

RESOLUTION NO. 20220421-059

WHEREAS, the City has an existential issue regarding the equitable access and distribution of healthy food and recognizes that healthy food options are not equally accessible throughout the City; and

WHEREAS, there is limited knowledge and information about healthy food options within the metropolitan area and it is vitally important for this information to be distributed across various mediums; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that there is uneven distribution of healthy food alternatives in different portions of the community and that there is a dire need for equitable access to foods in underserved portions of the area; and

WHEREAS, the City is located within the jurisdiction of the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (“CapMetro”) and contains several routes for public transportation that are vital to the interest of many residents of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City believes that CapMetro may have resources that could help inform residents within the jurisdiction where healthy food is available; and

WHEREAS, CapMetro has multiple ways of informing public transportation users about routes including, but not limited to, LCD Screens on public transportation, informational brochures on public transportation, and public transportation routes displayed at terminals for public transportation; and

WHEREAS, public transportation is vital for residents without their own transportation to go from their dwellings to work, to the grocery store, or for other essential activities; and

WHEREAS, a partnership with CapMetro to show transit customers and the community how to access grocery stores via public transportation would be beneficial and help increase the health of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan aims to promote the availability of, and educate the community about, healthy food choices; and

WHEREAS, the health and environment strategic outcome of the Austin Strategic Direction 2023 promotes a sustainable environment to live a healthy life, physically and mentally; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Council directs the City Manager to work with the non-profit sector that supports food access and CapMetro to create and maintain a map showing how CapMetro services connect to grocery stores.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The map created through this effort shall be shared broadly using City resources and shared with private and non-profit partners who may be able to increase awareness of the community, and the City Manager is directed to provide the resource to CapMetro and encourage CapMetro to provide it as a resource to their customers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to:

1. Send a letter to CapMetro encouraging the placement of grocery store locations on transit maps and on transit route pamphlets or any relevant informational maps, including apps and websites, for the benefit of residents who are users of the public transportation operated by CapMetro, including the changes

detailed in this Resolution, and exploring opportunities to add a ‘grocery store finder’, enrollment options for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, to include a map of all Austin area schools that provide free and reduced meal programs, and locations of food pantries and farmers markets with Double-Up Food Bucks to the CapMetro app.

2. Initiate an amendment to Action Item 175 (Access to food and markets, including grocery stores) in the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan to work with CapMetro to provide additional bus routes and increase the frequency of routes that connect food deserts to healthy food options in Austin.

3. Initiate an amendment to Action Item 175 (Access to food and markets, including grocery stores) in the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan to work with CapMetro to provide audible and visual announcements of healthy food options for onboard passengers when buses stop at or near grocery store locations.

4. Provide a study assessing how to better connect low-access communities directly to grocery stores. The results of this study and any information about food deserts or food-access resources should be provided frequently to CapMetro, the Austin Transportation and Public Works Departments, and other transportation providers for consideration in their service and infrastructure planning processes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to provide the City Council with an update on this resolution within 90 days of approval of this Resolution.

ADOPTED: April 21, 2022

ATTEST:

E. Brady for

Myrna Rios
City Clerk