



25           **WHEREAS**, EPA staff indicated that there is no clear threshold below  
26 which exposure to PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution will not cause significant health problems, and  
27 actions which reduce emission of local air pollutants have other environmental and  
28 health benefits, such as reduced emissions of greenhouse gases; and

29           **WHEREAS**, the Central Texas Clean Air Coalition (CAC), of which the  
30 City of Austin is a member, was charged with the development and  
31 implementation of a regional clean air plan to maintain compliance with federal air  
32 quality standards and the development of policies and strategies to guide CAC  
33 members about actions that will achieve clean air in Texas; and

34           **WHEREAS**, the City of Austin has a long history of participating in  
35 regional clean air plans in coordination with regional partners through the Capital  
36 Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG); and

37           **WHEREAS**, the region's current air quality plan includes strategies for  
38 public outreach and education to reduce individual exposure to dangerous PM<sub>2.5</sub>  
39 pollution, but it does not include strategies for reducing the PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions  
40 themselves; and

41           **WHEREAS**, the CAC has requested that the City of Austin take action to  
42 formally participate in the PM<sub>2.5</sub> Emissions Reduction Measures revision of the  
43 regional air quality plan for 2019-2023, as part of regional participation in the EPA  
44 Advance Program; and

45           **WHEREAS**, the PM<sub>2.5</sub> Emissions Reduction Measures are intended to: 1)  
46 maximize the probability of compliance with federal air quality standards, and 2)  
47 minimize health and environmental impacts associated with regional air pollution;  
48 and

49           **WHEREAS**, controlling and reducing emissions of particulate matter and  
50 improving public awareness about air quality are critical to supporting regional air  
51 quality goals; and

52           **WHEREAS**, the City’s Office of Sustainability has inventoried the City’s  
53 existing PM<sub>2.5</sub> reduction actions and begun assessing potential new PM<sub>2.5</sub> reduction  
54 strategies and actions in communication with the following departments: Public  
55 Works, Development Services, Austin Energy, Austin Water, Watershed  
56 Protection, ABIA, Austin Fire Department, Austin Transportation, Fleet Services,  
57 and Austin Resource Recovery; and

58           **WHEREAS**, on April 28, 2021, the Joint Sustainability Committee  
59 unanimously recommended that the City Council take action as recommended by  
60 CAPCOG to reduce PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution, recognizing both the public health problems  
61 caused by PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution and also that communities of color are  
62 disproportionately impacted; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

64           The City Manager is directed to have the City of Austin formally participate  
65 in the revision of the CAPCOG 2019-2023 Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown MSA  
66 Regional Air Quality Plan by committing the City to the PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions reduction  
67 measures proposed for the regional air quality plan as described in Appendix A and  
68 reporting to CAPCOG annually on implementation progress.

69           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

70           The City Manager is directed to implement and prioritize, to the extent  
71 possible, the following specific high-impact strategies to address the greatest  
72 sources of local PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions and improve regional awareness of local PM<sub>2.5</sub>  
73 emissions:

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- Reduce PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions from City construction projects:
  - Develop and document dust control plans, with consideration of rescheduling activities during high PM<sub>2.5</sub> days.
  - Pursue deconstruction versus demolition where feasible.
- Reduce PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions from private construction:
  - Provide outreach and education to private developers and construction permit applicants on best practices for reducing construction and road dust.
- Reduce PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions from controlled and outdoor burning:
  - Ensure enforcement of the State’s Outdoor Burning Rule (Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Sections 111.201-221) and local burn bans to help reduce open burning.
  - Consider potential code amendments to allow high PM<sub>2.5</sub> days as a factor for allowing prescribed burning activities.
- Increase monitoring of PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions:
  - Support expanded PM<sub>2.5</sub> monitoring opportunities, particularly in areas with populations with increased sensitivity to air pollution due to disproportionate rates of respiratory conditions, such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

**ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2021    **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Jannette S. Goodall  
City Clerk