MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Council

CC: Marc A. Ott, City Manager
Michael McDonald, Deputy City Manager
Robert Goode, Assistant City Manager

From: Robert Spillar, P.E., Director of Transportation
William Manno, Corporate Special Events Program Manager

Date: November 25, 2014

Subject: **Moratorium on New Downtown Street Events**

The Austin Transportation Department along with the Austin Center for Events (ACE) is declaring a moratorium on all new street events in the downtown area. The primary area of influence affected by this moratorium will be bounded by Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd to Oltorf St. and MoPac to Chicon St., known as the Downtown Austin Project Coordination Zone (DAPCZ). In the last year, there were over 100 street events in this area.

The declaration is based on a number of factors including ongoing CIP projects on streets such as 3rd Street and the Colorado Street project from 7th Street to 10th Street. Also considered are the numerous large construction projects currently under way such as the JW Marriott, Colorado Tower, The Fairmont Hotel, the Westin Hotel, Seaholm Redevelopment, Library and the Green Water Treatment plant construction. The Rainey Street area already has several projects underway as well as development projects on East 6th Street.

Other considerations for the moratorium include the Red River realignment project and an influx of underground utility work. Every weekend from September through mid-December and late February through June have special events currently in the permit process with multiple events scheduled on many of the days. Most of the events are annual events. The Austin Center for Events receives numerous requests weekly, however, and to add even more events/street closures to the downtown area would not be in keeping with our primary mission to maintain safe mobility within the City's core.

Staff will review any pending applications for feasibility, but recommends no new events be added to the downtown calendar for the next two years after which time City staff will reevaluate the

moratorium. During the re-evaluation process, City staff will seek additional input from stakeholders. Exemptions may be allowed based on review by Director of Transportation Robert Spillar, and Bill Manno, ACE Corporate Special Events Program Manager. First amendment/free speech events would not be affected, but will still require review by the ACE staff. Events outside the core will also continue to be permitted as long as ACE has adequate staffing to facilitate and manage those events.

xc: Ray Baray, Assistant to the City Manager