



City of Austin

City Hall, 301 W. 2nd Street, Suite 2030, Austin, TX 78701

www.austintexas.gov

Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission

20131112005A

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(Mayor Leffingwell)

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(CM Tovo)

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Staff Liaison
EDD

Jill Fagan
Staff Liaison
EDD

Date of Approval: 11/12/13
Record of the vote: Unanimous on a 6-0 vote

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Leffingwell and the Austin City Council

DATE: November 6, 2013

RE: Urban Rail

Mayor and Council Members,

Over the history of our existence, the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission has sent regular communications to the City Council encouraging rail at Mueller. With your decision on the choice of an urban rail sub-corridor now imminent, we'd like to again note Mueller's unique status and express our support for the northeast alignment.

Mueller is the City's largest public/private partnership. It was presented to Austin citizens as a dense, pedestrian-friendly and transit-oriented community with a Master Plan that incorporated rail. Well aware of these goals, residents began moving into Mueller in late 2007 with a willingness to embrace an environmentally-conscious lifestyle, evidenced by the significant numbers who have installed solar panels, bought alternative-fuel vehicles, and have now agreed to accept a hard-to-locate rail-car maintenance facility at Mueller. About 10,000 more who are like-minded, and approximately 13,000 who will work at Mueller, will join those current 3,500 residents in the near future.

Those numbers could increase. A 2004 Traffic Impact Analysis limits Mueller's density by design. Should a vote to locate rail at Mueller pass, increased density would immediately be allowed, even before any track was installed. Each day that passes without that commitment means a lost opportunity to increase Mueller's density, and thus the value to Austin's tax base.

An alignment from Austin's downtown/Capitol/UT core to Mueller could also serve much of the future Waller Creek development, Hancock Center, St. David's Medical Center, UT's stadium, concert hall, LBJ Library and coming medical school/hospital complex and connect to UT's 14-acre Mueller research campus, along with the Dell Children's Hospital, Seton headquarters, the Thinkery and AISD's Performing Arts Center.

Windsor Park, just north of Mueller, has expressed a desire for the initial line to continue just 1.5 miles up Berkman Drive to US Highway 290, where a Nelson Field park & ride facility could add significant ridership and be the site of a station to the future MetroRail Green Line serving Manor and beyond.

Our Commission sees substantial benefits for the City to include Mueller in the initial phase of urban rail. Please let us know if we can assist you further with this matter.

Rick Krivoniak

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