06%	627
*Riding a bicycle*	66.95%	626
*Jogging or Running*	36.15%	338
*Driving or riding in a car*	26.1%	244
*Parking a personal vehicle*	8.24%	77
*Using a wheelchair or other mobility assistive device*	1.18%	11

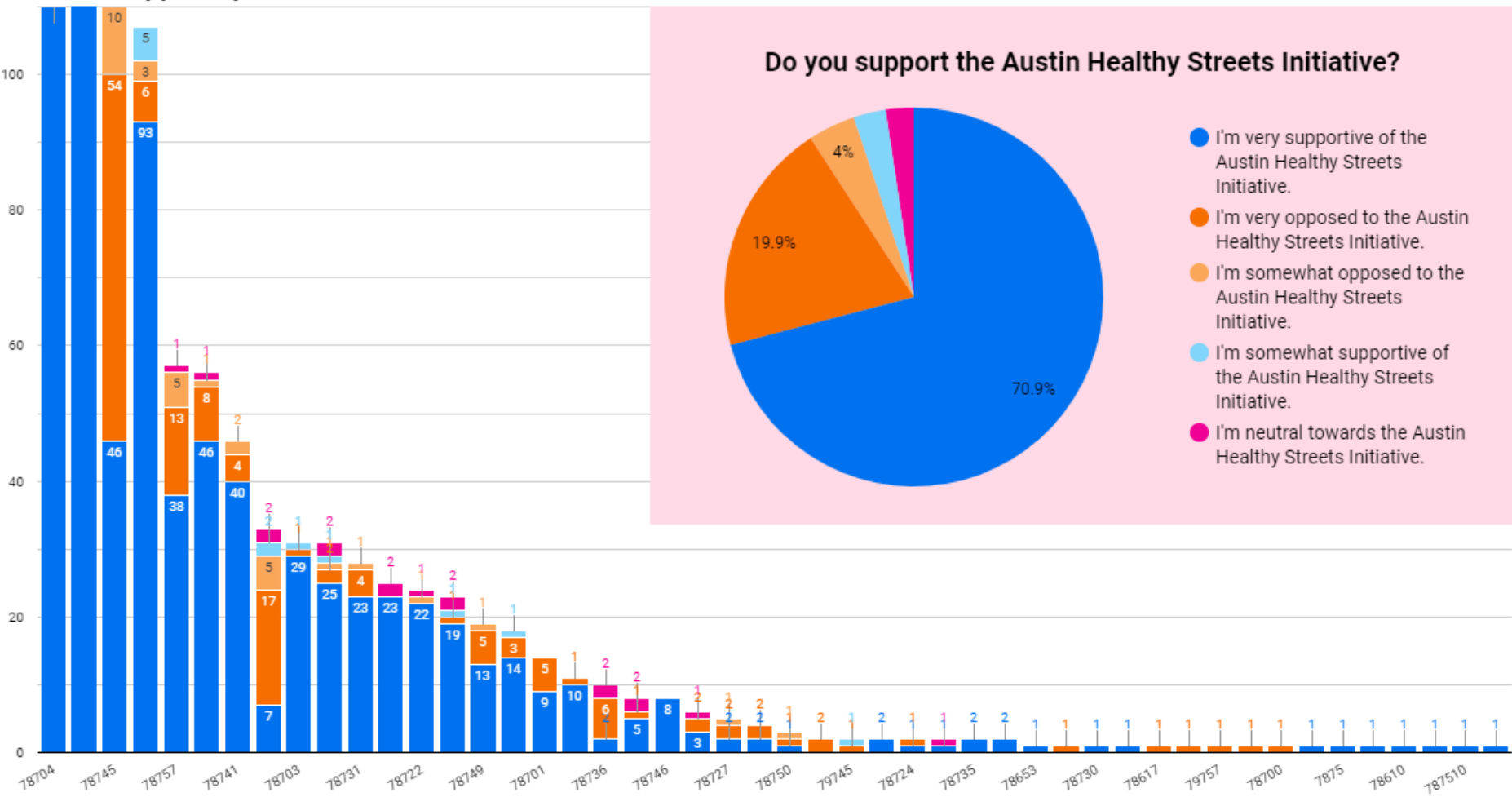


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# Do people support Healthy Streets?

Total Survey Responses **1,045**

Level of support by ZIP Code



"Seeing neighbors, kids, and families out and about enjoying life has given a renewed sense of happiness with our previously congested city. Austin I am so happy you have been a leader in this movement around the country."

"Something is not working here. I don't like the way it's currently set up."

"I was considering moving to the country since my job is now fully remote forever, the cost/benefit of living in town has gone upside down. But this Healthy Streets initiative changed my mind."



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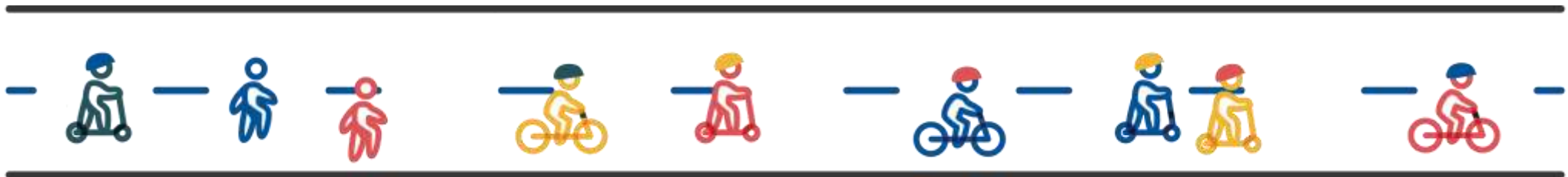
# Next Steps

- Initiate wind down of select streets
- Maintain readiness to launch Batch 3 should community experience a surge in COVID-19 cases
- Apply lessons learned into permanent infrastructure solutions
- Launch slow streets pilot in the Sidewalk and Urban Trails Plan update





[austintexas.gov/healthystreets](https://austintexas.gov/healthystreets)



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