

PBOT

PORTLAND BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION

1120 SW Fifth Ave, Suite 1331, Portland OR 97204

Main: 503-823-5185 TTY: 503-823-6868 Fax: 503-823-7576

Justification to use Alternative Traffic Control Devices

The Portland in the Streets (PITS) program seeks to make its programs accessible, equitable, relevant, and engaging for all Portland residents. To align with the Portland in the Streets program goals, PBOT is looking for ways to make traffic control for events on local streets easier for residents to implement. Traffic control standards are set forth in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). This document provides justification for alternative traffic control signage and devices that meet the intent of the MUTCD. These alternative devices could be used for Block Parties, Street Paintings, Healthy Blocks, and community use permits that have been approved by the City Traffic Engineer or their designee.

MUTCD Standards for Temporary Traffic Control

The standards for Temporary Traffic Control (TTC) are detailed in Part 6 of the MUTCD. Typical Portland in the Streets Programs would utilize the following traffic control devices (bold added to clarify should or shall intentions).

- Section 6F.08.03: “The ROAD (STREET) CLOSED sign **should** be installed at or near the center of the roadway on or above a Type 3 Barricade that closes the roadway (see Section 6F.68).”
- Section 6F.68.15: “Type 1 or Type 2 Barricades are intended for use in situations where road user flow is maintained through the TTC zone.”
- Section 6F.68.18: “... Type 3 Barricades **should** be used to close or partially close a road.”

Typical Configuration

A typical PBOT community use permit closure involves closing a street with barricades on both ends. The center barricade on each end must be equipped with a “STREET CLOSED” (R11-2) sign. The barricades must be equipped with flashing yellow lights for diminishing visibility conditions. An 11’ emergency lane must be maintained through the closure at all times.

If the permitted closure is only a portion of the block, a “ROAD CLOSED AHEAD” (W20-3) is required and placed a minimum of 100’ from the closure. An 11-foot unobstructed emergency lane must be maintained through the closure. Additional traffic control may be required on a case by case basis.

Block parties, street paintings, and small community events have been allowed to use Type 1 or Type 2 barricades at the intersection of two Local Service streets. In certain high equity areas of the City, PBOT has a pink barricade lending program that works with neighborhood partners to provide barricades to a block party. If one of the intersections has a Collector or higher street, then Type 3 barricades are required.



The Portland Bureau of Transportation fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the ADA Title II, and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For accommodations, complaints and information, call (503) 823-5185, City TTY (503) 823-6868, or use Oregon Relay Service: 711.

Block Party Closure

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the PBOT Block Party Program has been placed on hold due Oregon Health Authority guidelines. Additionally, the traffic control materials that PBOT lends through community partner organizations are currently unavailable for residents to utilize. As we continue to monitor public health, economic indicators, and other bureau priorities in determining what we can offer, PBOT is seeking to resume some street use permit programs.

PBOT is proposing to allow alternative barricades to close the street when the closure is at the intersection of two Local Service streets. Most houses have large garbage cans or other equivalent large household items that are similar to the barricades and drums described in the MUTCD.

The City of Seattle has been using alternative household items for block parties for over a decade and has developed standards related to alternative barricades. These standards were used as the basis for developing the PBOT specifications below. These specifications only apply to events at Local Service street intersections.

- An 11' wide emergency vehicle lane must be maintained at all times for emergency vehicles when a street is closed. This lane must be clear of all immobile barriers. Any traffic control devices placed in the emergency lane must be removable within 30 seconds or less.
- The garbage cans or equivalent household items used as barricades must be a minimum of 36" tall and 18" wide.
- A minimum of two garbage cans or equivalent household items must be provided at each end of the closure, more may be required for wider streets. The devices should be set 3 to 6 feet apart in the roadway. They must be marked with retroreflective tape as follows:
 - A minimum of two 4" retroreflective bands on all sides of the garbage can or equivalent household item, placed 2" from the top of the item, at least 2" apart and a maximum of 6" between the bands.
- A "STREET CLOSED" sign is required to be placed on the garbage can or equivalent household item at the center of the street. This sign should be a minimum of 24" tall and 36" wide. This sign should not cover any of the retroreflective tape and be at placed least 20" from the roadway surface.
- A "PBOT Healthy Blocks" sign shall be placed on one of the garbage cans or equivalent household item below the retroreflective tape. The PBOT Healthy Blocks sign will include the date/time of closure and the permit number.
- The garbage cans or equivalent household items should only be placed in the street during the permitted Healthy Blocks Closure and when the right-of-way space is being utilized. While being placed in the street, they should be weighted and monitored so that they do not fall over.
- The use of equivalent household items as barricades is only applicable during daylight hours, with garbage cans or equivalent household items placed during the issued permit limits. Healthy Block requests in dusk or evening hours, or in diminishing visibility conditions must use Type 1, 2 or 3 barricades, as appropriate for the location.



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If the event has one or more intersections with a Collector or higher roadway intersecting the Local Service Street, a site-specific Traffic Control Plan (TCP) will be prepared for the event. The TCP must include Type 3 barricades for any intersection that includes a Collector or higher classification roadway. The applicant would be responsible for renting the appropriate equipment and setting it up according to this TCP.

Justification

As specified by City Code 16.10.200 (Duties of the City Traffic Engineer), the City Traffic Engineer may establish, remove, or alter traffic controls. This document provides this justification for the use of the alternative barricades and signs specifically for the Block Party Program, Healthy Blocks, and community use permits that have been approved by the City Traffic Engineer.

