

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has authorized the City Manager to develop a plan for the potential development of an Urban Rail system for consideration in a future bond elections; and

WHEREAS, an Urban Rail system will be most successful in meeting the needs of the residents and visitors of the City of Austin if its planning, development and operation is coordinated with, and integrated into a larger network of high capacity transit in Central Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization has reconvened its Transit Working Group to consider the potential system design, organization and funding of high capacity transit in Central Texas through 2040; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin, in support of the City Council's authorization and the Transit Working Group effort, is participating in the Project Connect regional high capacity transit planning effort with the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Lone Star Rail District; and

WHEREAS, the Transit Working Group, supported by the Project Connect effort, has adopted a "Vision" plan for high capacity transit in Central Texas that confirms the roles of the Urban Rail, Capital Metro's MetroRail and Lone Star Rail District's LSTAR service in forming a single rail system in Central Texas; and

WHEREAS, the regional high capacity “Vision” plan calls for the LSTAR service to provide a key commuter link that can connect eight Central Texas cities including the City of Austin; and

WHEREAS, both the Project Connect draft funding plan and draft LSTAR funding plan call for the use of tax increment financing (TIF) to support the operation of the LSTAR service; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive Tax Increment Financing policy is currently being developed for approval by Council; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature authorized tax increment financing as a funding source for rail services offered by the Lone Star Rail District;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to prepare a report to be delivered to the City Council within 45 days of the adoption of this resolution on the proposed LSTAR rail service that includes the following at a minimum:

- Description of the LSTAR service and its potential role in a Central Texas rail system and consequences for the City of Austin, including its likely relationship to/with the City’s proposed Urban Rail line; and
- An outline of the Lone Star Rail District’s proposal for tax increment financing districts in the City of Austin and Travis County to fund the LSTAR service; and
- A draft timeline for analysis of The Lone Star Rail District’s tax increment financing proposal and its conformance with the City of

Austin's current and proposed Financial Policies related to tax increment financing; and

- A draft timeline for the action steps necessary for City Council consideration and potential establishment of the proposed LSTAR service tax increment financing districts by July 1st of this year; and
- An initial draft of an interlocal agreement between the City of Austin, Lone Star Rail District and other local government jurisdictions that could implement the Lone Star Rail District's proposed LSTAR service tax increment finance districts; and
- An assessment of the potential for benefited private property owner participation in rail funding, including through a special district such as a public improvement district or municipal management district.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager will, in accordance with approved City TIF policy and in the timeframe described above, coordinate the development of the report and drafting of the LSTAR service interlocal agreement with Travis County and Austin Community College District.

ADOPTED: _____, 2013 **ATTEST:** _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk