



Urban Transportation Commission

Recommendation Number 20190813-04B: Authorizing Electric-Assist Pedicabs

WHEREAS, Pedicabs are an important part of the vision of a climate-friendly, safe multimodal system for Austin, and increasing the use of shared mobility solutions like pedicabs is a specific tactic for reaching 50 percent non-single occupancy car trips by 2039, as set forth by the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan;

WHEREAS, under the strategic direction adopted by Council in March 2018 (SD2023) the city is directed to optimize processes and regulations to promote “a resilient business environment that supports a climate of innovation, entrepreneurship, and investment and reflects our community values”;

WHEREAS, since April 2018, the over 5 million trips of an average distance of 1 mile each on electric scooters and other micro-mobility options show strong demand for non-car-mode transportation;

WHEREAS, on August 8, 2019, Austin City Council declared a climate emergency and called for an immediate emergency mobilization to address the climate crisis;

WHEREAS, pedicab stakeholders have confirmed that e-pedicabs are popular and in demand by pedicab customers and drivers, so that demand and use of non-electric pedicabs has decreased by 17% since the start of the e-pedicab pilot;

WHEREAS, multiple civic organizations recognize the success of the electric-assist pedicab pilot program, including the Urban Transportation Commission, Pedestrian Advisory Council, Bike Austin, Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association, and AURA;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Urban Transportation Commission recommends City Council make the electric-assist pedicab pilot program permanent, applicable to 100% of licensed pedicabs, and available within the entire city of Austin.

Date of Approval:

Record of the vote:

Attest: