

City of Houston Quality of Life Committee
July 22, 2020

Problem Statement

- Due to COVID-19 restaurants must limit occupancy
- Reduced occupancy = reduced sales, hurting Houston economy



Approach

- Identify space available for additional seating, allowing more customers while still socially distancing:
 - Adjacent to existing space
 - Under owner's control
 - Feasible for short-term use, without requiring significant investment
- Research peer cities:
 - Dallas
 - Austin
 - Tampa

- Work with CoH departments:
 - Planning & Development
 - Houston Public Works
 - Legal
 - Health

Options Evaluated

Option	Considerations
Off-Street Parking	 Maximizes decision-making by each business to decide parking vs. space. Utilizes parking not currently needed due to occupancy restrictions.
Sidewalks	 Limited options to provide 6' social distance clearance plus business space. Wheelchair users and pedestrians would be most impacted.
On-Street Parking	 \$17/day/space to bag meters. Safety concern: active space adjacent to vehicle lanes (would require equipment for protection not available).
Active Traffic Lanes	 Safety concern: active space adjacent to vehicle lanes (would require equipment for protection not available).

Proposal for Committee Consideration

- Allow each business to convert 50% of their off-street parking to active space for serving food (serving only, not food preparation or storage).
- Driveway access, pedestrian access, and ADA-spaces must remain.
- All participating restaurants, to close all service within the converted parking area at or prior to midnight.
- Music/amplification prohibited.
- Program to last through COVID-19 space restrictions.
- Program and/or individual sites revocable at any time if safety concerns identified.
- Consistent with TABC July 17 "Guidance for Temporarily Modifying Your Premises".

Note: Any restaurant with parking not required by CoH can convert that space to other uses, regardless of this proposal.

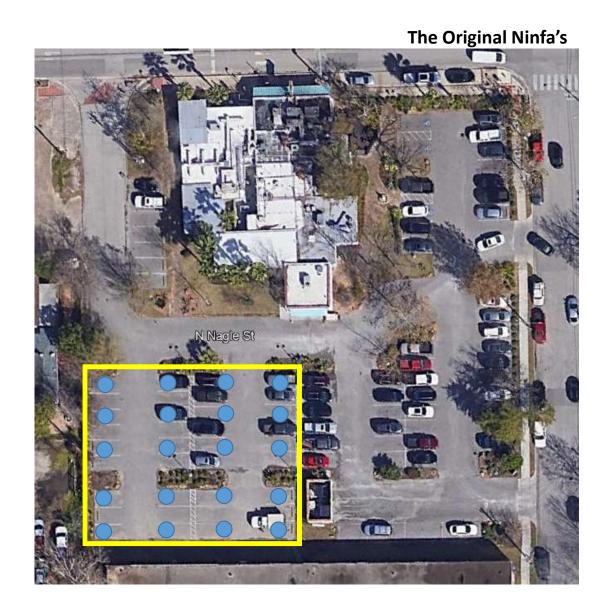
Example: (For Illustration Only)

Current:

- 88 spaces
- 84 standard
- 4 ADA

Under Proposal:

- 44 spaces
- 40 standard
- 4 ADA
- 20 tables



Implemented Elsewhere



Melbourne, FL Atlanta, GA

Tracking/Coordination

- Simple on-line "notification form" for businesses to submit
- Inventory of participating restaurants
- Signage for restaurants to post on-site advertising participation
- Mobility hotline + email + 311 for complaints
- "Best Practices" for safe design
- P&D to work with Management Districts and TIRZ's to announce and answer questions



The More Space program helps restaurants accommodate more customers while maintaining social distancing during COVID-19.

Please report any comments or complaints to the City of Houston Planning & Development Department at:

Phone: (832) 393-6660

Email: MoreSpace@houstontx.gov

Website:http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/More_Space_Forms.html
Or by calling 311



Houston More Space Program Notification Form

Houston's new More Space program is designed to help restaurants accommodate more customers while maintaining social distancing during COVID-19. The new program, outlined in allows any restaurant that concludes food service at or prior to midnight to convert 50% of their off-street parking spaces to space to serve customers. This expanded outdoor dining space will provide much needed relief to restaurants, while still allowing Houstonians to patronize these businesses while following safe and healthy guidance

Business Name (DBA):	
Business Address:	
Business Telephone Number:	
Contact Name and Position at Business (person su	bmitting Notification Form):
Number of Off-Street Parking Spaces Provided as o	f May 31, 2020:
Number of Off-Street Parking Spaces During Partici least 50% of Parking Spaces as of May 31, 2020):	pation in More Space Program (must be at
least 30 % Of Parking Spaces as Of May 31, 2020).	
I affirm that all information submitted is tru	and correct and Lunderstand the
More Space Program and the business will	
 The reduction of off-street parking access, pedestrian access, or the red 	
	ent are responsible for ensuring the Alcoholic Beverage Commission rule
The overall program and/or individed Houston at any time.	fual sites are revocable by the City of
Signature and Title of Contact Person: Da	te:
Submit	

Parallel Effort: Main Street

- Preliminary conversation with CM Gallegos & stakeholders about converting portion of Main Street to pedestrian/ bicycle only
- Use sidewalks for restaurant space; use roadway space for walking & biking
- Congress St. to Dallas St.
- Confirm delivery access to all addresses
- Currently engaging businesses & neighborhood to determine interest/ address concerns

