



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Pedestrian Advisory Council

Recommendation Number: 20140602-06B - Complete Streets Policy

WHEREAS, Austin City Council Resolution No. 20131212-080 directed the City Manager to create and implement a comprehensive Complete Streets policy; and

WHEREAS, the intent of this policy is to implement the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan and to enhance Austin's quality of life over the long-term by advancing mobility, economically sound compact and connected development patterns, public health and safety, livability, environmental enhancement, sustainability, equity, affordability, economic activity, climate resiliency, and excellence in urban design and community character; and

WHEREAS, the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan established a Priority Action to "Develop complete streets design guidelines for all new road construction and reconstruction," to include: "Pedestrian and bicycle facilities and amenities"; "Green Street Techniques/Green Infrastructure Best Management Practices"; "Interconnected, navigable, grid-like streets and blocks"; "Transit accommodations"; and other measures [LUT A19]; and

WHEREAS, streets are the public realm and should be designed to a higher standard as beautiful, safe and comfortable places for all people, in order to equitably support the common good and the Imagine Austin Vision statement: "Austin Values and Respects its People"; and

WHEREAS, City staff has developed a policy reflecting national best practices, that provides a Vision and Intent, Complete Streets Principles, Applicability and Jurisdiction, Implementation guidance, a high bar for Exceptions, and guidance on potential code amendments and metrics for evaluation;

WHEREAS, it is the purpose of the Pedestrian Advisory Council to "advise City of Austin on pedestrian planning, design, funding, education, and enforcement efforts regarding the creation, maintenance and operation of pedestrian facilities in order to ensure a safe and enjoyable circulation for both commuting and recreation within the City of Austin. The PAC's goal is to ensure sensitivity to pedestrian issues in the design and implementation of all public and private projects impacting pedestrians"; and

WHEREAS, a complete street policy directly and positively contributes to the goals of the Pedestrian Advisory Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pedestrian Advisory Council recommends to the City Council approval and implementation of the Complete Streets Policy.


RECOMMENDATIONS

The Pedestrian Advisory Council also submits the following recommendations to improve the May 28, 2014 Draft Complete Streets policy:

- 1.) **Article A, Section 1. Complete Streets serve all users and modes.** Revise the last sentence to read, "The City recognizes that children, seniors, and persons with disabilities may require inclusive accommodations."
- 2.) **Article B. Applicability and Jurisdiction.** Revise paragraph four so the prioritization of funding sources for strategic Complete Streets improvements also benefits areas with high levels of bicycling and public transportation usage. Currently, the draft language identifies only areas with high levels of pedestrian activity.
- 3.) **Article C. Exceptions.** Revise the second sentence to read, "An exception for a specific project may be requested and may or may not be granted when:"
- 4.) The Pedestrian Advisory Council recommends that an annual review of the policy itself be performed, not just of the performance metrics for the policy (see Exhibit A, number 11). It is imperative that Austin's Complete Streets policy reflect evolving national best practices.
- 5.) The Pedestrian Advisory Council recommends that the quarterly summary report provided to a multidisciplinary City staff team responsible for guiding Complete Streets also be (see Exhibit A, number 14) made available to the public through the City website.
- 6.) The Pedestrian Advisory Council recommends the draft policy state more directly the expectation for the policy to perpetuate and enforce City, State, and Federal requirements for disability access and accommodation.

Date of Approval: June 02, 2014

Attest: 
Emily Risinger, Vice-Chair

Attest: 
Robert Anderson, Staff Liaison