

To the Mayor and Members of the City Council**February 1, 2022**

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**SUBJECT: PARKLET PILOT PROGRAM FOR OUTDOOR SEATING**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the City's Pilot Parklet/Street Patio program and establish a permanent parklet program for Fort Worth.

The Pilot Parklet/Street Patio program was initiated in June 2020 in response to interest from stakeholders within Fort Worth entertainment districts and urban villages. The purpose of the program was to grant temporary use of on-street parking spaces as "parklets" to increase seating capacity for restaurants and bars impacted by COVID-19 capacity restrictions. Parklets include amenities such as seating, art, and landscaping, which can activate pedestrian street activity and encourage foot traffic at local businesses.

The initial six-month pilot period expired in December 2020 but was extended due to continued interest from businesses. Magnolia Avenue has seen the majority of the parklets so far when Grand Cru Wine Bar became the first parklet permitted in April 2021 followed by Lazy Moose in May 2021. Near Southside, Inc. recently installed a parklet on S. Main Street next to Hot Box Biscuit Club. The parklets have been permitted for a one-year period, renewable annually. There is no fee associated with the application or permit but all costs of compliance are to be borne by the requesting entity/entities.

In consideration of relaxed COVID business capacity restrictions and the popularity of the pilot program, the Parklet/Street Patio will, effective February 1, 2022, become a formal program that follows National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) best practices for design and operation.

The primary differences between the pilot and formal Parklet Programs are the standards for public use, advertising, and access. The formal Parklet Program will require parklets to operate as public spaces open for use by all members of the public, not just the adjacent business patrons. In addition, parklets will not include advertising and must be ADA accessible. Parklets permitted during the pilot phase will be grandfathered as-is into the formal parklet program. Current parklet sponsors may be asked to revise their designs at the time of permit expiration if their parklets do not align with current NACTO design guidelines.

If you have any questions, please contact Tanya Brooks, Transportation and Public Works Assistant Director, at 817-392-7861.

David Cooke
City Manager