

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan, passed in June of 2012, lays out a vision for a ‘compact and connected’ city, increasing the viability and importance of walking as a mode of transportation; and

WHEREAS, on May 3, 2013, Scott Bricker of America Walks held a Walkability Summit in Austin, culminating in a report and laying the groundwork for the reformation of WalkAustin, a pedestrian advocacy coalition; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin held a Pedestrian Safety Action Plan workshop in August, 2013 with the Federal Highway Administration and local stakeholders, which resulted in a recommendation to create a Pedestrian Advisory Council (PAC); and

WHEREAS, the Urban Transportation Commission (UTC) is the body officially charged with reviewing and making recommendations to City Council on transportation issues, including bicycle and pedestrian issues; and

WHEREAS, the Bicycle Advisory Council (BAC), a citizen-led organization with a city staff liaison, serves an important role as a resource primarily for city staff but also for City Council on issues related to bicycle infrastructure and policy; and

WHEREAS, the BAC’s staff liaison keeps the body informed, organizes meetings, reserves meeting space, creates agendas, and performs other duties necessary to keep the BAC involved in decision-making related to bicycle infrastructure in Austin; and

WHEREAS, many U.S. cities, including Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Minneapolis, Portland, and Seattle have PACs to provide feedback on pedestrian issues; and

WHEREAS, the missions of these organizations include:

- serving as a resource to staff and Council for questions and concerns regarding pedestrian-related decisions;
- promoting a safe pedestrian environment;
- creating an environment conducive to pedestrian activity;
- improving pedestrian facilities; and
- making recommendations and providing information on any matter of interest to pedestrians; and

WHEREAS, there are a variety of perspectives that are central to pedestrian-friendliness, such as urban design, ADA access, transportation, Safe Routes to School, and others; and

WHEREAS, the UTC, the BAC, and the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities took formal action to support the creation of a PAC in Austin; and

WHEREAS, the newly reformed organization WalkAustin has been gathering community support for a PAC in Austin and will provide initial leadership for the PAC; and

WHEREAS, the UTC, BAC, and the ADA Access and Sidewalk Taskforce support formalization of the relationships between their own bodies and the PAC; and

WHEREAS, the UTC may formalize its relationship with the PAC and the BAC, such as through recognized liaisons, by submitting bylaw amendments to the City Clerk's Office, who would then post the amendments to the City Council Audit and Finance Subcommittee for approval; and

WHEREAS, the PAC plans to begin holding regular meetings as early as October of 2013; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is directed to engage with pedestrian stakeholder groups, including the Pedestrian Advisory Council, to address pedestrian issues and concerns.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to continue to work with the Urban Transportation Commission, and to assist with any bylaw changes necessary to improve communication between the UTC, the Pedestrian Advisory Council and the Bicycle Advisory Council.

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

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk