

RESOLUTION NO. 20221208-061

WHEREAS, the Urban Trails Program creates, promotes, and maintains Austin's urban trails network comprised of about 60 miles of trail; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the urban trails network is to provide multimodal connectivity to people of all ages and abilities to travel throughout the city in a manner that promotes safety and healthy living for all residents of Austin; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Climate Equity Plan was approved by City Council in September 2021, and set goals to prioritize the bicycle network, sidewalks, and urban trails and crossings to equitably achieve net-zero, community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2040; and

WHEREAS, although there are existing trails south of the Colorado River from Pleasant Valley Road to South Highway 183, there is a lack of trail connectivity north of the river; and

WHEREAS, the lack of trail connectivity on the north side of the river has a direct impact on surrounding communities, including increased safety risks through transitory and often unstable paths and decreased opportunities for participation in recreational and healthy activities; and

WHEREAS, transportation networks are an integral part of communities and impact the way communities grow, live and safely interact with their city; and

WHEREAS, Austin has a history of inequitable land use and transportation planning that has had an overwhelmingly negative impact on generations of families in the eastern crescent; and

WHEREAS, according to the Austin Chamber of Commerce, Austin ranked first among the 50 largest U.S. metros based on net migration as a percent of total population in 2020, with a 33% increase in population in the decade ending in 2020, highlighting the need for an increase in sustainable, equitable, and attainable transportation options; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is directed to conduct a high-level staff review assessing the feasibility of providing trail connections north of the Colorado River from Pleasant Valley Road to the Colorado River Trailhead and to provide recommendations, including alternatives that will increase connectivity and address active transportation issues.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

In the event the staff review identifies a potentially viable route for trail connections, the City Manager is directed to provide the estimated cost of an in-depth feasibility study of the route and the construction of the trail connections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

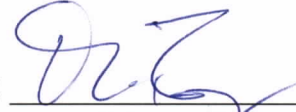
The City Manager is further directed to identify any funding mechanisms available to urban trail projects and any impacts to existing transportation plans as part of the report to Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to report findings to Council no later than June 2023.

ADOPTED: December 8, 2022

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Myrna Rios', is written over a horizontal line.

Myrna Rios
City Clerk