

Bicycle Advisory Council Recommendation:

2020 “Safe Mobility Bond” Proposal

WHEREAS, the Bicycle Advisory Council (BAC) advises 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; and

WHEREAS, there are many critically needed sidewalk, bicycle lane, trail, and other infrastructure improvements that would allow all Austinites to travel without a car that remain unfunded;

WHEREAS, the City’s Sidewalk Master Plan identifies over 2,500 miles of absent sidewalks across the city, with 252 miles identified as very high priority and another 328 miles identified as high priority;

WHEREAS, the City’s 2014 Bicycle Master Plan envisions a core network of safe facilities suitable for people of all ages and abilities and approximately half of this network should be implemented by the end of 2020, with the rest of the network awaiting funding;

WHEREAS, the City’s Vision Zero Plan calls for intersection improvements, raised crosswalks, signal upgrades, design modifications to major streets and other measures aimed at ending the needless deaths and injuries occurring on Austin roads every year;

WHEREAS, the Safe Routes to School program received funding from the 2016 Mobility Bond that will soon be depleted, and the program has identified need for additional improvements across the city that remain unfunded;

WHEREAS, the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP) calls for a reduction in the percentage of single occupancy trips to 50% by 2039;

WHEREAS, enhancing network connectivity in any one area of the city enhances the whole network and provides increased safety and comfort for road users across the city when they travel between destinations;

WHEREAS, the overall property tax burden from a Safe Mobility Bond to the average Austin homeowner of a median value home would be approximately \$48 - \$60/year, starting no sooner than 2022;

WHEREAS, the upcoming bond election for the Cap Metro Project Connect Transit Bond presents a unique opportunity to alleviate vehicular congestion in our city, which can most effectively be accomplished by improving our city’s bike lane, trail, and sidewalk network in parallel;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the BAC supports the Safe Mobility Bond proposal currently being advanced by Austin Outside and recommends City Council approve Item 90 on the July 29, 2020 Council agenda;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the BAC recommends City Council pursue funding the active transportation improvements identified in the Safe Mobility Bond proposal as a separate general obligation bond program in 2020, rather than as part of a tax rate election being considered to fund the Project Connect System Plan.

Date: July 21, 2020

Vote: 7-0 with LeBlanc absent

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily Smith". The ink is dark and the signature is written on a light-colored background.

Emily Smith, staff liaison