

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council - Commissioner's Court Meeting	Item ID	34761	Agenda Number	127.
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Meeting Date:	8/7/2014	Department:	Public Works
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Subject

Set a public hearing to consider an ordinance adopting the Urban Trails Master Plan. (Suggested date and time: August 28, 2014, 4:00 p.m. at Travis County Commissioners Court, 700 Lavaca Street, Austin, TX).

Amount and Source of Funding

Fiscal Note

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:	
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Prior Council Action:	April 24, 2008, Trails Master Plan Initiated by City Council (Resolution No. 2008424-064) and June 11, 2009, The City of Austin Bicycle Plan Update (Ordinance No. 20090611-075)
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For More Information:	Nadia Barrera, 512-974-7142
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Boards and Commission Action:	March 10, 2014, reviewed by the Comprehensive Planning Committee (Planning Commission); April 8, 2014, approved by the Urban Transportation Commission; reviewed by the Urban forestry Board on April 16, 2014 and May 21, 2014; Environmental Board on April 16, 2014 and June 4, 2014; Committee for People with Disabilities on May 12, 2014 and June 9, 2014; Parks and Recreation Board on May 27, 2014; and Planning Commission on June 24, 2014.
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MBE / WBE:	
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Related Items:	
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Additional Backup Information

This plan works to implement elements of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan by creating a connected and protected active transportation network that will provide transportation options for the citizens and visitors of the City of Austin.

An Urban Trail is a non-motorized, multi-use pathway designed for bicyclists, walkers, and those with disabilities for both transportation and recreation purposes.

The Urban Trail Master Plan Goals are to:

1. Work interdepartmentally to design and construct a comprehensive trail system with easy access for both transportation and recreation users.
2. Link all urban trails to the on-street bicycle and sidewalk network.
3. Ensure that all urban trails are adequately sized to accommodate both recreation and transportation uses.
4. Incorporate trail amenities and features that create unique greenways and reflect the City around them.
5. Provide adequate resources to maintain and operate urban trails in Austin.
6. Ensure that all urban trails are context-sensitive and environmentally sustainable.

Other elements of the Urban Trails Master Plan include:

- **Trail Design Criteria:** This section builds on the recent Watershed Protection Ordinance and addresses width, overhead clearance, surface quality and lighting concerns.
- **Maintenance Strategy:** Using best practices, the plan outlines benchmarks and criteria for regular maintenance of urban trails.
- **Implementation and Funding:** The plan includes a matrix that weights connectivity, accessibility, proximity to attractions, and property ownership which facilitates prioritizing trail construction with limited resources.