

RESOLUTION NO. 20140522-048

WHEREAS, the City Council is committed to establishing policies that protect the long-term health and viability of our city and community; and

WHEREAS, climate resiliency is the planning and implementation of actions to reduce a city's vulnerability to long-term changes in climate and major weather events and to protect the economic, environmental, and social health of a community; and

WHEREAS, there is a renewed focus on climate resiliency as extreme heat and drought occur more frequently and major weather events become more common and intense, impacting cities across the nation and the world and causing tens of billions of dollars in damage; and

WHEREAS, in March 2013, the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) received a federal grant to complete a Climate Change and Extreme Weather Vulnerability Assessment for Transportation Infrastructure for the six-county region that will evaluate and rank assets based on their criticality to regional transportation and vulnerability to extreme weather events, and CAMPO will produce a final report with recommendations on how to incorporate future vulnerability and risk into transportation decision-making; and

WHEREAS, the City Council passed Resolution No. 20131121-060 that directed the City Manager to develop recommendations that would proactively position the City to become more resilient to climate change by managing the risk of impacts to new and existing capital investments and effectively protecting human life during extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS, the resolution also requested staff to analyze climate change projections, determine how departmental planning efforts integrate future impacts of climate change, and identify a process for performing departmental vulnerability assessments.

WHEREAS, the staff report included a wealth of information related to climate projections and the potential environmental, economic, and social impacts to operations, asset management, and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the report's takeaways stated that recent extreme events are likely to be the new normal, vulnerable populations are likely to be disproportionately impacted, and some important issues are out of the City's direct control; and

WHEREAS, the report's first recommendation stated, "Additional data is needed to better understand climate change impacts for Austin. The City should continue to work with climate researchers to develop more detailed climate projections for Central Texas;" and

WHEREAS, the multiple City departments involved in the preliminary analysis identified specific items that require further study; and

WHEREAS, another recommendation stated a need for conducting detailed vulnerability assessments by potentially using the CAMPO Climate Change and Extreme Weather Vulnerability Assessment for Transportation Infrastructure as a framework, and that report should be completed in September of 2014; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations also underscored the importance of integrating resilience strategies with current departmental planning efforts and coordinating with regional partners; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

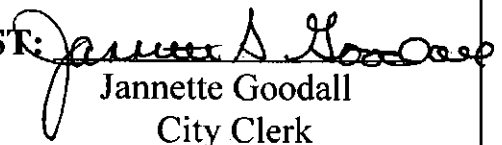
The City Manager is directed to develop cost estimates for more detailed climate projections related to specific departmental needs as identified within the staff response to City Council Resolution 20131121-060. The City Manager should also develop the cost estimates and timeframe for conducting detailed vulnerability assessments for Austin Energy, the Austin Water Utility, the Watershed Protection Department, and the Parks and Recreation Department. The City Manager shall provide these cost estimates as part of the FY2015 budget planning process for potential inclusion in the FY2015 budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to incorporate climate resilience as a key consideration in all future City budget and planning efforts in order to effectively and efficiently manage resources, operations, assets, and infrastructure. The City Manager should also coordinate with regional partners on climate resiliency efforts as appropriate.

ADOPTED: May 22, 2014

ATTEST:


Jannette Goodall
City Clerk