

RESOLUTION NO. 20200423-038

WHEREAS, displacement can be most simply defined as moving from your home when you do not want to; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has recognized displacement as a challenge in our community in several plans and reports, including but not limited to: *Uprooted: Displacement in Austin's Gentrifying Neighborhoods and What Can Be Done About It* (2016); Council Resolution 20160818-074 "*Contract with the Voters*" (2016); *Final Report of the Mayor's Task Force on Institutional Racism and Systemic Inequities* (2017); *Austin Strategic Housing Blueprint* (2017); *Final Report of the Anti-Displacement Task Force* (2018); *Austin Strategic Direction 2023* (2018); *Analysis of Impediments to Housing Choice* (2019); and *Austin Strategic Mobility Plan* (2019); and

WHEREAS, the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (Chapter 6) recognizes "the inequities of past land use and transportation planning" and acknowledges "that transportation improvements, while needed for our community, can lead to higher property values and rents. These results can eventually lead to displacement, disproportionately affecting lower income residents. It is important that we recognize this fact during the planning phase of all transportation infrastructure projects and that, before we begin the implementation of these projects, we work with our partners, develop strategies, and utilize tools to support current neighborhood residents and businesses, stopping or limiting their displacement"; and

WHEREAS, Capital Metropolitan Transit Agency (CapMetro), through its Project Connect Long Term Vision Plan, has made several recommendations for

significant transit infrastructure projects and programs throughout the city, requesting significant investment by the City of Austin; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is responsible for addressing any known potential risks from a project or program, including the risk of displacement from significant infrastructure investments and ensuring people of different incomes can benefit from transportation investments; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin’s vision of “making Austin the most livable City in the country” includes the values of Responsibility and Accountability to “take responsibility for achieving results and hold ourselves accountable for our actions” and CapMetro’s vision of “transforming the daily lives of Central Texans by providing a robust, sustainable transportation network” includes the guiding principle of Ownership to be “responsible stewards of the limited resources entrusted to us”; and

WHEREAS, displacement would negatively impact our community’s ability to fully realize the benefits of the proposed improvements to our local transit system; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin’s Office of Innovation, as the City’s resident research and design group, houses the City’s body of research regarding displacement and displacement mitigation, including research on vulnerability and risk factors associated with displacement, potential strategies for displacement mitigation, and a data-informed framework for applying strategies and solutions in areas already experiencing or with the potential for displacement; and

WHEREAS, displacement would negatively impact our community’s ability to fully realize the benefits of the proposed improvements to our local transit system; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin and CapMetro hope to provide the maximum benefit of transit investments to as many Austinites as possible; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is directed to provide data-informed recommendations to align current policies, services, programs, and resources already in place at the City to more specifically prevent transportation investment-related displacement and ensure people of different incomes can benefit from transportation investments. The City Manager is encouraged to bring together the Office of Innovation, the Equity Office, the Financial Services Department, the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department, CapMetro, and other relevant City departments to prepare these recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to provide options for establishing a fund that could provide financing for additional strategies and solutions to prevent transportation investment-related displacement and ensure people of different incomes can benefit from transportation investments in the proposed Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget in conjunction with Project Connect and any proposed transit investments, including options for potential debt services for land acquisition. The City Manager is encouraged to bring together the Office of Innovation, the Equity Office, the Financial Services Department, the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department, CapMetro, and other relevant City departments to prepare these options.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to present these recommendations and options no later than the last regularly scheduled Council Meeting in May of 2020, or as soon as reasonably possible before the Council considers the budget.

ADOPTED: April 23, 2020 **ATTEST:** _____
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk