



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Richard Mendoza, P.E., Interim Director, Austin Transportation Department

DATE: January 19, 2023

SUBJECT: Rainey District Area Construction and Red River Street Closure

The Austin Transportation Department (ATD) received a permit request from the 98 Red River site development (The Waterline) to close Red River Street from E Cesar Chavez to Driskill Street in order to install chilled water lines. The contractor's estimated duration of construction is estimated to be 20 weeks, which includes a full roadway closure of approximately four weeks in the area pictured below.



ATD has reviewed the contractor's permit request, along with the contractor's traffic control plan and engineering justification, to help ensure minimal public disruption and to maintain pedestrian access on Red River during all phases of construction. The following information was provided to ATD based on a letter received from the contractor on January 3, 2023: "Due to depth of excavation at 20' and segments of the pipe that must be installed at once, the road must be closed at times as trench and machinery will consume the whole roadway." Based on the plans, and engineering justification provided, it appears that the only feasible way to install the water lines is to close Red River Street as per the plan submitted by the contractor.

The contractor for 98 Red River expects to begin work this January and anticipates to have work completed before South by Southwest. Should work not be completed, the contractor is expected to temporarily restore the roadway before South by Southwest and will only be allowed to continue after the event.

ATD is aware of all the construction projects within the Rainey District area and has been actively coordinating with the contractors to minimize impacts. Some Council Offices may have received several citizen complaints regarding these construction projects. Given the number of projects and limited access in the Rainey District area, as well as ongoing activities, construction impacts are unavoidable. ATD will continue to engage with the contractors and Rainey District residents proactively and review permit requests to mitigate negative impacts to the greatest extent possible, as well as meet with public safety agencies to ensure continued emergency access to the area.

Safety is our number one priority. Should you have any questions or would like to discuss this issue further, please do not hesitate to contact me at (512) 974-2488 or via email at RichardV.Mendoza@austintexas.gov .

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Gina Fiandaca, Assistant City Manager