

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE*

| Department: | Contact Person/Phone: | Executive Contact/Phone: |
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| Seattle Department of Transportation | Seth Geiser 615-1035 | Christie Parker 684-5211 |

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title:

AN ORDINANCE relating to street and sidewalk use; amending Section 11.40.250 of the Seattle Municipal Code to authorize the Play Street program as an allowable use of the public place.

Summary and background of the Legislation:

Since May 2014, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) has been operating a pilot Play Streets Program and has issued 260+ permits to date. The program has been met with widespread support from applicants and their neighbors and SDOT is moving to formalize the program.

In support of this formalization, we are proposing an amendment to the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) that is intended to clear up a potential point of confusion between two code sections. In SMC Section 11.16.125 “Director of Transportation – Authority – Street and Alley Closures”, the SDOT Director is granted authority to permit the closing of streets to traffic. This authority has been the basis for allowing numerous forms of temporary street closures including neighborhood block parties and special events. By extension, the issuance of Play Street permits would also fall under this authority.

The source of potential confusion lies in SMC Section 11.40.250 “Playing in the streets”. As written, this section would seem to prohibit any use of the roadway that involves “any sport, amusement or exercise or play”. Our proposed amendment would make note of SDOT’s existing permitting authority to clarify that use of the roadway for play is allowed when a closure permit has been granted by the Street Use division of SDOT.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

This legislation creates, funds, or amends a CIP Project.

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This legislation does not have direct financial implications.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- a) **Does the legislation have indirect or long-term financial impacts to the City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above?**

SDOT will incur minor costs associated with provision of Play Street signs to permit

holders. Four signs will be provided to each host at a cost to SDOT Street Use Cost Center of approximately \$200. At current application rates, this works out to an annual cost of approximately \$25,000.

b) Is there financial cost or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

There are no financial costs for non-implementation.

c) Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?

No other departments are affected.

d) Is a public hearing required for this legislation?

No.

e) Does this legislation require landlords or sellers of real property to provide information regarding the property to a buyer or tenant?

No.

f) Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?

No.

g) Does this legislation affect a piece of property?

No.

h) Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities?

This program has been evaluated for its RSJI impacts. Outreach and support will be provided to better support geographic equity of the program. This program allows for free and simple use of the public right-of-way and provides usable active space in areas where parks or private yards may be limited.

i) If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the long-term and measurable goals of the program? Please describe how this legislation would help achieve the program's desired goals.

This legislation will enable the formalization of a two-year pilot program. Continuation of the Play Streets program will allow neighbors and their families to use their streets for active play and social interaction. Current goals of the program are continued growth in application numbers and equitable geographic distribution of applications.

j) Other Issues: None.

List attachments/exhibits below:

Summary Attachment A – SDOT Play Streets Handbook

Summary Attachment B – SDOT Play Streets Briefing Report