

City of Austin

NEWS RELEASE

Communications and Public Information Office

301 W. Second St., Austin, TX 78701

For immediate release

March 4, 2012

Contacts:

Leah Fillion, City of Austin, Transportation Department, (512) 974-7923, leah.fillion@austintexas.gov; Capital Metro, Erica McKewen, (512) 369-6085; City of Austin Communications and Public Information Office, Reyne Telles (512) 974-2220 reyne.telles@austintexas.gov or SXSW Publicist, Elizabeth Derczo, musicpress@sxsw.com

City and SXSW announce traffic information for festival

Street closures center on Sixth Street area March 14-18

During the South by Southwest (SXSW) Music, Film and Interactive Conferences and Festivals, beginning Friday March 9, 2012, there will be partial and full street closures throughout downtown through March 18.

The majority of closures will be centered on the Sixth Street Entertainment District between March 14-18.

To view a list of SXSW street closures, visit: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/special-events-0>

The City of Austin has worked closely with SXSW organizers throughout the year to achieve a balance between mobility, safety, access needs and event success.

Austin benefits from an annual economic boost through SXSW's more than 200,000 participants. In 2011, the direct and indirect economic impact to the community was approximately \$141 million, according to SXSW reports http://sxsw.com/files/2011_sxsw_economic_analysis.pdf

Aside from planned street closures, there are a number of private parties and events anticipated

Downtown and just east of IH-35 which may create additional traffic delays throughout the festival.

During this high-traffic time, those heading to Downtown Austin are encouraged to share rides, bike or use public transit when possible. Capital Metro has numerous routes throughout Downtown and the greater Austin area. Night Owl routes run from midnight to 3 a.m. every night but Sunday. During the SXSW music weekend (March 16-17), Capital Metro will also add buses to the No. 481 and No. 484 Night Owl routes.

Additionally, during the SXSW weekends of March 9-10 and March 16-17, Capital Metro will offer extended hours on MetroRail. On both Fridays, trains will operate through midnight. The service on Saturdays will be from 10:30 a.m. through midnight. For more information, visit:

<http://www.capmetro.org>.

Also, the Austin Police Department has arranged for additional officers which will allow the department to improve response to emergency traffic issues, crowd management and emergency issues.

Streets that will remain open will include Fifth Street and those from Seventh through Tenth. Alternative routes downtown are recommended including east and west along 15th and 11th streets.

Streets affected March 9 to 18 for the film, interactive and music festivals include:

-Northbound Congress Avenue reduced to two lanes between Seventh and Eighth streets

- reduced 10 a.m. until 11 p.m. daily from March 9-18

-Rainey Street District closed between Driskill and River streets

- closed 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily from March 10-11
- closed 6 p.m. to 3 a.m. daily from March 14-19 (residential and commercial access only, with parking pass required)

-Trinity Street will be closed between Cesar Chavez and Fourth streets, and East Second and Third streets between Trinity and San Jacinto streets

- closed 7 a.m. March 9 until 6 a.m. March 18 (Local, valet, shuttle traffic only)

Additional streets affected March 14 to 18 for the music festival include:

East Sixth Street closing for the event between March 14-18. However, in an effort to balance the needs between traffic mobility and those enjoying the event, East Sixth Street will be open for drivers during the peak morning hours of 5 -10 a.m. March 14 and from 6 to 10 a.m. March 15-16. Commercial deliveries will also be allowed on Sixth and Red River streets every weekday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Additional traffic changes will be in effect from 5 a.m. March 13 to 6 a.m. March 18. Roads closed during that period include:

- All streets between Fifth and Seventh streets
- Those that intersect Sixth Street from San Jacinto Boulevard to Sabine Streets

-Trinity Street reduced lanes between 12th and 15th, and Fourth and Fifth streets

- reduced 5 a.m. March 14 until 6 a.m. March 18

-East Ninth Street reduced to two lanes between Trinity and Red River streets

- reduced 5 a.m. March 14 until 6 a.m. March 18

-East Eighth Street reduced to three lanes between IH-35 and Trinity Street

- reduced 5 a.m. March 14 until 6 a.m. March 18

-Seventh Street reduced to three lanes between Brazos and Sabine streets

- reduced 2 p.m. March 13 until 5 a.m. March 18

-East Fifth Street reduced to three lanes between San Jacinto Boulevard and Trinity Street (two lanes between San Jacinto and Red River)

- reduced 2 p.m. March 13 until 5 a.m. March 18

-East Fifth Street closures between IH-35 and Waller Street (intersecting streets San Marcos and Brushy between Fifth and Sixth)

- closed 9 a.m. March 14 until 6 a.m. March 18

-West Fourth Street closed between Congress Avenue and Colorado Street

- closed 6 p.m. March 12 to 4 a.m. March 13
- closed 2 p.m. March 15 to 4 a.m. March 16
- closed 2 p.m. March 16 to 5 a.m. March 18

-Riverside Drive closed between South First Street and traffic circle

- closed noon to midnight daily, March 15-16
- closed 10 a.m. to midnight March 17

-Bouldin and Dawson streets closed between Barton Springs Road and Christopher Street (local traffic only)

- closed 3 p.m. to midnight daily, March 15-16
- closed 10 a.m. until midnight, March 17

For more information, visit the SXSW website at: http://sxsw.com/attend/getting_around/maps

###

[City of Austin](#)

[Visit this link to unsubscribe](#)