

Riverside Drive and the Alameda Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Crossing
Recommendation 20221205-002

WHEREAS the purpose of the Bicycle Advisory Council (BAC) is to advise the City of Austin and other jurisdictions on all matters relating to the use of the bicycle, bicycle infrastructure, and individuals of all ages and abilities who utilize bicycles;

WHEREAS the purpose of the Pedestrian Advisory Council (PAC) is to advise the City of Austin and other jurisdictions on all matters relating to pedestrians, pedestrian infrastructure and individuals of all ages and abilities who walk;

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

WHEREAS Riverside Drive between IH35 and South Congress Avenue is presently unsuitable for cyclists and pedestrians, and is part of Vision Zero's Austin High Injury Network.

WHEREAS the Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB) at the intersection of Alameda and Riverside Drives affords access for pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users to the Butler Trail and The Boardwalk at Lady Bird Lake, a key recreational resource;

WHEREAS the PHB at Alameda and Riverside Drives requires motor traffic to slow, stop and yield to pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users in the crosswalk at the intersection of Alameda and Riverside Drives;

WHEREAS the posted speed limit on Riverside Drive is 35 miles per hour between IH35 and Congress Avenue; and

WHEREAS Jacky Gaschot was struck and killed while walking on the sidewalk by motorist Crystal Dominguez on November 4th, 2022, near the PHB at Alameda and Riverside Drives;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the BAC and the PAC request that Austin Police Department (APD) begin equitably enforcing the speed limit on Riverside Drive between IH35 and Congress Avenue as expeditiously as possible;

BE IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED the BAC and the PAC request that Austin Police Department immediately begin equitably enforcing the PHB at Alameda and Riverside Drives, and prosecuting motorists who violate their requirements to slow, stop and yield to pedestrians and cyclists crossing Riverside Drive at this intersection.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the BAC and the PAC request that Austin Transportation Department (ATD) create a program to educate motorists about PHBs, and investigate creative alternatives

to APD enforcement such as rumble strips, extended signal timing, etc. that might mitigate the dangers to pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users at this PHB.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the BAC and the PAC request that ATD install a physical barrier between the sidewalk and the roadway along the north side of Riverside Drive, from the PHB at Alameda to the Butler Trail access point to the west.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the BAC and the PAC request that ATD investigate other ways to improve the pedestrian and cyclist experience on Riverside between South Congress and Pleasant Valley Drive, as it is presently unsafe and unpleasant to navigate this thoroughfare via those two modes of transportation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the BAC and PAC urge ATD to investigate and implement traffic calming measures, such as chokers, chicanes and raised intersections, on Riverside Drive between Pleasant Valley Drive and South Congress Avenue to include reduced speed limits (possibly by extension of the “downtown streets” designation), speed cushions, signage and protected sidewalks and bike lanes along the Riverside Drive right-of-way.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the BAC and PAC recommends that the City of Austin (CoA), Austin Transit Partnership (ATP) and Capital Metro Transit Authority (CMTA) include crossings and other infrastructures along Riverside Drive between South Lamar Boulevard and Austin Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA) that are safe for all vulnerable road users.

Date of Approval: December 5th 2022

Vote: 9-1 with Flores against

Attest: Christopher Parks, Staff Liaison

Les Case

Spencer Schumacher

K. Chris Anderson

Kimberly Levinson

