RESOLUTION NO. 20210610-041

WHEREAS, in February 2020, City Council approved Resolution No. 20200220-45 directing the City Manager to create an urban trail stakeholder group to make recommendations to City Council on City Code or administrative process changes with the goal of making the design and permitting of urban trails less costly and more efficient while maintaining appropriate environmental protections; and

WHEREAS, on January 4, 2021, the Public Works Department provided a staff response memo to Resolution No. 20200220-45 that compiled issues and recommendations from the stakeholder group discussions and identified issues and obstacles that necessitate further research and discussion to generate agreed-upon recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works and Transportation Departments agree that many of the issues flagged by non-profit trail organizations in the stakeholder group pose challenges to the construction of urban trails; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 voter-approved Mobility Bond calls for the City to invest $80,000,000 in urban trail construction over the next six years; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

The City Manager is directed to:

(1) Provide Council with a written implementation update on the Process Improvements recommended in the January 4, 2021 memo from Public Works by July 12, 2021, including:

(a) Creating a formal, collaborative, pre-submittal review process among the Watershed Protection (WPD), Development Services (DSD), and Public Works (PWD) Departments for urban trails projects;

(b) Accelerating the site plan review process for urban trails using a streamlined list of DSD reviewing disciplines;

(c) Improving communication with developers regarding urban trail easement requirements at the time of zoning;

(d) Holding quarterly meetings of executive-level leadership, including PWD, WPD, DSD, the Parks and Recreation Department, and any other departments necessary to address major obstacles that trail projects are facing;

(e) Ensuring consistency in interpreting the City Code provisions governing trail projects, potentially by establishing a dedicated review team familiar with trail projects and relevant requirements and variances or, more generally, with Capital Improvement Projects.

(2) Council initiates the following amendments to the Land Development Code, as recommended by PWD and WPD in Appendix B of the January 4, 2021 memo from PWD, and asks that they be brought back to Council by August 26, 2021:

(a) Amend Land Development Code §§ 25-8-341 and 25-8-342 to grant urban trails projects greater cut and fill allowances under specific environmental circumstances.

(b) Amend Land Development Code § 25-1-261(B)(3)(c) to reflect current policy that trails within the critical water quality zone be limited to 12 feet in surface width plus one-foot shoulders on each side.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is encouraged to bring representatives from Austin Water and Austin Energy into the Urban Trails Stakeholder Group to discuss and generate recommendations for safe, coordinated leveraging of utility easements for

urban trail use, as called for in Resolution No. 20200220-45 and again suggested by the January 4, 2021 memo from PWD and provide a report to Council on these recommendations by October 7, 2021.

ADOPTED: June 10, 2021 **ATTEST:**

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk