



# TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC WORKS

## Living Streets Program Briefing Mobility Committee – January 2025

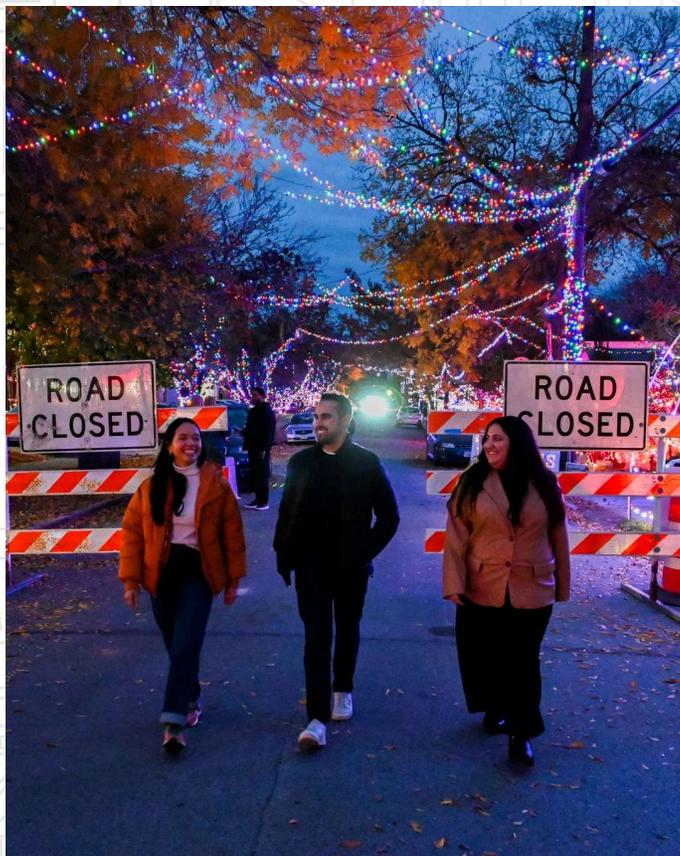
Matt Macioge, Capital Improvements Program Manager, Living Streets Program Manager



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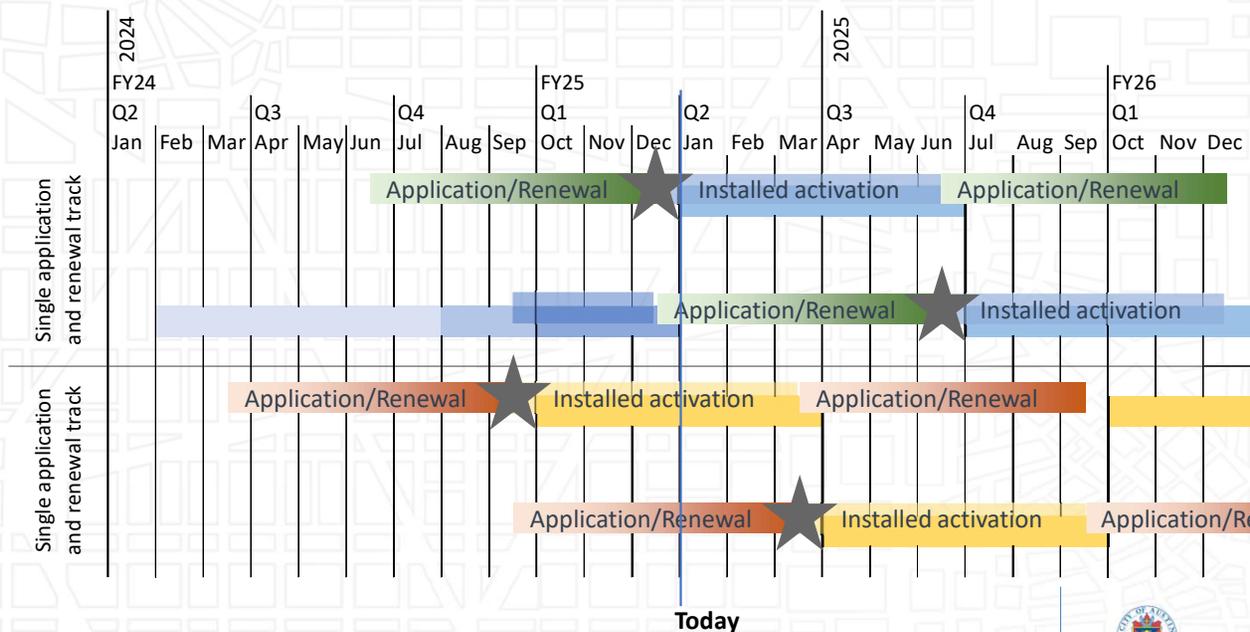
## Content:

1. Living Streets Background and Overview
  - Types of activations:
    - Neighborhood Block Parties
    - Healthy Streets
    - Play Streets
2. Program Schedule
3. Demand and Response
4. Initial Activations and Lessons Learned
5. Improvements and Transitions
6. Studies
7. Next Steps



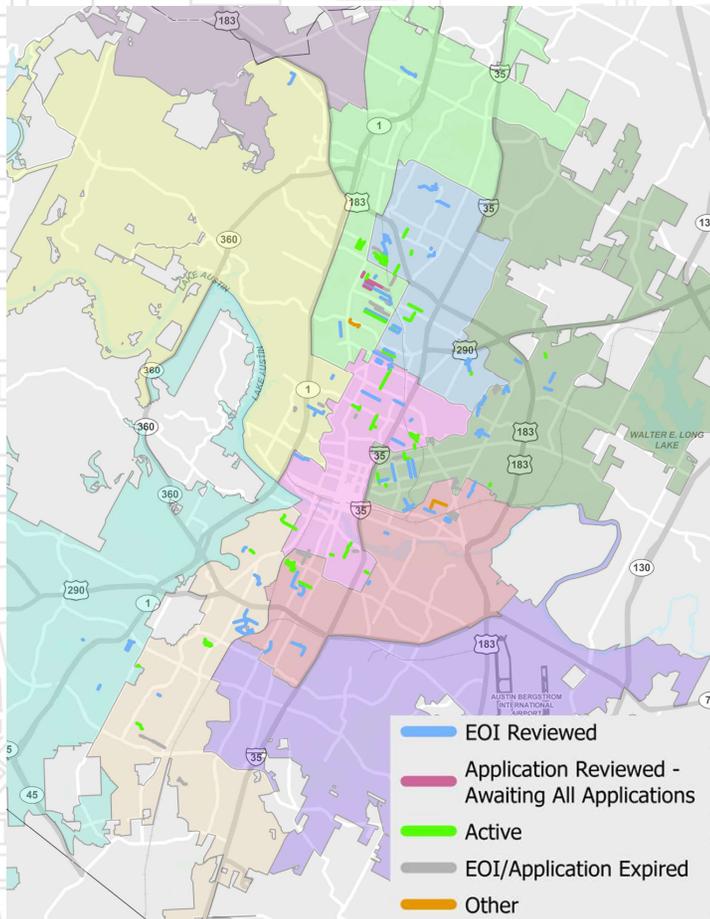
Two consecutive application and renewal tracks allow staff to maximize capacity and address back log of applications

Applications not completed in time for review will roll over to the next cycle

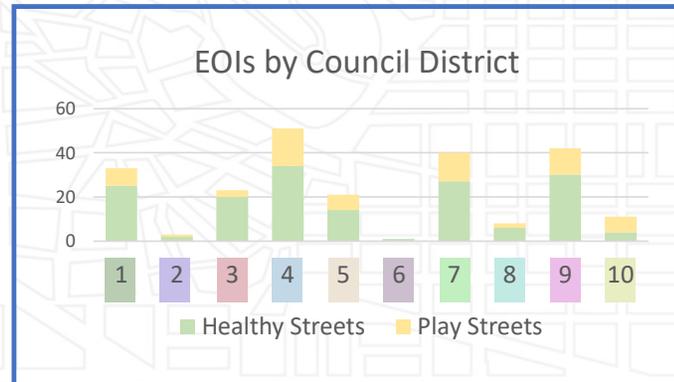


**Application Cycles Every 3 Months**

### Activations and EAZs Mapped



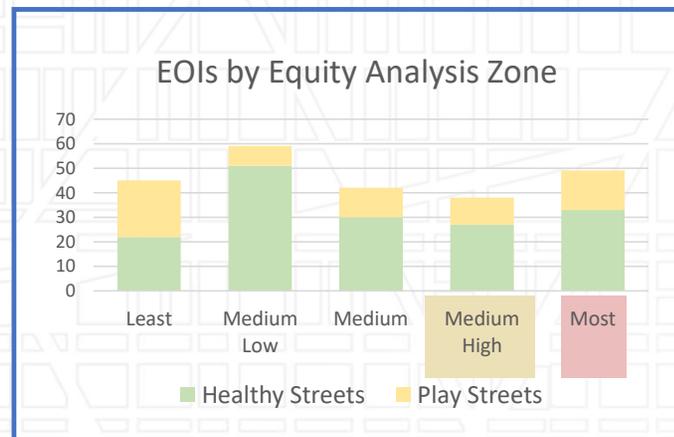
Source: Living Streets Experience Map – 1/14/2025



### Interests, Applications, and Installations

Council Districts 4, 7, & 9 have the most Expressions of Interest (EOI)

Medium-Low Equity Analysis Zones (EAZs) had the most EOIs

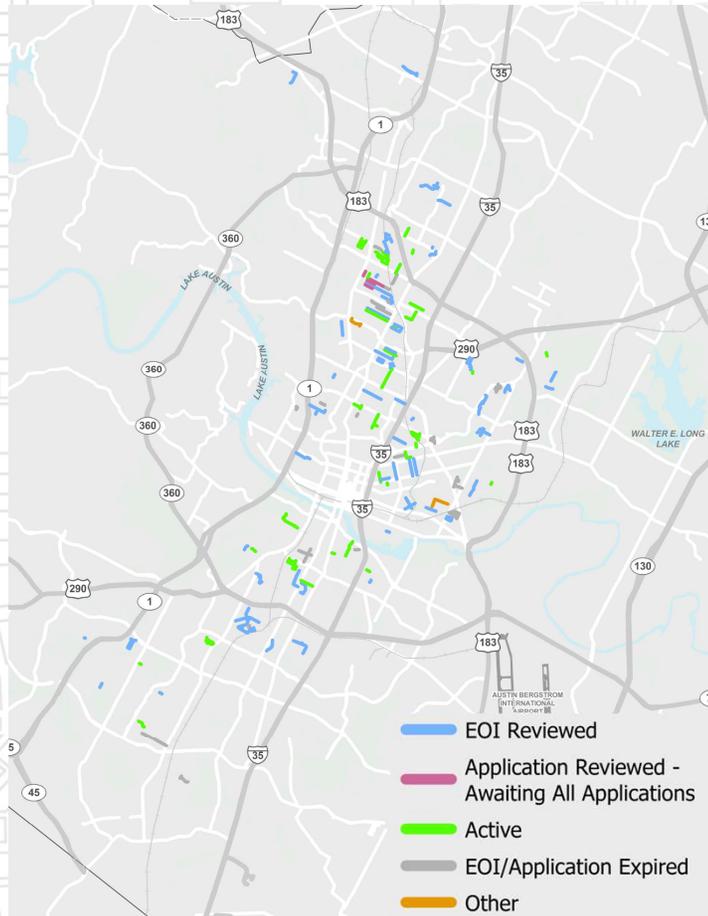


Least and Medium-Low submitted more applications than Medium-High and Most

\*All submitted EOIs, including resubmittals



## Activations Mapped



Source: Living Streets Experience Map – 1/14/2025

## Interests, Applications, and Installations

First round of applications had the option to renew and align with the City's Fiscal Year and budget cycle

7 of 9 Healthy Street and 4 of 7 Play Streets from the initial cycle chose to renew

Second round of applications was **October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

6 of 12 completed Healthy Street applications and 4 of 10 completed Play Street applications installed

Third round of applications was **January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**

6 continuations, 7 renewals, 10 new Healthy Streets

Total - 23

4 continuations, 4 renewals, 6 new Play Streets

Total – 14

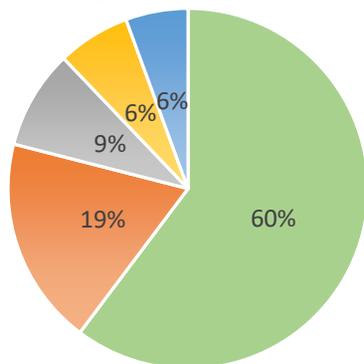
Next round of applications are **due April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025**.

Initial activations coupled with a successful outreach campaign have helped to inform the public of the program

Application Status	Application Approved	Application Deferred	EOI Reviewed	Total
Healthy Streets	23	0	46	69
Play Streets	14	2	17	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>102</b>

\*Submitted, Viable, and active EOIs/Applications

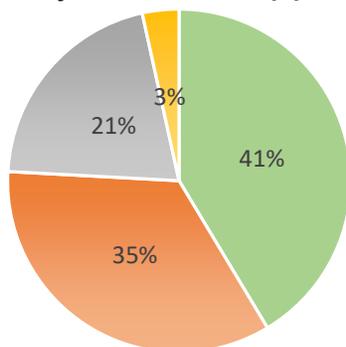
### Healthy Streets Support



69% supportive

- I am very supportive
- I am somewhat supportive
- I am neutral
- I am somewhat opposed
- I am very opposed

### Play Streets Support



62% supportive

Note: The surveys were sent out to all parcels within approximately 1 block of each activation. This varied based on the street network and neighborhood connectivity.

### First Activation Installations

First round of resident led Healthy and Play Streets launched in February 2024

Neighborhood Block Party is fully integrated into the Living Street Portfolio

From December 2023 through December 2024:

7 of 10 Healthy Streets were extended

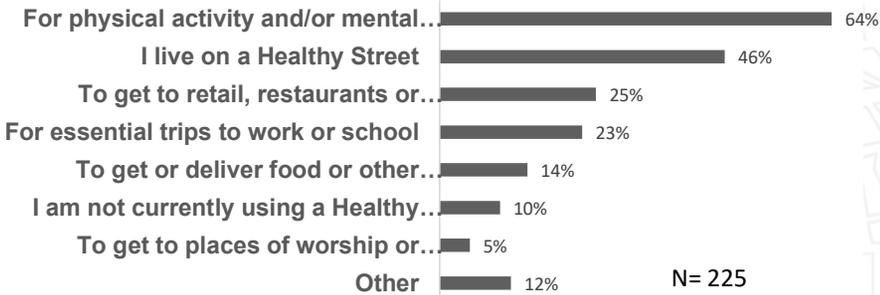
4 of 7 Play Streets were extended

50 Neighborhood Block Parties (2024)



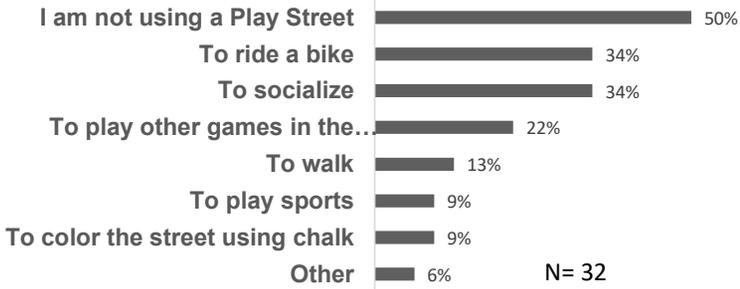
### How do you use a Healthy Street?

\*Respondents could select multiple options



### Why are you using a Play Street?

\*Respondents could select multiple options



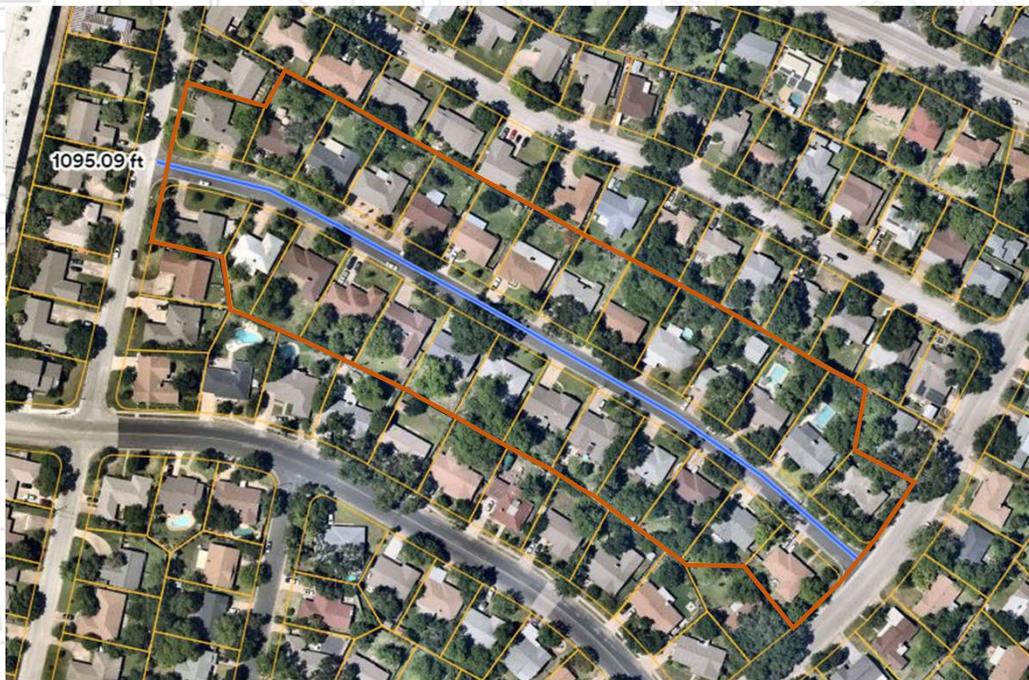
“Choose three words to describe how you feel when you’re using a”...

Healthy Street



Play Street





## Kenbridge Drive Play Street

Did not renew

Prioritization: 6.0 (Original Score) / 4.0 (Updated)

Signatures: 17/27

## Play Streets

The resolution sets forth that “a Play Street is intended to be a recurring, **complete street closure** that may occur for several hours, multiple times per week;”

“complete street closure” has the appearance of exclusion rather than inclusion.

Control plans include residents at the control points to allow traffic through.

In most cases this means three adults for each time slot need to be present – 1 at each closure and 1 facilitating and monitoring the activities.

More investigation needs to be done to develop real solutions.





Properly installed



Disorganized

## Layout and Equipment

The closure system is required to meet TMUTCD standards and safety.

The amount of equipment creates clutter and results in increased maintenance

Though orange cones mean temporary, we are conditioned to assume they are associated with construction not recreation.



Healthy Streets Prioritization						Total of 11 Points Possible
Equity Analysis Zones		Park Deficient Areas		Children	Seniors	
 <p>EAZs are areas of Austin that have higher concentrations of historically marginalized populations and more barriers to achieving equitable outcomes.</p> <p>2 points</p>		 <p>Areas not within 1 mile of a park. These areas are in need of recreational space.</p> <p>1 point</p>		 <p>Census tracts that have greater than average percentage of people 18 and younger.</p> <p>1 point</p>	 <p>Census tracts that have greater average percentage of people 65 and older.</p> <p>1 point</p>	
Civic Destinations	Public Amenities	Culture and Entertainment	Multimodal Transportation	Sidewalks	Food Access	
 <p>Banks Post Offices Hospitals &amp; Urgent Care Places of Worship</p> <p>1 point</p>	 <p>Schools Libraries Rec Centers Parks</p> <p>1 point</p>	 <p>Movie Theaters Show Venues Museums Art in Public Places</p> <p>1 point</p>	 <p>Urban Trails AISD Bus Stops High Comfort Bike Routes Transit Stops</p> <p>1 point</p>	 <p>No Sidewalks Partial Sidewalks Complete Sidewalks</p> <p>1 point</p>	 <p>Grocery Stores Food Truck Parks Food Establishments</p> <p>1 point</p>	

## Healthy Streets Prioritization

Healthy Streets have three goals: community building, recreation, and connection to destinations

Prioritization is based on:

Prioritization Value  
\* Resident Support  
= Approval Rank

### Updates

- Added additional destinations to reflect where people could use a Healthy Street to get to
- Added “Food Access” category to better capture how residents can use Healthy Streets to access Austin’s food scene
- Adjusted parks scoring methodology to be more in line with PARD
- Added additional types of parks for data completeness

Play Streets Prioritization			Total of 8 Points Possible
Equity Analysis Zones	Park Deficient Areas	Children	
 <p>EAZs are areas of Austin that have higher concentrations of historically marginalized populations and more barriers to achieving equitable outcomes.</p> <p>2 points</p>	 <p>Areas further from parks score higher, because residents have less access to nearby play space.</p> <p>2 points</p>	 <p>Census tracts that have greater than average percentage of people 18 and younger.</p> <p>1 point</p>	
Street Length	Access Points		
 <p>Shorter streets score higher, because it is easier to monitor.</p> <p>2 points</p>	 <p>Streets with less access points score higher, because it is easier to monitor.</p> <p>1 point</p>		

## Play Streets Prioritization

Play Streets have two goals: community building and recreation

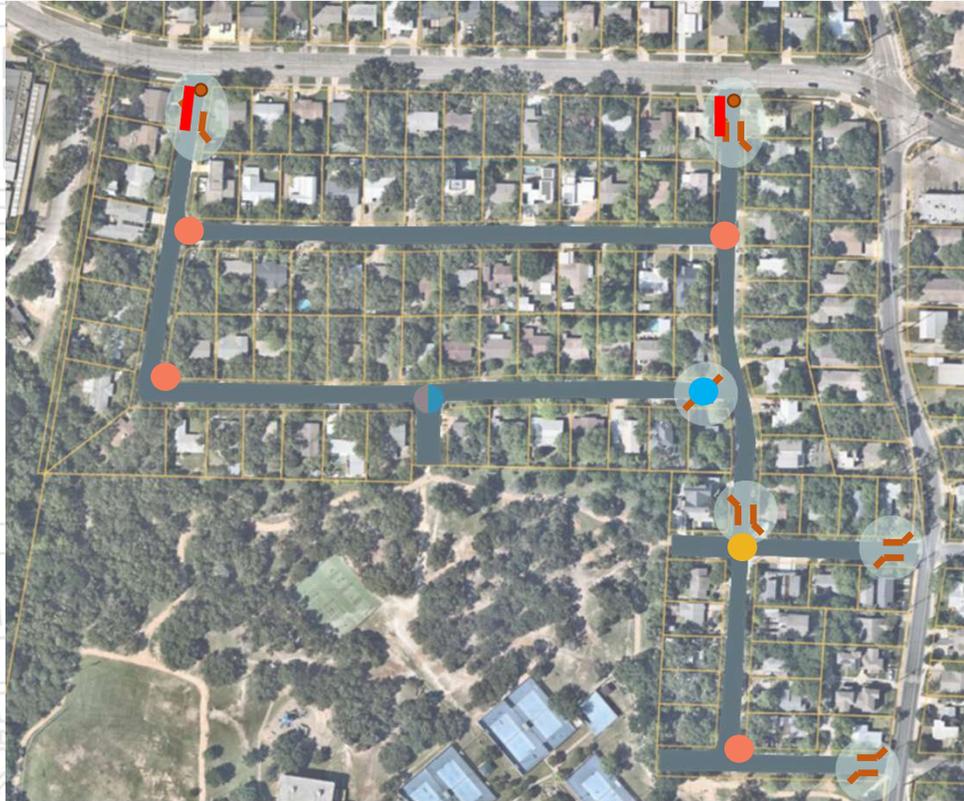
Prioritization is based on:

Prioritization Value \* Resident Support = Approval Rank

### Updates

- Play Streets have different goals than Healthy Streets that should be reflected in the prioritization methodology
- Removed all destinations from scoring
- Added points to reflect where Play Streets would be easy to monitor
- Adjusted parks scoring methodology to better prioritize areas of the city without recreation space





### South Austin Healthy Street

Prioritization: 6.0  
Signatures: 70/93

## Healthy Streets to Shared Streets

Living Streets staff and Shared Streets staff are collaborating on moving the temporary activations of a Healthy Street to the permanent installation of curb and gutter as a Shared Street.

The team is piloting South Austin now and in the design phase of the community feedback process.

Other Healthy Streets have expressed interest and are being evaluated.

### Legend

-  Living Street Closure
-  Sidewalk / Median
-  Curb Extension
-  Pinch Point
-  Traffic Circle



*Concept sketches showing studies changing overtime for Control Point layouts*

## Living Streets Lab

### FHWA Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant (SS4A)

Use the existing structure of Living Streets program to explore concepts through an iterative process to ensure safety, deliver a resilient community and address requests made of the program.

The demonstration grant will study the Control Point Layouts' configuration, equipment, and placement in the activations

It includes data collection through traffic studies, surveys and focus groups

Goal is to develop Best Practices for Austin



## Activity Zone - Pilot

Living Streets will test a new activation that is a hybrid between a Play Street and a Healthy Street called a 'Activity Zone'.

The goal of the Activity Zone is to create a space for recreation and significantly reduce the speed and volume of vehicular traffic by book ending the zone with chicanes.

The zone will be 150-300 feet long.

The pilot will test an Activity Zone over a 6-month period.

If successful, Activity Zones could be deployed as part of Living Streets





### Continuity of the Living Streets Program

- Continue the Program as part of Community Service Division's programs as scheduled with quarterly review and installations
- Update the marketing plan targeting residences at large with a focus on equity zones

### Living Streets to Shared Streets

- Formalize and develop the process between the programs
- Streamline the design and applications of Living Streets as a model for Shared Streets installations

### Living Streets Lab

- Use demonstrations refine the quantity of equipment used; and develop the configuration, the location and the type of equipment that creates the Access Control Points.
- Develop the appearance the Program through Placemaking driving Community concepts
- Utilize SS4A funding to address the needs of our Neighbors

Thank You!

Questions?

<https://www.austintexas.gov/LivingStreets>

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