

**For Discussion May 11**

**Revised.**

**Commission on Seniors**

**Transportation Working Group**

**Transportation Recommendations for Austin City Council: FY 2016/2017**

Central Texas and the greater metropolitan Austin area is experiencing a rapidly growing older adult population. Transportation services that support older adult mobility will be critical to meeting the needs of these adults especially those who want to age in place. The primary focus should be to ensure that all modes of transportation are safe, affordable and accessible for residents of all ages and abilities, particularly older adults.

Further, The Commission requests that the City Council require the Austin Transportation Department (ATD), Public Works and any other city departments involved in transportation or mobility related services to consider the needs of older adults as they develop plans, programs and/or services. City departments should also proactively seek input from the Commission on Seniors to help inform their activities.

## **Recommendations**

### **1. Sidewalk Infrastructure and Pedestrian Improvements**

- Prioritize the removal of vegetation adjacent to sidewalk infrastructure to more rapidly improve sidewalk rating scores.
- Prioritize places that older adults frequent, also referred to as pedestrian attractors, including health care facilities, clinics, nursing homes, senior living centers, congregate meal sites and other locations in the COA's Public Works Sidewalk Master Plan.
- Support the proposed recommendations in the Sidewalk Master Plan for increased funding to the COA Public Works Department and other city departments to repair and maintain existing sidewalk infrastructure and to clarify the responsibilities of property owners.
- Support the COA Public Works Department's recommendations in the Sidewalk Master Plan for building out the existing sidewalk network to meet growing demographic and population changes.

### **2. Street Signage, Signalization and Lighting**

- Require that when replacing missing street sign/traffic signage, it is easily readable, well-lit at night, and addresses the access and functional needs of older adults.
- Evaluate and install pedestrian-friendly crossing signals where it would be efficacious to do so.
- Improve how crosswalks are indicated and clearly mark them for individuals who are aging whether walking or driving.

- Improve street lighting in areas that are pedestrian attractors for older adults.

### **3. Improved Traffic Conditions**

- Promote Vision Zero initiatives and request ATD look at Improvements to traffic and road conditions that support older adults as drivers and pedestrians.
- Continue to enforce driving conditions that contribute to poor traffic conditions including, “blocking the box.”

### **4. City Program Funding and Social Service Contracts**

- Recommend additional funding to the COA PARD’s Senior Transportation program to expand capacity with additional vehicles, drivers and the ability to operate across a larger and diverse service area.
- Remove barriers to social service contracts to permit agencies providing transportation services to older adults to better access social service city funded contracts.
- Direct city departments (including PARD, Transportation and Social Services) to work together to Identify gaps in existing transportation services for Seniors and recommend solutions.
- Consider innovative solutions for expanding transportation options for seniors, including public-private partnerships, support of volunteer services, and expansion of ride sharing services that are safe and appropriate for seniors.