

Meeting Date: May 7, 2015

Late Backup

Item #26



Austin Independent School District

Office of Superintendent

May 6, 2015

The Honorable Mayor Steve Adler, and
The Honorable Members of the Austin City Council
City of Austin, Texas

Via Hand Delivery and Email

RE: Austin ISD's Support of Consent Agenda Item No. 26 at the Austin City Council's May 7, 2015 Meeting (Approve a Resolution Related to the CAMPO 2040 Plan)

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I write you on behalf of the Austin Independent School District (AISD) in support of Consent Agenda Item No. 26, on the Council's May 7, 2015 Meeting Agenda, (Approve a resolution related to the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization 2040 Plan), sponsored by Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo and co-sponsored by Council Members Gregorio Casar, Delia Garza, Ann Kitchen and Leslie Pool. AISD is extremely concerned that the proposed expansion of Mopac South from one managed lane in each direction to two creates significant danger to the students, staff and community of Austin High School. Specifically the District believes that potential proximity and siting of a double decker bridge of elevated lanes could exacerbate existing traffic noise and air pollution, affecting students and staff who are on the campus over seven hours a day in instruction and extra-curricular activities.

A thorough study to identify all potential adverse impacts on Austin High School and AISD and to explore meaningful alternatives to eliminate any and all such impacts must be a prerequisite to any decision by the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) to expand Mopac South from one to two managed lanes in each direction as currently embodied in the CAMPO 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

On behalf of AISD, I respectfully request that the above-referenced Consent Agenda Item be approved with the hope and expectation that the subject expansion be removed from the CAMPO 2040 RTP. AISD further asks for the City's support in ensuring that the District has a seat at the table going forward as school safety and student-related health concerns are addressed.

Sincerely,


Dr. Paul Cruz

1111 West 6th Street Austin, Texas 78703-5338 (512) 414-1700 Fax (512) 414-1486
superintendent@austinisd.org www.austinisd.org