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## ATX SAFER STREETS HAS A NEW SOLUTION FOR AUSTIN'S DRUNK DRIVING PROBLEM Grassroots Group Calls For Transit And Parking Reforms To Prevent Intoxicated Driving

Shortly after SXSW, former bartender Sara LeVine began a petition on change.org calling on Austin's City Council to address the city's severe shortage of buses, taxis, and overnight parking. She didn't realize that the petition would go viral on social networks, generating over 3,500 signatures and 42 pages of testimonials from frustrated bar patrons, tourists, service industry workers, and others who believe that Austin's current transit structure is inadequate and encourages intoxicated driving. LeVine teamed up with volunteers Butch Dowdy and Joseph Boyle and created ATX Safer Streets, a grassroots organization devoted to changing the face of transit in Austin.

"We boast more bars per capita than anywhere else in America. We also boast the highest rate of DWI's in Texas, and that number increases tremendously each year. Yet we have failed to address our desperate need for enhanced transportation options at night and into the early morning hours," LeVine said in a session with the Austin City Council, while presenting each member of the council with the petition, as well as a comprehensive proposal outlining expansion of Austin's public transit and taxi systems. The proposal also calls for legalization of peer-to-peer ride sharing services such as Uber and Sidecar, as well as more overnight parking options in the downtown core.

ATX Safer Streets will be holding its first public event on Sunday, May 11 from 4PM to 7PM at The Brixton, 1412 East Sixth Street, Austin TX 78702. The event will feature guest speakers from other transit advocacy groups, as well as music by Robert Allen Caldwell and food from Hoboken Pie.

ATX Safer Streets are advocates for a better late night transportation network and improved parking options as an alternative to impaired driving. More information can be found on their website: <http://atxsaferstreets.org>

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For more information on ATX Safer Streets, or to schedule an interview, please contact Sara LeVine at 512-905-3597 or email [atxsaferstreets@gmail.com](mailto:atxsaferstreets@gmail.com)