

Bicycle Advisory Council (BAC) Recommendation:

Crash Injury Reporting

Recommendation 20211116-04

WHEREAS the purpose of the City of Austin Bicycle Advisory Council (BAC) is to advise the City of Austin and other jurisdictions on all matters relating to the use of the bicycle;

WHEREAS the citizens of Austin deserve the right to use bicycles and other alternatives to motor vehicles without the risk of serious injury and death;

WHEREAS the stated goal of Austin's Vision Zero program is to reduce people hurt or killed by crashes to zero;

WHEREAS crash injuries may not be fully and accurately diagnosed until victims are transported to a trauma center for emergency care;

WHEREAS anecdotal evidence suggests that crash injuries are underreported;

WHEREAS crash injuries are assessed and reported by Austin Police Department (APD), Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services (ATCEMS), Austin Fire Department (AFD), Texas Department of Public Safety DPS who respond to crash scenes;

WHEREAS crash injuries are compiled from APD, Travis County Medical Examiner and Austin Fire and ATCEMS, and reported through Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Crash Records Information System (CRIS);

WHEREAS, the City of Austin and its Vision Zero program rely on crash scene reports compiled by TxDOT;

WHEREAS, underreported crash injuries compromise the data upon which the City of Austin and its Vision Zero Program crafts and states its goals;

WHEREAS policy and funding is decided on data, and neither government nor advocacy organizations have accurate data to derive solutions for the various high-volume crash sites around Austin;

WHEREAS the popularity of alternative mobility modes reflects people's desire for alternative, safe mobility options and asserting their fundamental right to the freedom of movement;

WHEREAS, an easy mechanism for revising reported crash injuries based on diagnosis by trauma center medical personnel does not exist;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bicycle Advisory Council recommends the City of Austin direct the Austin Police Department and the Vision Zero Program with the help of Austin Public Health and the University of Texas to audit the current crash injury reporting process to document the extent to which crash injuries are underreported;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the BAC recommends that the City of Austin direct APD to identify and undertake measures to correct documented crash injury report errors;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the BAC recommends that the City of Austin direct APD to coordinate efforts with the Vision Zero program, medical examiners and trauma centers to make the [anonymous] submission of supplemental reports less cumbersome.

Date of Approval: November 16th, 2021

Vote: 8-0 with Braun absent

Attest: Curtis Rogers, Chair Bicycle Advisory Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curt Rogers", written in a cursive style.