




## COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTOPHER WARD THIRD COUNCIL DISTRICT

### M E M O R A N D U M

**DATE:** April 27, 2020

**TO:** Mayor Kevin Faulconer

**FROM:** Councilmember Chris Ward 

**SUBJECT:** Support for Slow Streets in San Diego

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The COVID-19 pandemic is changing many aspects of how we live and move about our great city. As your office is aware, many cities have responded to this pandemic by creating more space for physical distancing within its local street network. Often referred to as “Slow Streets”, these streets allow for residents to more comfortably use low-traffic streets for physically distant walking, jogging, biking, and ADA accessibility across the city. Slow Streets are not intended to close vehicular access or impact on-street residential parking.

I am writing to support the establishment of a Slow Streets program in San Diego, through a network of low-traffic, neighborhood streets. My office has heard from more than 100 constituents over the last week that they are enthusiastic and very supportive of this concept.

As the city moves to create such a pilot program, I would like to offer some recommendations:

1. **That Slow Streets target low-volume neighborhood streets.** These streets already enjoy relatively slow speeds, and do not require additional analysis due to heavy bus operations or commercial and retail outlets and related parking.
2. **That a critical mass of streets is identified as Slow Streets to allow for a well distributed network.** While several cities have unveiled similar programs in recent weeks, the City of Oakland’s Slow Streets program is ideal. It designates up to 72 miles of neighborhood streets offering a wide distribution of access to its residents, greater safety benefits due to social distancing, and an easier program rollout. Without this distribution, crowding on designated streets could occur.

I have drafted a map of potential Slow Street candidates for your office's consideration and am continuing to solicit input. I am including the map here as an attachment, but it can also be viewed at [this link](#). While I realize this may depict more streets than the city can identify at this time, it illustrates the opportunities available to expand neighborhood streets for the benefit of San Diego's health and wellness.

CC: Almis Udris, Deputy Chief of Staff for Innovation and Policy, Office of Mayor Kevin Faulconer  
Jessica Lawrence, Director, Policy and Council Affairs, Office of Mayor Kevin Faulconer  
Erik Caldwell, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Smart and Sustainable Communities  
Kris McFadden, Director, Transportation and Stormwater Department  
Alyssa Muto, Deputy Director, Environment and Mobility Planning