By allowing the use of garbage cans or other appropriate household items, this program is more equitable and accessible for neighbors to build and create spaces for recreation, community building, and more. The concessions in this document reduce barriers to the program by allowing permittees to use garbage cans or other equivalent household items that do not require an additional expense to rent or purchase. Apartment residents, other permittees who may not have access to individual garbage cans, or those whose garbage supplier doesn't allow for reflective tape to be adhered can utilize other appropriate equivalent household items.

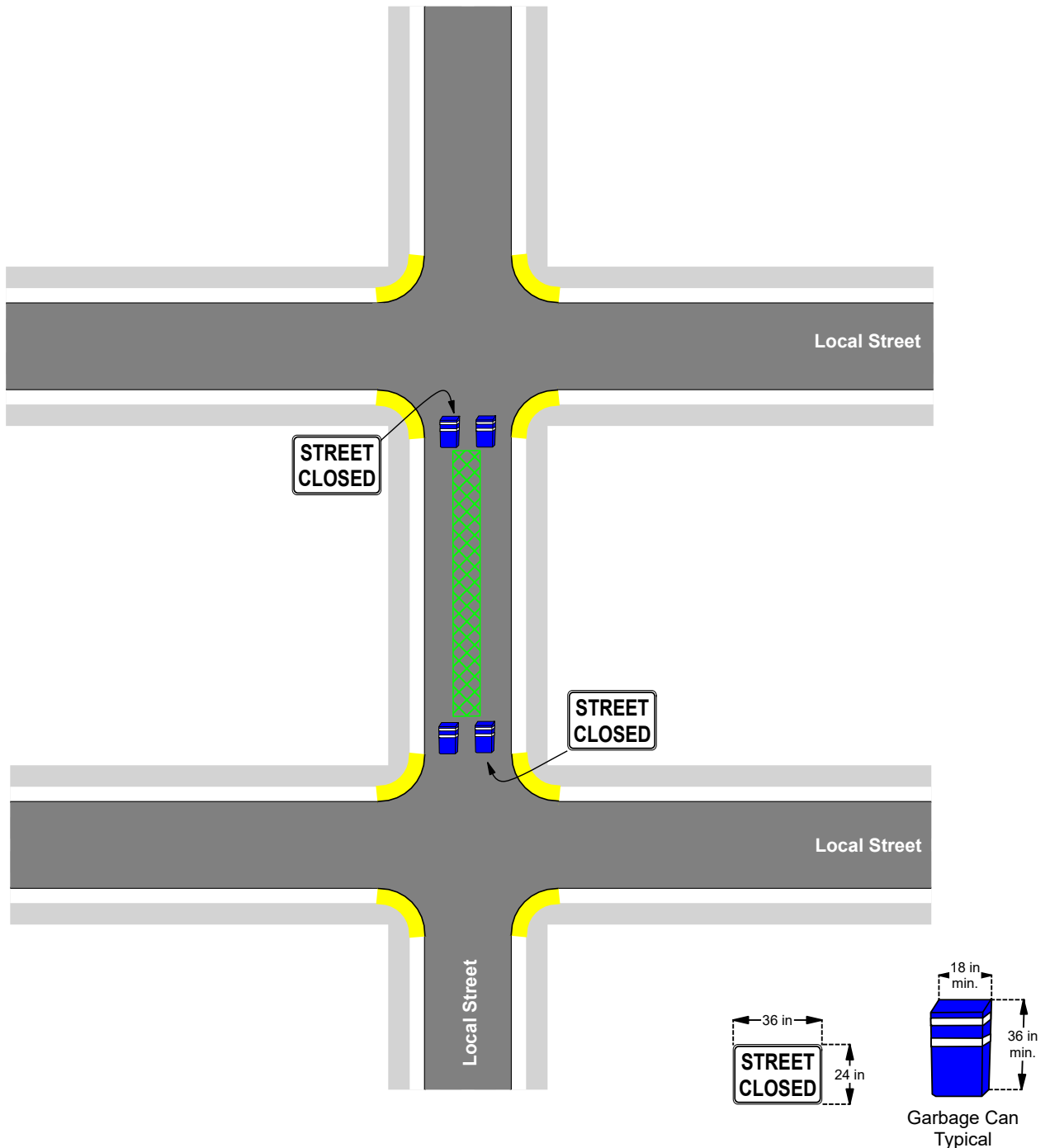
A typical TCP for Local Service Streets is attached to this memorandum to illustrate how to implement the conditions of the permit.



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Conditions:

- 1) This plan may be used only on local service streets, with local service street intersections on both sides.
- 2) An 11' emergency vehicle must be maintained at all time when a street is closed.
- 3) The lane must be clear of all immobile barriers and be cleared within 30 seconds or less.
- 4) Place signs and barricades behind the extension of the sidewalk to maintain accessibility for pedestrian crossing.
- 5) Use a minimum of two garbage cans at each end of the closure. More may be necessary to accommodate wider streets.
- 6) A "STREET CLOSED" sign is required on each end at the center of the street.
- 7) A "PBOT Healthy Blocks" sign should be attached to one of the garbage cans or household item.
- 8) Permit is valid only applicable during daylight hours. Set-up and Tear-down must occur during daylight hours within the permitted time.



**Healthy Blocks
Road Closure**