

RESOLUTION NO. 20131212-067

WHEREAS, the City Council, Capital Metro and Lone Star Rail District's Board of Directors endorsed the Project Connect High-Capacity Transit System Plan in resolutions on June 21, 2013, August 29, 2013 and October 4, 2013, respectively; and

WHEREAS, the Transit Working Group (TWG), a subcommittee of the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) was supported in its deliberations by the Project Connect collaborative planning effort for high-capacity transit, initiated by the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Capital Metro/CMTA), the City of Austin, Lone Star Rail District and CAMPO; and

WHEREAS, the TWG members determined that the North and Central corridors are the highest priority for regional, high-capacity transit, based on travel demand and high ridership potential, land use, economic development, employment, and travel patterns; and

WHEREAS, the TWG encouraged the Central and North Corridor Studies project team and working groups to use the TWG priorities and recommendations outlined in the system plan to further evaluate and analyze the routes, alignments, modes, funding, and organization; and

WHEREAS, the TWG finds that the Project Connect effort to plan, fund and operate a regional high-capacity transit system as a single system provides a solid framework that should be further developed; and

WHEREAS, Central Texas's regional population is projected to double in the next 25 years. and the TWG and the public agree that traffic

congestion is a serious problem that threatens our region's economic health and quality of life and needs to be addressed; and

WHEREAS, high-capacity transit is an important part of the solution for improving mobility in Central Texas and will also provide new travel options between Central Texas and the San Antonio metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, high-capacity transit projects should maximize the use of dedicated rights-of-way and other means of gaining a travel time advantage where financially and physically reasonable; and

WHEREAS, future high-capacity transit projects should strive for a true alternative to driving, providing quality competitive trips between and within the CAMPO adopted regional activity centers and seamless connectivity between high-capacity transit components; and

WHEREAS, the Project Connect team has identified several sub-corridors which are appropriate for high-capacity transit investment; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

The City Council endorses the City Manager's Phase 1 recommendation to further evaluate and analyze the East Riverside and Highland Sub-Corridors as the Central Corridor priority for further evaluation of alignment and mode and selection of a possible draft Locally Preferred Alternative as part of Phase 2 of the project effort.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to continue efforts to inform area agencies, organizations, and the public about the Project Connect efforts on high-capacity transit for Central Texas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to work with Project Connect to identify future funding needs and potential sources to prioritize and continue critical Central Corridor project definition and development activities in the remaining identified sub-corridors, including the Lamar, Mueller, and East Austin sub-corridors, and report back to Council by August 1, 2014.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to work with Project Connect and CMTA to continue cultivating a relationship with our regional Federal Transit Administration officials to cooperatively prepare for any future high-capacity transit investments in the Lamar sub-corridor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to present a draft Locally Preferred Alternative for Council consideration in Spring/Summer of 2014.

ADOPTED: December 12, 2013

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk