

Resolution 224:

Report to the PAC on the Feasibility of a Walkability Study of Central East Austin

Pedestrian Advisory Council

July 6th, 2015



Active Transportation Program



Resolution 224:

...BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN: The City Manager is directed to explore key features and deliverables of a walkability study for the area bounded by I-35, Manor Road, Chestnut/Pleasant Valley and Lady Bird Lake by identifying costs, potential funding sources, and the scope of such a study and report back to the Pedestrian Advisory Council and the Council within 210 days.



Support for Walkability in Imagine Austin



- Create a integrated transportation plan that encompasses driving, transit, bicycling, walking...
- Give priority to support...the creation of compact walkable and bikeable places
- Establish land use and street design regulations to crease sustainable neighborhoods that are child-friendly, support walking....



Support for Walkability in Neighborhood Plans

East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Plan

- **Transportation and Traffic
Goal 2: Improve bicycle and pedestrian traffic safety on neighborhood streets.**
- **Transportation and Traffic
Goal 3: Make better use of the Fourth-Fifth Street rail corridor.**

Holly Neighborhood Plan

- **Goal 4: Insure adequate pedestrian safety and access to major destination such as schools, shopping centers and parks.**
- **Goal 6: Maintain roadways and alleys for safe and efficient travel for pedestrians, bicycles, transit, and autos.**



Walkability Studies Take Many Forms

A diagram of a pair of glasses, with the frames represented by three white circles connected by a blue line. The top circle is positioned to the left of the first text bar, the middle circle to the left of the second, and the bottom circle to the left of the third.

Pedestrian Safety Assessments (PSA's)

Walk Audits

Walkability Assessment Reports



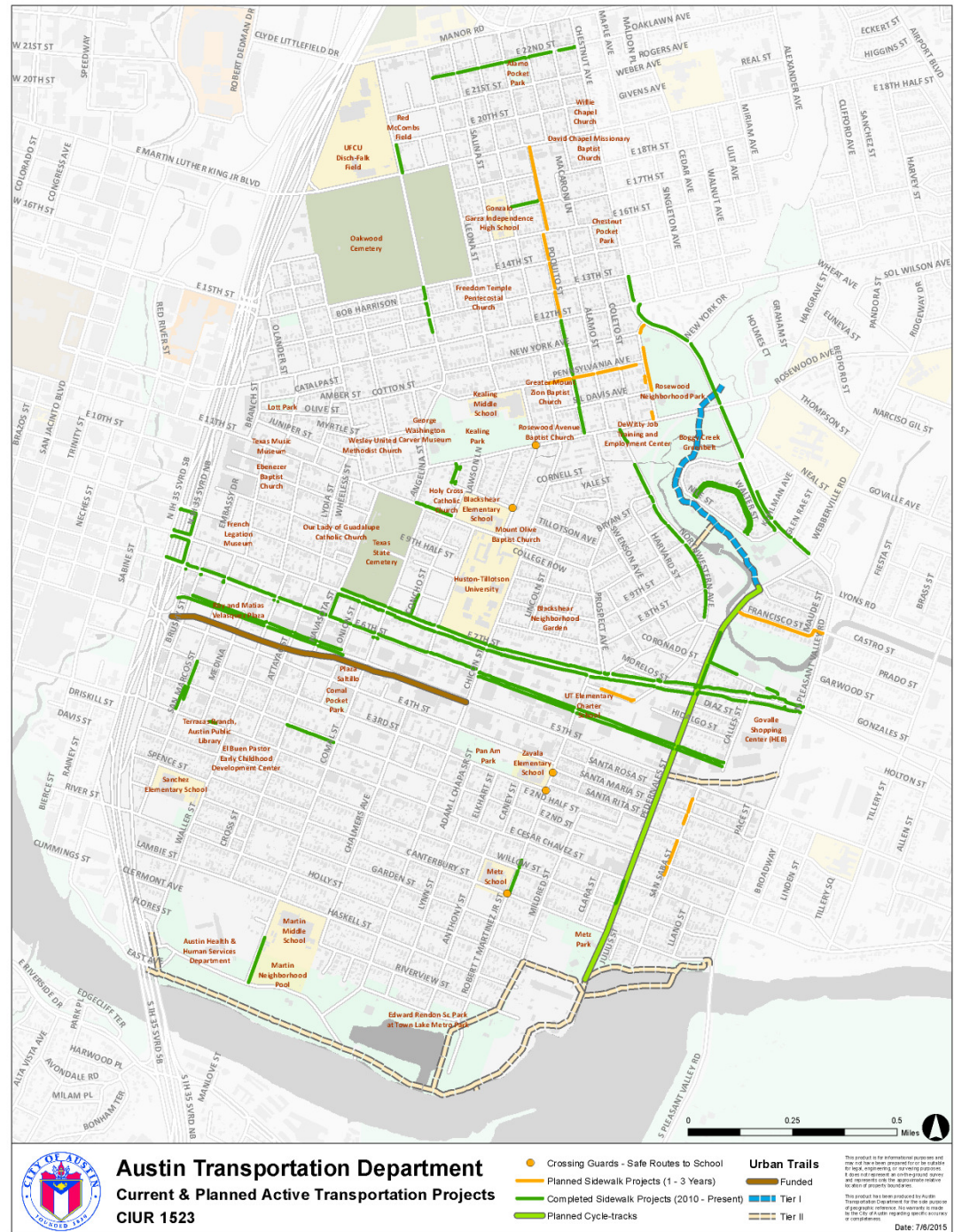
Area of Study

- Bounded by I-35, Manor Road, Chestnut/Pleasant Valley Road and Lady Bird Lake
- 3 square miles
- Grid system of streets and smaller block sizes



