



Economic Prosperity Commission

Mobility Recommendation

Recommendation Number: (20160526-002) Economic Prosperity Commission Mobility Recommendation.

WHEREAS the basic functions of city government include providing for public health, public safety, public works, and transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS Mayor Adler has declared 2016 the Year of Mobility; and

WHEREAS City Council has initiated the Mobility Talks public input process to garner ideas from this and other Boards and Commissions for easing congestion and improving mobility, including through a 2016 mobility bond; and

WHEREAS the Urban Transportation Commission and Bond Oversight Commission have passed a resolution calling for funding the bicycle master plan, high priority sidewalks, and corridor plans that increase opportunities for high capacity transit; and

WHEREAS improving the transportation infrastructure connecting all districts of Austin, whether roads, sidewalks, bicycle trails, or public transit leads to greater economic and educational opportunities across all socioeconomic classes; and

WHEREAS consideration of investment in road improvements and expansion, and leveraging state and federal funds for such purposes, is an important piece of transportation infrastructure, especially for long-range commuters with little to no access to public transit; and

WHEREAS 10,000 private and part-time jobs in the Transportation Network Sector could be recreated if negotiations led to the reintroduction of ride share companies like Uber and Lyft; and

WHEREAS the re-addition of ridesharing services would continue to reduce DUI and DWI arrests leading to further reductions in traffic related deaths; and

WHEREAS bicycling, walking, ridesharing, and public transit in particular are affordable means of transportation which create ladders of economic and educational opportunity; and

WHEREAS building out world-class bicycle, transit and pedestrian infrastructure will help Austin compete for the USDOT Smart Cities Challenge, funds which can be leveraged for further mobility enhancements; and

WHEREAS investment in meaningful alternatives to single-occupancy car trips, including, bicycling, walking, ride sharing, and public transit is an efficient and proven way to reduce congestion, improve connectivity, and will remove, by the city's estimate, 20,000 car trips from the Central Business District every day; and

WHEREAS the Bicycle Master Plan, Urban Trail Master Plan, Sidewalk Master Plan and Corridor Studies have undergone extensive public input and planning; and

WHEREAS constructing sidewalks to schools and transit stops and safe, accessible bicycle trails will help provide citizens opportunities for upward and outward mobility, regardless their socioeconomic status or disability, and also help Austin achieve its Vision Zero street safety goals to eliminate traffic-related deaths; and

WHEREAS funding a high-capacity transit network that prioritizes high-density corridors across all districts of the city and high-diversity populations will make ride sharing and public transportation a viable, convenient and affordable transportation choice for Austinites.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Economic Prosperity Commission recommends the City Council pursue a 2016 mobility bond that achieves at least the following goal:

Holistically funds transportation infrastructure projects—including roads, sidewalks, and bicycle trails—that targets connections within and between all districts of the city for improving economic and educational opportunities (i.e., projects that make it easier to live, work, study, and play across Austin, regardless of socioeconomic class or disability) with the following objectives in mind:

1. Setting priorities among the various components of the Bicycle, Sidewalk, and Corridor Plans according to cost, expected use, and projected benefit to Austin's mobility; and
2. Adopting smart traffic lights and other smart traffic management technologies that maximize efficiency of existing infrastructure; and
3. Funding road projects that can leverage any state and/or federal matching funds; and
4. Prioritizing and strategically funding the Bicycle Master Plan, including needs identified simultaneously in Corridor Plans (as noted below), and targeted "Tier 1" Urban Trails in communities identified as most likely to utilize such trails first; and
5. Funding all "Very High" priority new sidewalks and all key recommendations for existing sidewalks in the forthcoming 2016 Sidewalk Master Plan, including those needs identified simultaneously in Corridor Plans (as noted below); and
6. Funding strategic components of Corridor Plans, with an emphasis on creating dedicated, high-capacity transit lanes, protected bike lanes and pedestrian safety improvements; and
7. Funding priority mobility and safety projects in other Districts not covered by Corridor Plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Economic Prosperity Commission recommends the Council continue to negotiate with TNC's including Uber and Lyft so they can go back to work providing affordable ride sharing options for the citizens of Austin.

Date of Approval: May 26, 2016

Record of the vote: (Unanimous on a 6-0 vote)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Stratton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Attest:

Eric Stratton
Economic Prosperity Commission, Acting Chair