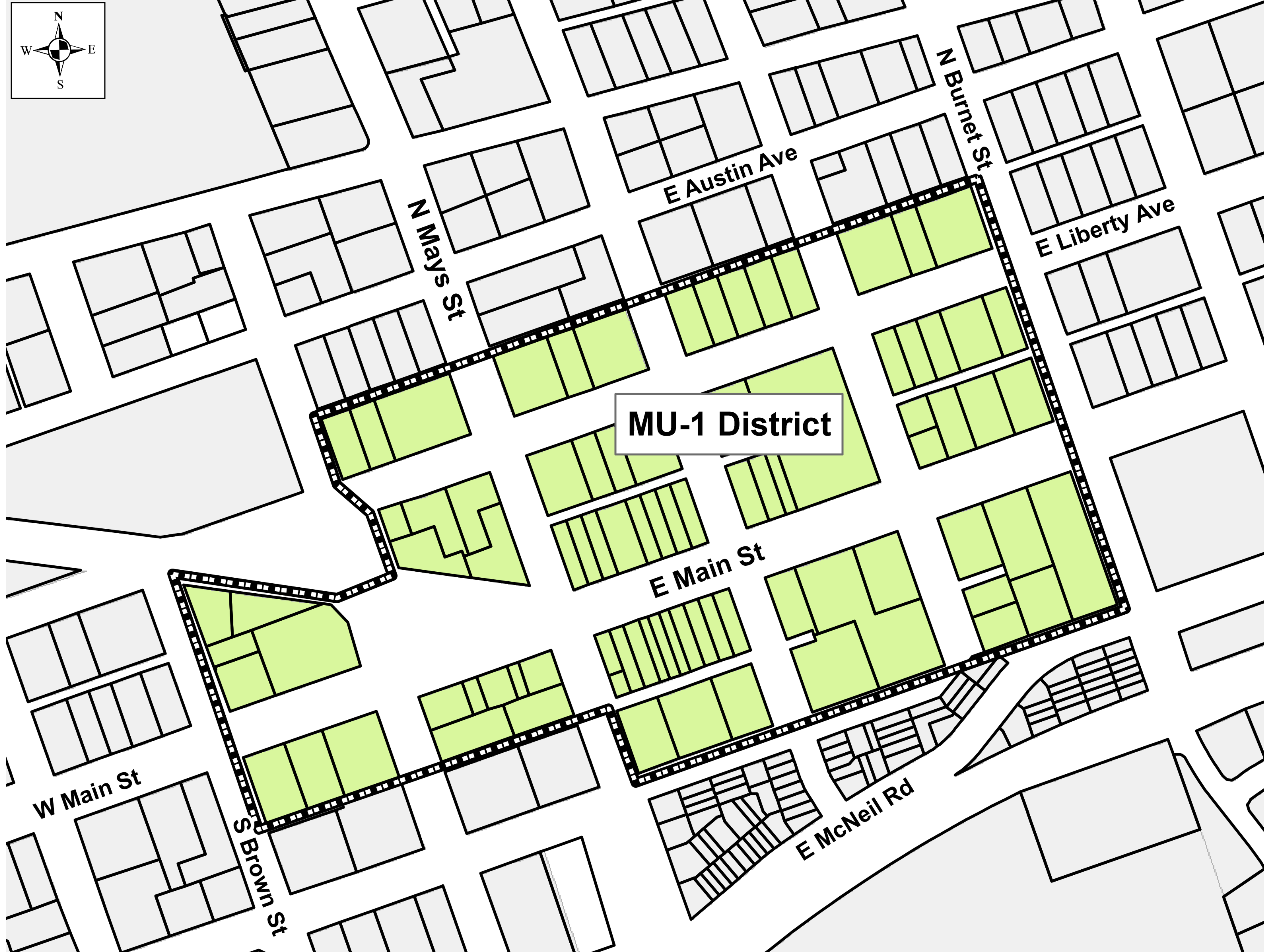
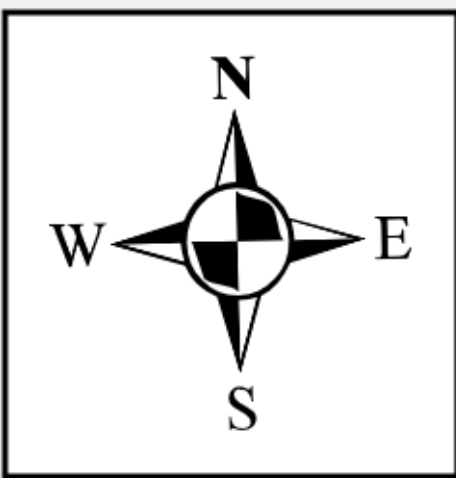




**ROUND ROCK TEXAS**

# MU-1 District Noise Ordinance Open House Meeting



**MU-1 District**



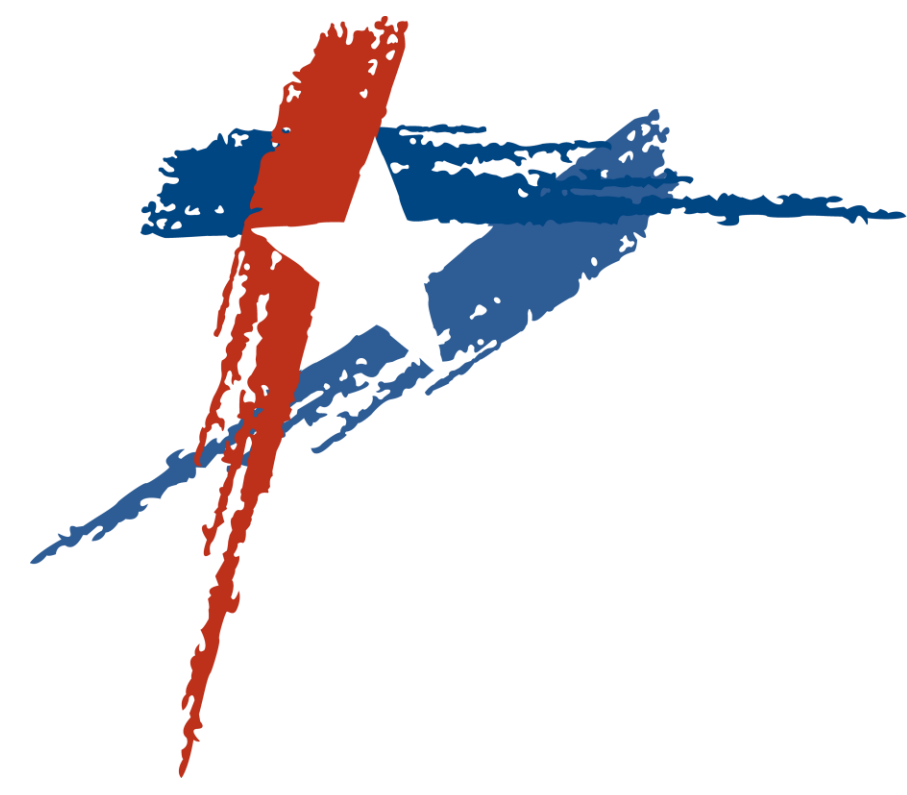
# What's the problem?

Regarding noise, we're trying to find the right balance between an active downtown with entertainment and quality of life for downtown residents.

The City has received feedback that some portions of the noise amendment pertaining to MU-1 should be revisited to better achieve this vision.

*"Downtown Round Rock can become a thriving town center featuring a viable mix of residential, commercial, retail, dining, entertainment and public space uses in a walkable and historically sensitive environment to enhance Round Rock's economy, quality of life, and sense of place."*

*-City of Round Rock Downtown Master Plan, June 2010*



# What has the City done about this issue so far?

- City Council voted in December 2018 to extend alcohol serving hours to 2 a.m. throughout City limits, and directed staff to review options to amend the noise ordinance for the downtown area.
- In March 2019, Round Rock City Council approved an amendment to the City's existing noise ordinance that imposed stricter standards to the Mixed Use 1 (MU-1) zoning district in downtown (see "requirements of the current ordinance" board).
- Since the ordinance amendment came into effect on April 15, 2019, officers have responded to 65 noise-related complaints in the MU-1 area and performed 55 self-initiated spot checks. Officers issued 7 noise-related citations and 28 warnings. One business had its permit revoked as a result of three citations within a 12-month period.
- At City Council's annual strategic goal-setting retreat in February 2022, Council directed staff to propose reasonable revisions to the ordinance.



# What are the requirements of the current ordinance?

Businesses located in the MU-1 District are required to obtain a permit annually from the City to operate as an outdoor music venue, which is essentially any business amplifying sound not fully enclosed by walls and a roof, or sound that is regularly projected out a doorway.

Permit holders shall not operate sound equipment in excess of **80 decibels** as measured at the property line of the business from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday; and from 10 a.m. to midnight on Friday and Saturday. At all other times, permit holders shall not operate sound equipment in excess of **60 decibels** as measured at the property line of the business.

A permit holder who is found guilty of violating the ordinance three times in a 12-month period will have their permit revoked by the Police Chief for one year.



