



COMMISSION ON SENIORS RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation Number 20190313-04a: Recommendations on the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan

WHEREAS, the Commission on Seniors serves as an advisory board to the council concerning the quality of life for senior citizens in the Austin area; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin Transportation Department (ATD) has been engaged in developing a strategic plan for mobility in the Austin area entitled the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP); and

WHEREAS, the ASMP will be the guiding document for the City's mobility development for years to come; and

WHEREAS, access to transportation consistently ranks as a top concern for seniors, particularly those who no longer drive themselves; and

WHEREAS, the City's Commission on Seniors has a specific interest in implementing the Age Friendly Action Plan and making sure that the needs and interests of the City's senior population are adequately served by the provisions of the ASMP and has received regular briefings from ATD staff; and

WHEREAS, several provisions of the draft ASMP specifically support the needs of Seniors and align with the Age Friendly Action plan, including goals related to Safety, Equity, Affordability, Accessibility, Public Health and Public Interaction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission on Seniors supports the ASMP and makes the following recommendations to strengthen provisions for meeting the mobility needs of seniors, including:

- Involve the community, agencies serving seniors, and the Commission on Seniors to ensure the needs of seniors are met in implementing the plan.
- The following areas should be prioritized to meet the needs of seniors: Pedestrian Safety, adequate Street Lighting, enhanced Sidewalk construction and maintenance throughout all the City, adequate ADA compliant parking spaces, longer and safer street crossing times on busy streets, and more options for innovative transit use for seniors all over the City.

- Consider the creation of a "Pedestrian Safety Zone"—a lowering of speed limits (similar to school zones) wherever there is extensive pedestrian traffic such as hospitals, senior centers, or community centers.
- Amend Action Item #26 (parking) to specify that the item refers to non-accessible parking and clarify that even with reduced or zero parking there will be adequate ADA compliant spaces. In addition, the Commission suggests inclusion of temporary use parking spaces available for the safe pick up and drop off of riders who may not be able to use public transportation and rely on rides from a friend or family member, TNC, volunteer driver program, shuttle bus, etc.
- Expand Action Item # 35 (TDM website) to recognize that not all riders have access to or skills to use the internet.
- Enable 311 or another appropriate entity with central dispatch capabilities to provide callers with information and assist with scheduling of rides.
- Amend Action Item #64 to include reference to voluntary services for the non-driving population (eg. Drive a Senior).
- Amend Action Item # 213 to include offering customer service and sensitivity training to drivers at companies providing service to riders of all ages and abilities.
- Regarding Action Item # 226, include age in the demographic data collected.
- Include in the definition of micromobility Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEVs) and other new and emerging technologies that could serve seniors.

Date of Approval: March 13, 2019

Record of the vote: Main Motion: Unanimous Vote: Briesemeister, Varteressian, Angel, Bordie, Cagle, Garcia-Pittman, Grampp, Hauser, Jackson, Kareithi, Lugo, Nicola, Van Sickle. None absent

Vote on the following amendment: Include in the definition of micromobility Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEVs) and other new and emerging technologies that could serve seniors. For: 10 (Lugo absent); No 2 (Hauser and Jackson)

Attest:

