

4-22-04
#24



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Austan S. Librach, P.E., AICP
Director
Transportation, Planning & Sustainability Department

DATE: April 20, 2004

SUBJECT: Mexic-Arte ~ Proposed Closure of 5th Street and Potential Traffic Congestion

The Mexic-Arte Museum has requested the closure of East 5th Street for their "Taste of Mexico" fundraising event. This event will be charging an admission fee, and as such will require approval by City Council (item #24 on this weeks agenda).

The closure of East 5th Street between Congress Avenue and Brazos Street during the peak traffic hours on a weekday will seriously impact traffic in this area of downtown. We are recommending keeping two eastbound traffic lanes open in this block of 5th Street until 6:00 PM. After 6:00 PM are recommending that the entire roadway be closed for their event. In 2000 the City required this event to leave one traffic lane open in this block until 5:30 PM. The entire roadway was closed after 5:30. This one lane configuration is not recommended for this year's event. Having one lane open for traffic cannot accommodate the current evening peak hour traffic volume.

As you may remember, the City Council passed a resolution last year that allowed the full closure of 5th Street for this event. This closure caused traffic on 5th Street and Congress Avenue to back up for blocks. We want to avoid a repeat of last year's traffic situation if at all possible.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

for Austan S. Librach, P.E., AICP
Director

TRANSPORTATION, PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY DEPARTMENT

c: Toby Hammett Futrell, City Manager
Lisa Y. Gordon, Assistant City Manager