

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	33067	Agenda Number	119.
Meeting Date:	6/12/2014		Department:	Transportation
Subject				
Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance adopting the City of Austin Complete Streets Policy which promotes roads that are designed to safely accommodate necessary street functions for all users.				
Amount and Source of Funding				
Fiscal Note				
A fiscal note is not required				
Purchasing Language:				
Prior Council Action:	Resolution 20131212-080.			
For More Information:	Robert Spillar, 512-974-2488; Gordon Derr, 512-974-7228; Katherine Gregor, 512-974-7901; Gilda Powers, 512-974-7092.			
Boards and Commission Action:	May 13, 2014, recommended by the Urban Transportation Commission; April 28, 2014, recommended by the Design Commission; May 14, 2014 recommended by the Mayor's Committee on Seniors; May 12, 2014, recommended by the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities; May 12, 2014, reviewed by the Bicycle Advisory Council; and May 5, 2014 reviewed by the Pedestrian Advisory Council.			
MBE / WBE:				
Related Items:				

Additional Backup Information

On December 12, 2013, Council directed the City Manager to create and implement a comprehensive Complete Streets Policy. The draft policy, to be provided to Council in response to Resolution No. 20131212-080, is based on national best practices as well as City staff expertise, community input, and comments and consultations across City departments.

In developing the draft policy, the Austin Transportation Department (ATD) has led a cross-departmental initiative and input process. ATD has worked in collaboration with the Public Works Department, the Planning and Development Review Department, the Capital Planning Office, and other City departments, as well as the Compact & Connected Priority Program Team and the Green Infrastructure Priority Program Team. The initiative has included a workshop for department directors across the City about the Complete Streets Policy.

Complete Streets is a tool to advance multiple long-term community goals defined by the vision and policies of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan. The intent of this Complete Streets policy is to enhance Austin's quality of life by advancing mobility, public health and safety, livability, sustainability, equity, affordability, economic activity, climate resilience, green infrastructure, excellence in urban design, and community character.

Specifically, this Complete Streets Policy is a tool to implement a core Imagine Austin Priority Program: "Invest in a compact and connected Austin." As part of this program, the City commits to making improvements within the right of way that support making pedestrian, bicycle, and transit travel as safe and convenient as vehicle travel. Complete Streets support compact development patterns and expand everyone's mobility choices for safe and convenient travel by different modes between destinations throughout Austin. They are designed to balance safety and convenience for everyone using the road.

To improve community health, Austin seeks to transform its street network from a barrier to an asset for more active lifestyles. Complete Streets encourage active transportation choices associated with improved health outcomes for people at all stages of life. Safety, including reducing injuries and deaths for pedestrians and bicyclists on Austin roadways, is a fundamental goal of this Complete Streets policy. The City recognizes the multiple public health benefits of reducing the air and climate pollution caused by vehicles. "Green Street" principles can also advance other environmental and sustainability objectives.

The City recognizes that the design of streets and the right-of-way provides a unique opportunity to thoughtfully integrate and advance multiple objectives for our community while delivering maximum benefits from City investments.