



City of Dallas

Periodic Weekend Street Closures to Create Vehicle-Free Zones

**Quality of Life, Arts and Culture
November 12, 2024**

Convention and Event Services

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City of Dallas

Overview



- Purpose
- Background
- Open Street Case Studies
- Special Event Street Closure Example
- Proposed Action: Permitting Considerations
- Staff Recommendations
- Next Steps



Purpose



- Provide an overview of the Convention and Event Services Department - Office of Special Events administration of Chapter 42A of the Dallas City Code
 - Chapter 42A facilitates the promotion of temporary outdoor activities including special events, neighborhood markets, the Dallas Farmers Market farmers market, and streetlight pole banners within the city.
 - The overall goal of Chapter 42A implementation is to encourage activities that benefit the city, stimulate economic growth, and encourage a vibrant, active community for all citizens.
 - Discuss piloting and future consideration of Periodic Weekend Street Closures to Create Vehicle-Free Zones



Background: Chapter 42A Overview



- Convention and Event Services Department - Office of Special Events administers Chapter 42A of the Dallas City Code.
- Chapter 42A facilitates the promotion of temporary outdoor activities including special events, neighborhood markets, the Dallas Farmers Market farmers market, and streetlight pole banners within the city.
- The overall goal of Chapter 42A implementation is to encourage activities that benefit the city, stimulate economic growth, and encourage a vibrant, active community for all citizens.



Background: When are special event permits required?



Chapter 42A Definition:

A special event permit is **required** for any temporary outdoor gathering, with an **expected total attendance of 100 or more**, involving **one or more of the following on private or public property** where otherwise prohibited:

- Restricts access to public property
- Includes sale of merchandise, food, or beverage (nonalcoholic and/or alcoholic)
- Involves the erection of a tent **larger than 399 square feet in area OR erection of multiple tents with a cumulative area of over 399 square feet**
- Installs a temporary stage, band shell, outdoor projection technology, trailer, van, grandstand, bleachers, or portable toilets for public use
- Requests use of City Hall Plaza
- Incorporates movement: **All moving events** – *runs, walks, rides, special event parades, processions*;
- Places event signage including temporary no parking, directional, over sized, sponsor, or identification signs or banners that are placed in or over a public right-of-way, or on private property where otherwise prohibited by ordinance;
- Activates a Clean zone
- **Closes or restricts a public street, lane, alley, or sidewalk (regardless of the expected total attendance).**



The Special Event Permit Process



Chapter 42A establishes the permit process:

Permit application received from applicant in Eproval

OSE Event Coordinator reviews submitted application and communicates questions or items required for review with client.

City departments + applicable external stakeholders review application and approve, deny, or ask for more information.

Applicant identifies and provides any outstanding city requirements through Eproval. Requirements could include notifications to public, insurance, scheduling officers or renting barricades.

Coordinator reviews items submitted by applicant to confirm requirements are met.

Permit Issued

Applications are required a minimum of either:
30 days (no street closures)
60 days (static street closure)
120 days (moving event) in advance of event date.



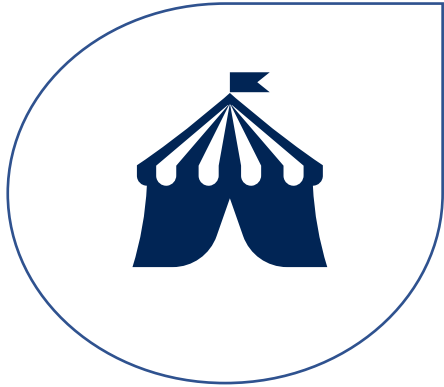
Open Streets vs. Special Event



CHAPTER 42A

ALL STREET CLOSURES

SPECIAL EVENT



OPEN STREETS



- Closed street for a specific event footprint
- Organized by event planner for specific event
- Heavily programmed (concerts, festivals, etc.) with vendor participation preapproved through event organizers for event's benefit
- One time or annual special event (i.e. Arts District Block Party, Bastille on Bishop, Stocking Stroll, etc.)
- Streets open for event participants only
- Promotes individual event's interests

- Closed street in a pre-designated area
- Organized by city or city designee
- No central programming, but retail and restaurants open and active along route
- Could include vendors, food trucks or musicians within designated satellite spaces such as parks
- Regular cadence (monthly/quarterly)
- Streets open for pedestrians, bikes, scooters only
- Promotes improved mobility, placemaking, and community engagement (downtown dallas 360 plan)





Open Streets



Open Streets Case Studies



VIVA CALLE SAN JOSE

San Jose, CA

- 3 times a year
- 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Organized by San Jose Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services
- <https://www.vivacallesj.org/>



Open Streets Case Studies (cont.)



SUNDAY PARKWAYS

Portland, OR

- 3 times a year
- 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Organized by Portland Bureau of Transportation
- <https://www.portland.gov/sunday-parkways>



Open Streets Case Studies (cont.)



CICLOVIA

Mexico City, MX

- Weekly on Sundays
- 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Organized by Ministry of Mobility and Ministry of Environment



Open Streets for Public Safety Example



Deep Ellum

Dallas, TX

- 10 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays from St. Patrick's Day to Halloween
- Main and Elm Streets
- Organized by Dallas Police Department for public safety





Special Events



Special Event Street Closure Example



DALLAS ARTS DISTRICT BLOCK PARTY

Dallas, TX

- 2 times a year (April and June)
- Organized by Dallas Arts District Foundation



Permitting Requirements Under 42A



Chapter 42A Establishes Permit Review and Requirements for all Events with Street Closures:

- Public Safety Staffing (42A-13 and 14)
- Insurance (42A-15)
- Barricades/Traffic Control Devices (42A-16)
- Meter hooding and Parking(42A-17)
- Notifications (42A-18)
- Portable restrooms and clean up plan (42A-19)
- ***Event Planner is permit applicant and responsible for providing required elements***



Open Streets Pilot Program



An Open Streets “event” would require a Special Event Permit through Chapter 42A.

It would require:

- Public Safety Staffing (42A-13 and 14)
- Barricades/Traffic Control Devices (42A-16)
- Meter hooding and Parking Plan(42A-17)
- Notifications (42A-18)
- Portable restrooms and clean up plan (42A-19)
- **City (CES-OSE, DPD, TPW) or city’s designee would act as permit applicant and would be responsible for required elements.**



Staff Recommendation



Consider development of an Open Street pilot program as an additional public realm activation strategy. CES-OSE would work with DPD and TPW on proposed permit requirements based on pilot locations.



Next Steps



- Review Special Event Permit requirements and assess minimum needs for activation
- Work with city departments on minimum activation requirements through Special Event Permit process
- Work with local stakeholder organizations, merchant associations, and neighborhood associations on possible pilot program interest and draft schedule
- Bring findings back to the QoLAC Committee for final recommendation





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Exhibit A



Summary: A person desiring to hold a special event shall submit an online application with the office of special events. An application must be filed not less than the number of calendar days indicated in the following table before the special event is to begin. The director may waive the filing requirement if the application is submitted within five days of the submission due deadline and the application can be processed in less than the number of calendar days indicated on the chart, taking into consideration the number and types of additional licenses and permits that may be required to be issued in conjunction with the special event permit and the extent of public safety, department, or agency review required based on the scope of the event.

[Link: Chapter 42A, Article II Special Event Permits.](#)

