

RESOLUTION NO. 20191114-057

WHEREAS, the Capital Metro Red Line corridor provides a unique opportunity for a continuous urban trail and linear park from Downtown Austin to the northern city limits, including Williamson County; and

WHEREAS, efforts to improve and enhance the 32-mile Red Line Trail and its environs have occurred over the past 20 years but have been challenged by a lack of a multi-jurisdictional plan with a holistic corridor vision; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan, adopted by the City Council on April 11, 2019, includes a 2039 goal of half of all journey-to-work trips made by a means other than single-occupancy vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Urban Trails Plan, adopted by Council in 2014, includes the Red Line Trail from the Butler Trail on Lady Bird Lake to Howard Station as a Tier I trail; the remaining Austin segments are identified as conceptual Tier II trails, and over 400 miles of a planned urban trail network in Austin, part of an even larger metro trail network; and

WHEREAS, the Capital Metro Rail-with-Trail Feasibility Study, completed by Capital Metro in 2007, began formal detailed planning for creating pedestrian and bicycle trails along most of the 32-mile Red Line corridor with a timeline for full implementation by 2019; and

WHEREAS, ten Austin Neighborhood and Regulating Plans, adopted between 1999 and 2008, recommend completion of the Red Line Trail and addition of adjacent parkland in their respective areas; and

WHEREAS, there are over 200,000 residents and 200,000 jobs within one mile of the 32-mile Red Line corridor, plus substantial projected growth; and

WHEREAS, there has been over one billion dollars' worth of public and private projects built in the Red Line corridor during the last decade and there will be substantial public and private investments made there in the next decade; and

WHEREAS, the Robinson Ranch PUD was approved in 2004 with specific language related to open space and trail easements, some which intersect with the current alignment of the Red Line.

WHEREAS, there is currently limited public or private funding identified to develop a plan that includes a continuous trail and linear park for the entire corridor or for implementation of such a plan, but a dedicated nonprofit could help identify new resources for these efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Capital Metro Red Line corridor provides a unique opportunity for a continuous urban trail and linear park from Downtown Austin to the northern city limits, including Williamson County; and

WHEREAS, cities throughout the country have revitalized and created urban greenways, trails and parks through active partnerships with nonprofit and conservancy organizations, including the Atlanta BeltLine Partnership, Midtown Greenway Coalition in Minneapolis, Friends of the High Line and Brooklyn Greenway Initiative, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy in Boston, and local groups Shoal Creek Conservancy, Waterloo Greenway, The Trail Foundation, and Hill Country Conservancy; and

WHEREAS, the Red Line Parkway Initiative is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded in 2017 by Austin residents who are dedicated to serving as a city partner in helping to develop, operate and manage the Red Line Trail, improving connections to nature, parkland, and public space, and increasing everyday walking, bicycling, and transit use; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to explore a partnership with the Red Line Parkway Initiative and relevant interlocal agreements for the creation of a Red Line Parkway Plan for Trails, Parks, Public Space, and Trail-Oriented Development; a strategy for the development, management, and operation of this plan; and to provide Council with a recommendation for potential structures of this partnership, potential roles and responsibilities, and an implementation schedule within 180 days.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

In creating an alignment for the Red Line Trail, the City Manager is further directed to work with Capital Metro and affected property owners to minimize trail conflict points, including between trail users, rail passengers, pedestrians, and vehicular traffic. The approval of this resolution does not nullify any existing agreements with area property owners related to the Red Line Trail.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

As part of any comprehensive Red Line Trail planning efforts, the City Manager is further directed to complete an analysis of trail easements and alignment of those easements that are required under the Robinson Ranch PUD or other alignments of the northern section of the Red Line between the Howard and Lakeline stations; and explore coordination with other jurisdictions that contain portions of the Red Line, including Williamson County, Travis County, Cedar Park, Leander, and Capital Metro.

ADOPTED: November 14, 2019

ATTEST: *Erin Brady for*
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk