

Bicycle Advisory Council Recommendation: Travis County projects

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Bicycle Advisory Council is to advise the City of Austin and other jurisdictions on all matters relating to the use of the bicycle, bicycle infrastructure, and individuals of all ages and abilities who utilize bicycles;

WHEREAS, Travis County is in the process of revising and adopting the 2045 Travis County Transportation Blueprint (TCTB) which is being developed in coordination with the other 21 cities and jurisdictions in the county, including the City of Austin;

WHEREAS, the TCTB includes an active transportation program that identifies, prioritizes, and builds bicycle, pedestrian, and trail improvements on and off County roads;

WHEREAS, Travis County has a Bicycle Safety Task Force formed by the Travis County Commissioners Court, and this Bicycle Safety Task Force has made specific recommendations for bicycle infrastructure;

WHEREAS, Travis County has asked for public input on all aspects of the Transportation Blueprint before presenting the Transportation Blueprint to Travis County Commissioners Court for revision and approval in mid-2019;

WHEREAS, through the phenomenon of induced demand, road widening is a costly and ineffective way to address congestion and instead leads to increased pollution, crashes, fatalities, and serious injuries, sprawl, damage to pristine countryside, and vehicle miles traveled;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Bicycle Advisory Council (BAC) generally supports the recommendations made by the Travis County Bicycle Safety Task Force;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the BAC recommends that Travis County approve the remaining Bicycle Safety Task Force Recommendations presented to the Travis County Commissioners Court on 5/3/2016, as listed on the Status of Bicycle Safety Task Force Recommendations dated May 22, 2019 ([May 2019 Status of Bicycle Safety Task Force Recommendations](#)). These recommendations include:

- approving the Task Force's Freewheel and Spoke bicycle route system
- approving a Bicycle/Pedestrian planning position
- developing a Travis County Bicycle Master Plan
- adopting policies that put bicycle and pedestrian transportation "on par" with vehicular transportation
- amending the subdivision design standards and the CIP design standards to include standards for the design of bicycle facilities, and
- developing a "Vision Zero" policy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the BAC recommends that Travis County continue to integrate bicycle/pedestrian facilities into design and budget of all new and improved county roadways and county capital improvements projects, and to continue to integrate bicycle safety into the County's traffic safety program

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the BAC recommends that Travis County adopt National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) design guidance;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the BAC recommends that Travis County put an emphasis on building separated and/or protected bicycle facilities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the BAC recommends that Travis County addresses the top transportation concerns, as identified during the public engagement phase, by prioritizing solutions that emphasize increasing transportation options (bus service, shared use paths, etc.) and including and improving multimodal road accommodations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the BAC recommends that Travis County require that all new subdivisions and developments are designed to include connectivity to surrounding neighborhoods and developments for bicyclists and pedestrians;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the BAC recommends that road widening projects add capacity only for bicycling, walking, and transit-only lanes, and that no project adds new lanes for automobile use;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the BAC recommends that all projects are reviewed based on fiscal sustainability analysis that determines whether an area's tax base can meet long term infrastructure maintenance costs.

Date approved: June 18, 2019

Vote: 6 – 0 with Alcorn and Ortega absent

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Flowers', written in a cursive style.

Kathryn Flowers, BAC Chair