



COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Urban Transportation Commission

Recommendation Number 20191101-02A Part 5:

Land Development Code Revision draft – Walkability

WHEREAS, a 10 minute walk is considered to be a reasonable distance to various daily necessities including groceries, healthcare, parks, and transit; and

WHEREAS, there is strong evidence demonstrating that walkable neighborhoods have better economic, health, and social outcomes; and

WHEREAS, displacement from walkable, inner-city neighborhoods to car-dependent suburbs has reduced socio-economic opportunities and increased transportation costs for our city's historically marginalized populations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Urban Transportation Commission recommends that the zoning map should be configured to make 10-minute neighborhoods (where residents can access daily needs within a 10-minute walk) possible everywhere in Austin; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the UTC recommends that all buildings should be safely accessible by foot from the street frontage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the UTC recommends the incentivization of dense, socially-oriented housing, such as those built around common courtyards, not just individual yards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the UTC recommends the incentivization of public access to semi-private spaces such as courtyards and paseos (or "people paths"), such as safe, mid-block passageways between buildings and developments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the UTC recommends that the incentivization of the development of paseos and alleyways to allow for pedestrian, cyclist, and forms of micromobility connectivity and activity to create informal semi-public spaces which support social and economic activities required to build a livable, friendly, and walkable city.

Date of Approval: November 1, 2019

Record of the vote: 8-0 with Commissioners Blume, Somers, and Wilfley absent

Attest:

Emily Smith, Staff Liaison