BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Urban Transportation Commission

Recommendation Number: 20141014-03C – Vision Zero

WHEREAS, Austin has experienced an average of 63.6 deaths per year since 2004; and

WHEREAS, pedestrians account for approximately one-quarter to one-third of all traffic fatalities every year; and

WHEREAS, City of Austin recently adopted a Complete Streets Policy, Ordinance 20140612-119, with a major focus on safety for all road users; 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, multiple initiatives and events have focused on the need for improvements to traffic safety, including: Distracted Driving Ordinance, City of Austin "Safe Walk Safe Bike" Initiative, 3' Passing Law to protect bicyclists, Community Healthy Improvement Plan, Austin Walkability Summit, Traffic Safety Symposium, 2012 Traffic Fatality Report, Pedestrian Safety Action Plan, among others; and

WHEREAS, no city plan comprehensively addresses the multifaceted nature of traffic safety for Austin and the 2012 Traffic Fatality Report specifically recommends development of a Consolidated Mobility Safety Plan for the city; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero has been adopted or is being developed by multiple U.S. cities, including: New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Miami, and Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero aims to achieve zero fatalities and zero serious injuries in the roadway, and has successfully reduced fatalities and serious injuries in cities where it has been implemented;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Urban Transportation Commission supports the creation of a City of Austin Traffic Safety Task Force to investigate opportunities to improve traffic safety toward a goal of zero fatalities and zero serious injuries.

Date of Approval: _____10.14.15_____

Record of Vote: 4-0-0-3

Attest: _____

(Staff or board member can sign)