




MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Robert Spillar, P.E., Director,
Austin Transportation Department 

DATE: July 2, 2020

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 20200611-051 – Congress Avenue Bicycle Lanes – CIUR 2282

This memorandum provides a response to [Resolution 20200611-051](#), directing the City Manager to establish temporary protected bicycle lanes on Congress Avenue, north of Riverside Drive, to ensure enough physical distance for all people using the Avenue and on the Ann Richards Bridge. The temporary protected bicycle lanes were installed on June 30, 2020. Council also directed staff to consider ways to make the installation permanent once physical distancing is no longer necessary.

Outreach

Upon receiving direction from Council, ATD began preparation for the installation of temporary protected bike lanes in coordination with downtown stakeholders, including the Downtown Austin Alliance (DAA), the Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association (DANA), and Bike Austin. Austin Transportation (ATD) also coordinated efforts with the Texas State Preservation Board as well as Capital Metro. Outreach efforts have included direct email notifications to downtown residents, property owners, businesses as well as a wide variety of stakeholders involved in the [Congress Avenue Urban Design Initiative](#) planning process. To support greater community awareness of this initiative, ATD launched a webpage at austintexas.gov/congressave with up to date information about the project. This segment of Congress Avenue was added to the [Healthy Streets map](#) to collect feedback from the community in order to evaluate effectiveness and make improvements moving forward.

Installation

Cones were used to define the protected bike lane space in the outside general travel lanes of Congress Avenue. All existing local business access and on-street parking along Congress Avenue remain in place and operational. The installation is also compatible with the [Shop the Block initiative](#) which repurposes space for physically distanced outdoor seating, queuing and retail. Per Council concurrence provided in the resolution, the ATD and the Economic Development Department partnered with local artists to install a temporary art project on Congress in the blocks between 6th and 9th Streets.

Duration

Temporary protected bicycle lanes are expected to be in place as long as necessary to offer a safer and more comfortable space for people to maintain physical distancing guidelines. At the direction of Council, and in support of the Congress Avenue Urban Design Initiative, staff is currently evaluating how to transition this temporary measure to a more permanent installation when distancing is no longer needed.

If there are further questions please feel free to contact me or Anna Martin, ATD's Assistant Director, at anna.martin@austintexas.gov.

CC: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Gina Fiandaca, Assistant City Manager
Sylvia Holt-Rabb, Acting Director, Economic Development Department

*Delivering a safe, reliable, and sustainable transportation system
that enhances the environment and economic strength of the region.*