



**JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION 20181128-03A**

Date: November 28, 2018

Subject: Project Connect Vision Plan

Motioned By: Chair Jim Walker

Seconded By: Vice-chair Kaiba White

Recommendation

Support for core aspects of the Project Connect Vision Plan as it aligns with numerous transportation and land use strategies in the Austin Community Climate Plan aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Description of Recommendation to Council

See attached.

Rationale:

See attached.

Vote

For: Walker, White, Luca, Osborne, Fadelu, Seeger, Coyne, Ho, Davis

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Meijer, Magid, Rothrock, Lackey

Attest:



December 7, 2018

To: Austin City Council
From: City of Austin Joint Sustainability Committee
Re: Project Connect Vision Plan

At the November 28, 2018 meeting of the Joint Sustainability Committee (Committee), we received a presentation from Capital Metro on the Project Connect Vision Plan, which has also been made to the Urban Transportation Commission (UTC) and others. We understand the UTC also adopted a resolution (20181113-04B) with recommendations regarding the ongoing Project Connect study and analysis of various modes.

After lengthy discussion, and in adherence to our Committee charge as well as to complement the UTC resolution, we want to call your attention to several transportation and land use strategies in the Austin Community Climate Plan aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector and that also reflect core aspects of the Project Connect Vision Plan, such as:

IS-1: Continue planning efforts to complete a connected network of proven high-capacity transit, including intracity and intercity systems, using the major projects identified in the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan and Project Connect to improve Austin's transportation and economic connections with other major cities in Texas.

IS-3: Promote and request extended transit service to suburban areas, while providing more service interconnections, exploring additional transit centers/park-and-rides, and transit vehicle amenities.

TDM-2: Seek opportunities to prioritize public transit within the network, and seek financing to extend service hours and frequency to increase use.

The Committee also wants to reinforce the UTC recommendation that Project Connect prioritize, wherever possible, dedicated right of way throughout the study area.

Lastly, to build a strong public consensus and increase the likelihood of adoption of a final Project Connect plan in 2020 – and as was done during the Austin Community Climate Plan process – the Committee wants to reinforce the UTC recommendation that both the acceptance criteria and the supporting evidence for final selections of routes and modes be made public prior to final selection.

We look forward to being involved as Capital Metro and other stakeholders turn the Project Connect vision into a reality with community support.

Sincerely,



Jim Walker
Chair, Joint Sustainability Committee