



COMMISSION RECCOMENDATION

Joint Sustainability Committee

Recommendation 20190327-3A Austin Strategic Mobility Plan

WHEREAS, the performance of the Austin Transportation System has a significant impact on public health, air and climate, water, land and ecology and other climate factors; and

WHEREAS, the proposed current transportation plan has received extensive public outreach; and

WHEREAS, the planning and analysis phase has been completed and a preferred strategy has been developed; and

WHEREAS, the plan has specific indicators and targets to:

- increase the access by active modes to and around parks and trails
- increase the number of sidewalks, bicycle facilities, and urban trails that are within ZIP codes with disproportionate prevalence of chronic diseases or conditions;
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- reduce average ozone level region-wide
- reduce the risk of flooding on all roads and road crossings in the 100-year floodplain, including provision of adequate warning at dangerous crossings
- reduce the danger of street flooding created by substandard storm drains
- increase tree canopy along the transportation network

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Joint Sustainability Committee:

1. Supports adoption and implementation of the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan in a manner consistent with and furthering the Austin Community Climate Plan, including coordination of the two plans' transportation-related emissions targets and other goals of the Austin Community Climate Plan.

2. Reaffirms the call for bolder initiatives to encourage alternatives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions contained in the recommendations passed by the Pedestrian Advisory Council, Urban Transportation Commission, Environmental Commission, and Planning Commission.
3. Supports the Recommendations to prioritize transit, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in the Recommendations passed by the Planning Commission, Urban Transportation Commission, Environmental Commission, Pedestrian Advisory Council, and Bicycle Advisory Council;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Sustainability Committee recommends support of the current draft of the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan with the following specific recommendations:

1. Update Action Item 164 from “Reduce impacts of global warming” to “Require compliance with the Austin Community Climate Plan.” Description should include "Require and enforce policy and planning as necessary to reach the outcomes and objectives of the Austin Community Climate Plan."
2. With respect to Action Item 26, update the Land Development Code related to parking to: Eliminate parking minimums in high-density land use categories throughout the City, particularly in areas that are supported by high-frequency transit and/or identified as Imagine Austin Activity Corridors, as a means to achieving mode split and climate change goals (Consistent with Action Item 164 – Reduce Impacts of Global Warming).
3. Make it a clear priority for the use of right of way will be given to public transit, sidewalks and bike lanes.
4. Minimize highway and other roadway expansion, in order to reduce climate and other environmental impacts, especially where other multi-modal options are not given equal or priority consideration.
5. Ensure access to and prioritization of multi-modal transportation to historically underserved communities, and specifically:
 - a. Identify and seek additional funding sources to achieve ADA-compliant sidewalks, transit stops, and other infrastructure.
 - b. Update Action Item 65 to state: “Ensure Council Strategic Direction 2023 calls for the construction of all sidewalk segments and address ADA barriers and gaps in the sidewalk system according to the Sidewalk Plan/ADA Transition Plan.”
 - c. Before Action Item 207, insert a new accessibility action item that states: “Complete Accessibility: Accessibility in transportation shall include all modes at all hours of the day and night.”
6. Further develop metrics, goals, and timelines for implementation to encourage long-term accountability and opportunities to measure success related to climate resilience and adaptation goals.
7. Encourage trip consolidation.
8. Provide additional education regarding health and economic implications of potential failure to meet federal air quality standards.

9. Implement holistic green and climate-friendly infrastructure that promotes resilience and stacked benefits into the proposed upgrades and the Transportation Criteria Manual.
10. Ensure that tree planting standards for right-of-way (ROW) align with City Arborist advice on appropriate spacing, anti-compaction techniques, and appropriate soil volumes to ensure a healthy urban forest, to maximize carbon sequestration and adaptive capacity.
11. Consider improved enforcement and expansion of anti-idling regulations and promote public awareness on the health and environmental impacts of idling.
12. Promote the use of electric bicycles and educate the public on available rebates for electric bicycles.
13. Promote the use of electric vehicles.

Date of Approval: March 27, 2019

Record of the Vote: Motion to approve by Commissioner Lackey, second by Commissioner Davis, motion passes on a 6-0 vote. Commissioner Luca abstained.

Attest:  _____

Kaiba White, Vice-Chair, Joint Sustainability Committee