

City of Austin Urban Transportation Commission

Proposed Resolution on Coordinating Transportation and Land Use Plans

January 11, 2022

WHEREAS the bylaws of the Urban Transportation Commission require the Commission to “Seek to promote close cooperation between the city council, other city boards and commissions, city departments, and individuals, institutions, and agencies concerned with transportation-related activities”

WHEREAS the Strategic Mobility Plan’s Land Use Policy 1 states the goal: Plan and promote transit-supportive densities along the Transit Priority Network, and further requests: Use all planning tools to establish transit-supportive densities along Transit Priority Network corridors

WHEREAS Project Connect high capacity services are part of the Transit Priority Network and Project Connect engineering has proceeded to the point at which the specific routes for high capacity service have been determined

WHEREAS the location of these routes now needs to be taken into consideration in all land use decisions including the recommendations made by the Planning Commission and the Zoning and Platting Commission

THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED that the Urban Transportation Commission requests that Council take actions and adopt policies to ensure that all boards and commission involved in land use decisions are aware of both the adopted Strategic Mobility Plan land use policies and the final Project Connect routes

The UTC recommends that Council take the following actions:

- Request that the Planning Department prepare rankings into major groups of the potential of each of the current zoning classifications for achieving transit supportive density. In addition to considering the maximum number of units per square mile permitted under these classifications, the rankings should also consider current usage practices for each classification.
- Request that whenever the Planning Commission or the Zoning and Platting Commission considers a case that is along the Transit Priority Network and recommends a classification which is significantly lower in the ranking than the one requested by the applicant, they be asked to include the specific considerations which caused them to prefer the lower ranked zoning in their recommendation to Council.
- Request that the Planning Department annually supply Council and the Planning and Zoning and Platting commissions with maps showing current residence and employment density along Project Connect routes and the change over the last five years. The maps should be made at fine enough level of detail, such as census block groups, so that the potential impact of land use changes can be estimated.
- In any consideration of land development code changes, proposals need to be evaluated not just on the total number of new units produced but also for their impact on transit supportive density along the Transit Priority Network.