Healthy Streets in Austin, Texas

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Website: http://www.austintexas.gov/HealthyStreets
Austin’s Healthy Streets Resources:

- Letter from 31 organizations to city council.

- Walk Austin press release and petition.

- Resolution adopted by city council.

- City of Austin Healthy Streets webpage.
Tactical Urbanism
#PARKingDayATX
Pleasant Valley Rd. across Longhorn Dam
“This makes biking and running across the river so much safer and easier. Please make this permanent! two-way traffic on tiny sidewalks was very unsafe before this.”

- Public Feedback
“Fantastic move to close this off to car traffic. It's always been a primarily pedestrian and cycling road, but restricting it now really stitches Auditorium Shore and Butler Park together in a wonderful way. This should be a permanent change, at the very least on weekends!”

-Public Feedback
31 organizations signed on to letter to City Council in 5 days…
To demonstrate public support, Walk Austin created a petition and gathered 1,100 signature in less than 1 week.
With petition support, process took 2 weeks from advocate letter to City Council vote!
Per Resolution, city staff then had **2 weeks** to create the program and website, organize signage, and open the first three Healthy Streets!
“I love the changes to the streetscape and hope they become permanent!”

-Public Feedback
Iterative changes on Comal St
50% reduction in traffic with Stay Home / Work Safe

Fatalities and serious injuries have not decreased, despite 50% reduction in traffic

Source: City of Austin
Increased numbers of calls to mental health hotlines

Research shows that physical activity can improve mental health

Source: City of Austin
Documented **overcrowding** in our **parks & along our trails**

University of Texas modeling that shows likely **secondary and tertiary waves of COVID-19**

Source: Trail Foundation & UT, Austin
Over 40% of Austin residents do not live within a 10-minute walk of a park

Source: Trust for Public Land
Existing City policy which specifically recommends using quick and inexpensive pilot programs to test street redesigns.
Other open-sourced resources you might want to consider:

- Walk Score
- Park Score
- Livability Index
- Livability Fact Sheets
- Streets for Pandemic Response and Recovery -
- COVID-19 Resources & Tracking for Walking & Biking

: WalkScore.com
: Trust for Public Land
: AARP
: AARP
: NACTO
: PBIC
“This has changed the entire area instantly. It’s peaceful, with people walking and biking and cars driving slowly. Please please please make it permanent!”

-Public Feedback
THANK YOU...