



# **DRAFT**

## Urban Transportation Commission

### Recommendation Number 20170509-03A: Transit Priority in Corridor Plans

WHEREAS, the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan recognizes the importance of improving transit and includes Land Use and Transportation Action LUT A-14, which says, in part, "give transit priority (queue jumpers, signal priority, managed lanes, and dedicated lanes)"; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP) includes "dedicated transit ways" as one of the solutions for the region's transportation problems; and

WHEREAS, transit priority lanes can help advance viable mass transit solutions such as bus rapid transit and rail, and the Imagine Austin Action LUT 13 states, "Create a system of high-capacity transit, including elements such as urban rail and bus rapid transit corresponding to land use mix and intensity."

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council passed Resolution No. 20160414-007 on April 14, 2016, which directed the City Manager to develop recommendations for a Transit Priority Policy by October 2016, and the Austin Transportation Department staff reported to the Council Mobility Committee on March 1, 2017 that they plan to develop the Transit Priority Policy as part of the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan, with expected completion in January 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council passed Resolution No. 20160818-074 on August 18, 2016, which approved the 2016 Austin Mobility Bond measure that was approved by the voters in November 2016 and provides \$482 million in funding for Corridor Improvement Projects; and

WHEREAS, the above resolution states that implementation of the Corridor Improvement Projects will be aligned with "goals of reducing vehicle miles traveled, increasing transit ridership and non-vehicular trips", and that the City Manager will update the corridor plans based on several policies including the Austin Transit Priority Policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Urban Transportation Commission recommends that the Austin City Council approve a resolution directing the City Manager to evaluate options for transit priority in the Corridor Mobility Reports and provide a report to the Council Mobility Committee within sixty days on the options for implementing transit priority measures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The report should include the following:

- a. the costs and benefits of transit priority lanes for portions of each corridor, including increases in transit speeds, ridership and reductions in VMT;
- b. evaluation of the options for dedicated right-of-way to implement the transit priority lanes;
- c. the costs and benefits of a bridge over the Metro Rail line on N. Lamar Blvd., including increases in transit speeds, ridership and reductions in VMT; and
- d. criteria for prioritization of queue jumps and signal priority for buses and evaluation of the costs and benefits.

Date of Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

Record of the vote:

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

(Staff or board member can sign)