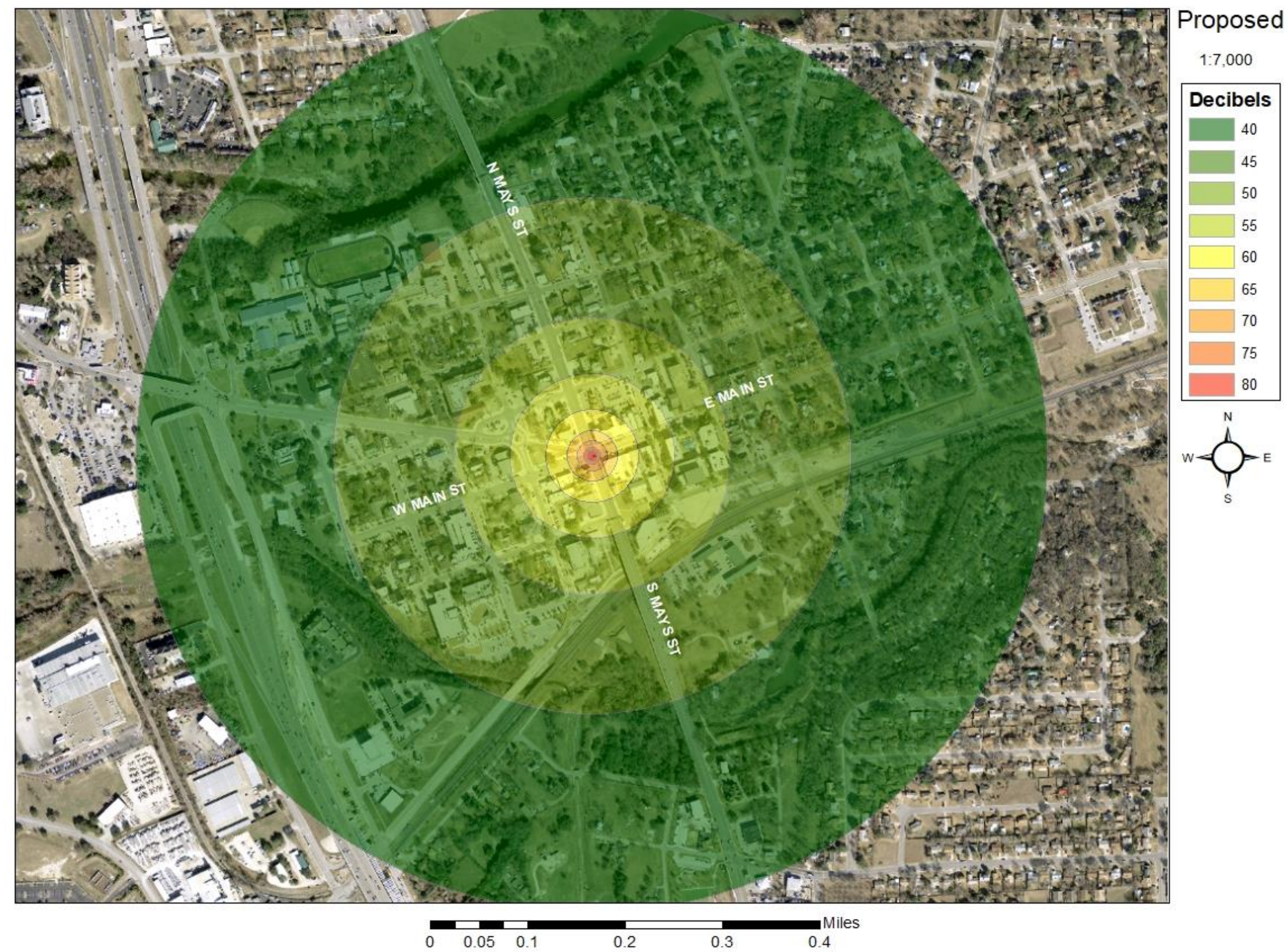
# What is the proposal?

Although a formal proposal has not been drafted, City staff is considering the following potential revisions:

- Adjusting the time-of-day requirements to more closely mirror the hours that downtown businesses are open. For example, should the time frame for the 80 decibel limit be extended to midnight for Sunday through Thursday, and to 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday?
- Evaluating the penalty period for permit holders who are found guilty of repeat violations of the ordinance. For example, shortening the permit revocation to 6 months after a third violation in a 12-month period.

# Reference map for decibel levels

The map below provides an example scenario depicting a noise source originating 25 feet from a property line measuring 80 decibel levels at the property line. For example, noise that measures 80 dB at the property line should measure 61 dB 200 feet away, assuming the the source of the noise is 25 feet inside the property line.



# Noise Level Chart

A noise level chart showing examples of sounds with dB levels ranging from 0 to 180 decibels.

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dB	Example	Home & Yard Appliances	Workshop & Construction
0	healthy hearing threshold		
10	a pin dropping		
20	rustling leaves		
30	whisper		
40	babbling brook	computer	
50	light traffic	refrigerator	
60	conversational speech	air conditioner	
70	shower	dishwasher	
75	toilet flushing	vacuum cleaner	
80	alarm clock	garbage disposal	
85	passing diesel truck	snow blower	
90	squeeze toy	lawn mower	arc welder
95	inside subway car	food processor	belt sander
100	motorcycle (riding)		handheld drill
105	sporting event		table saw
110	rock band		jackhammer
115	emergency vehicle siren		riveter
120	thunderclap		oxygen torch
125	balloon popping		
130	peak stadium crowd noise		
135	air raid siren		
140	jet engine at takeoff		
145	firecracker		
150	fighter jet launch		
155	cap gun		
160	shotgun		
165	.357 magnum revolver		
170	safety airbag		
175	howitzer cannon		
180	rocket launch		





# Next steps

A proposed amendment, along with public input received from this Open House meeting, will be presented to the City Council in April 2022.

If you have additional input to provide on this issue, please use the notepad below.

You may also email [noise@roundrocktexas.gov](mailto:noise@roundrocktexas.gov).