



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

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

**DATE:** May 18, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Response to Resolution No. 20200507-062 – Healthy Streets Initiative – CIUR 2271

The COVID-19 pandemic is changing many aspects of how we live and move about Austin. City Council Resolution No. 20200507-062 directed the City Manager to create a slow streets initiative for Austin, titled “Healthy Streets”, to facilitate safe, socially distanced outdoor exercise and active transportation on neighborhood streets. The Austin Transportation Department (ATD) has initiated the Healthy Streets pilot program, with the purpose of supporting the community’s needs for getting to essential jobs and services as well as maintaining physical and mental health and wellness. The Healthy Streets initiative is intended to support essential travel by connecting disconnected portions of the active transportation network as well as support daily physical activity by creating more space for physical distancing.

Prior to the resolution from Council, ATD had initiated a similar program in support of the City’s COVID-19 response. As part of this earlier effort, ATD reduced the number of lanes crossing the Longhorn Dam on Lady Bird Lake to improve pedestrian and bicycle crossing of the lake for trail users. ATD has also closed Riverside Drive from approximately South First Street to Lee Barton Drive. This portion of Riverside Drive was designed for easy closure during special events.

As part of our new Healthy Street pilot initiative, ATD will close or modify selected local streets to motor vehicle traffic (except for residents, deliveries and emergency access) so that people can more comfortably use these low-traffic streets for physically distant outdoor recreation. This expanded initiative will launch on Friday, May 22nd with "soft closures" including signage, traffic cones and barricades along approximately 5 miles of roadway encompassing portions of Comal Street, Bouldin Avenue, and an extension of the Country Club Creek trail). The first batch of Healthy Streets will be closely monitored to ensure they are operating safely and meeting the needs of the community.

To support this pilot program, Austin Transportation has developed Healthy Streets Web Tools to provide information to the community on current Healthy Streets, allow community members to suggest a future Healthy Street and collect feedback on existing locations. Community input will help staff develop the next sets of streets as we aim to disperse Healthy Streets throughout the City.

Healthy Streets Information Page: [www.austintexas.gov/healthystreets](http://www.austintexas.gov/healthystreets)

Suggest a street: [Suggest a Street!](#)

Share your feedback: [Feedback Form](#)

If there are further questions please feel free to contact me or Anna Martin, ATD Assistant Director, at [anna.martin@austintexas.gov](mailto:anna.martin@austintexas.gov).

**CC:** Spencer Cronk, City Manager  
Gina Fiandaca, Assistant City Manager  
Stephanie Hayden, Director, Austin Public Health Department