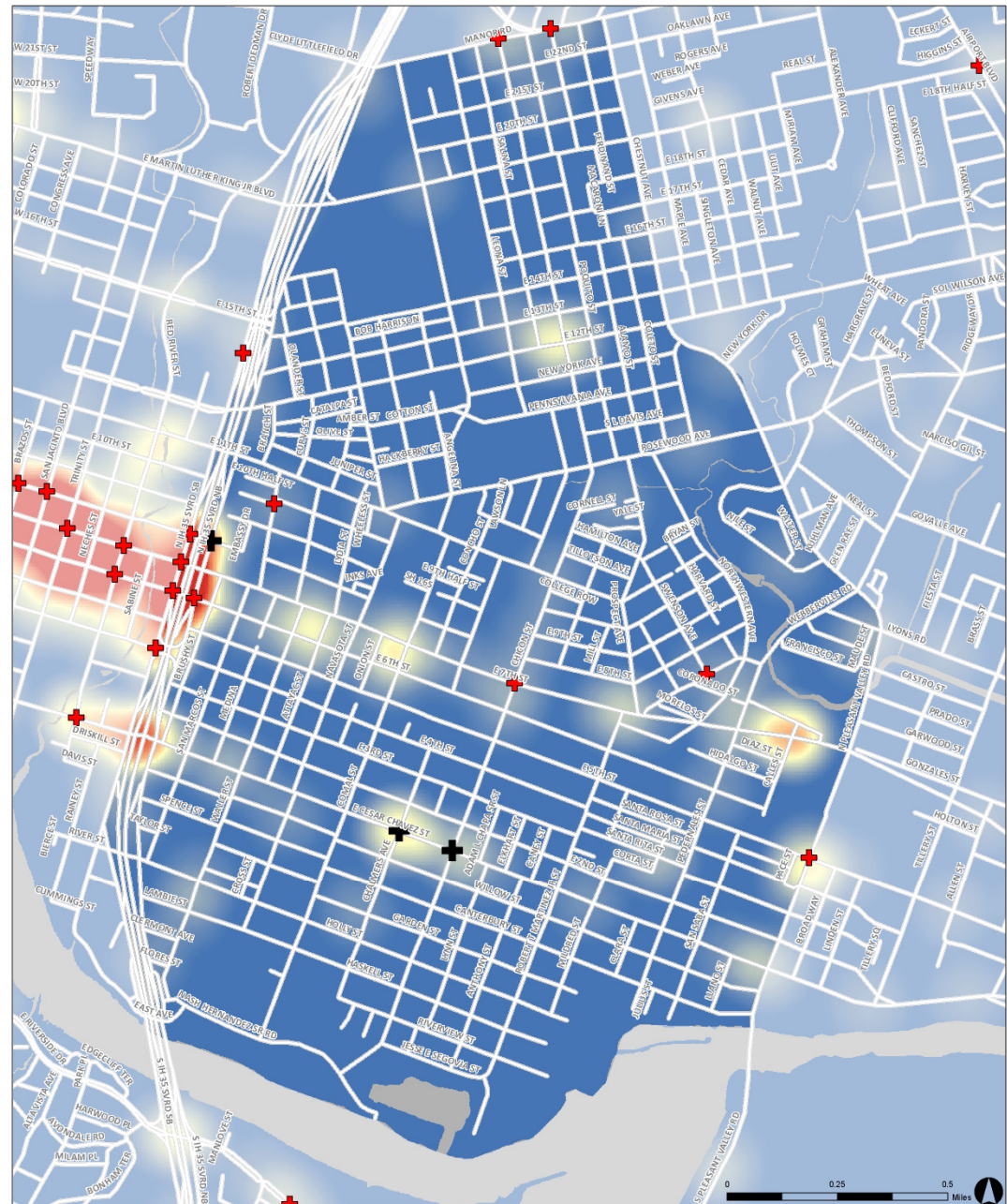
Walking Assets

- Sidewalks
 - Completed
 - Planned
- Trails
 - Funded
 - Tier I
 - Tier II
- Parks
- Crossing Guards



Crash Data (2012-2014)

Fatality	3
Major or Serious Injury	7
Minor Injury	37
No Injury	2
Possible Injury	8
None	1
Pedestrian Total	58



Austin Transportation Department

APD Crash Density - Bike and Pedestrian Crashes 2012, 2013, and 2014
CIUR 1523

Fatality
 Major Injury

High
 Low

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Date: 7/8/2015



City of Austin - PAC Meeting

Walkability Studies Take Many Forms



Pedestrian Safety Assessments (PSA's)

Walk Audits

Walkability Assessment Reports



Scope of Work Could Include...

- A thorough review of existing conditions
- Recommendations for walking routes, bus and bicycle routes
- Wayfinding
- Lighting
- Streetscape/Landscape Improvements
- Modal Conflicts
- Pedestrian Safety Countermeasures
- Sidewalk Gaps and ADA evaluations



Estimated Costs Vary Depending on Scope

Neighborhood/City Led Effort:
Cost Estimate ~\$2,000



- Safety Gear and Refreshments
- Printing/Graphic Design Costs

Photo: www.pedbikeimages.org / Kate Henry

Consultant Hired to Produce Report : Cost Estimate:\$50,000




- ADA evaluations, sidewalk gaps
- Lighting studies, etc.

Photo: www.pedbikeimages.org / Dan Burden



Potential Funding Sources



Technical Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workshops• Trainings• Webinars
Operational or Grant Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ATD has requested ped planning funds for FY16• Technical Assistance
Enterprise Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PTMD funds allow for sidewalks and crosswalks and signal improvements
Bond Funding, Quarter Cent Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council to consider Quarter Cent funding recommendations



Recommendations

The Active Transportation Program is prepared to take the following immediate next steps:

- Create an online clearinghouse for links to free walkability study resources.
- Seek funding through grants or other means to pilot a Walkability Study for the priority community identified in Resolution 20141211-224 as a model for other communities in Austin.





Thank You

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