

RESOLUTION NO.

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3 **WHEREAS**, in 2012, the City of Austin adopted the Imagine Austin
4 Comprehensive Plan which encourages, among other planning principles, “complete
5 street design that includes features such as traffic calming elements, street trees, wide
6 sidewalks, and pedestrian, bicycle, and transit access throughout Austin, considering the
7 safety needs of people of all ages and abilities”; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Council next approved Resolution No. 20131212-080, directing the
9 creation and implementation of a comprehensive Complete Streets policy with inclusive
10 guidelines for harmonious multi-modal transportation; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Council Resolution No. 20170622-033 directed the City Manager
12 to explore an annual Downtown Ciclovía that would temporarily close Congress Avenue
13 from 11th Street to Mary Street for several hours on a weekend day to encourage multi-
14 modal transportation and the convivial activation of public space; and

15 **WHEREAS**, in partnership with the Downtown Austin Alliance and community
16 stakeholders, the City of Austin contracted with an urban design consultant team in 2018
17 to help articulate and enhance the vision for Congress Avenue from the Capitol to
18 Riverside Drive; and

19 **WHEREAS**, after robust community engagement, the Congress Avenue planning
20 process identified protected bike lanes as a strategy for balancing mobility and
21 connectivity options along this critical corridor; and

22 **WHEREAS**, in 2019, Council approved Resolution No. 20190619-186, initiating
23 a shared streets pilot on Rainey Street to improve safety and mobility in this area on the
24 weekends; and

25 **WHEREAS**, in response to COVID-19, Austin Transportation Department
26 worked closely with Austin Public Health and Parks and Recreation Department to close
27 one lane on Pleasant Valley Road over the Longhorn Dam and a portion of Riverside
28 Drive between South 1st Street and Lee Barton Drive to accommodate increased demand
29 and limited space for bikes and pedestrians who seek safe and socially-distanced spaces
30 near urban trails; and

31 **WHEREAS**, Council approved Resolution No. 20200507-062 directing the City
32 Manager to create a “Healthy Streets” initiative to facilitate safe, socially-distanced
33 outdoor exercise and active transportation on neighborhood streets; and

34 **WHEREAS**, in May of 2020, the Council received a letter from thirty
35 organizations, as well as a petition signed by 1,100 individuals, that advocated for the
36 creation of temporary protected bicycle lanes on Congress Avenue north of Riverside
37 Drive to the State Capitol; and

38 **WHEREAS**, such temporary infrastructure would allow individuals to bike more
39 safely Downtown, particularly on the Congress Avenue Bridge where traffic speeds are
40 high and bicycle riding on the sidewalk does not allow for social distancing and creates
41 possible conflicts for pedestrians; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

42 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

43 The City Council directs the City Manager to work with Downtown businesses
44 and stakeholders to swiftly establish temporary northbound and southbound protected
45 bike lanes on Congress Avenue north of Riverside Drive to the maximum extent possible
46 considering the safety and access needs of all users as well as the project costs and
47 available funding. Such stakeholders should include Downtown businesses, the
48 Downtown Austin Alliance, Bike Austin, and the Downtown Austin Neighborhood
49 Association. The City Manager is directed to complete this work no later than June 30,
50 2020.

51 The City Manager is directed to report to Council for it to consider options for
52 how to wind-down or permanently retain this temporary activation when social
53 distancing is no longer needed in response to COVID-19.

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ADOPTED: _____, 2020 **ATTEST:** _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk