

**RESOLUTION NO.**

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3       **WHEREAS**, Austin Energy’s electric distribution system has approximately  
4 5,000 miles of overhead electric distribution lines and 7,000 miles of underground  
5 electric distribution lines; and

6       **WHEREAS**, overhead electric distribution lines are less costly up-front but  
7 may be more susceptible to extreme weather and other risks than underground  
8 electric distribution lines, while underground electric distribution lines have higher  
9 up-front costs but may provide greater service reliability for utility customers in  
10 storm events; and

11       **WHEREAS**, the City, acting through the Austin Transportation Department,  
12 the Public Works Department, Austin Water, the Austin Corridor Program, the  
13 Austin Transit Partnership, and other offices and entities, is continually planning  
14 and executing construction projects in the public rights-of-way where there exists  
15 the potential to redesign and relocate electric distribution lines underground; and

16       **WHEREAS**, several City projects, such as the Austin Corridor Mobility  
17 Program and Project Connect, are currently in the project design phase, and could  
18 potentially reduce the costs of relocating electric distribution lines underground  
19 through efficiencies of shared planning and construction efforts; and

20       **WHEREAS**, the Land Development Code Chapter 25-2, Subchapter E  
21 (Zoning) currently requires that for core transit corridors, utility lines within the  
22 right-of-way shall be placed underground or relocated to the rear of the site to the  
23 maximum extent practicable; and

24       **WHEREAS**, for City projects such as the Austin Corridor Mobility  
25 Program and Project Connect, City staff have been coordinating across

26 departments to achieve the requirements of the Subchapter E; **NOW,**  
27 **THEREFORE,**

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

29 The City Manager is directed to review the City's current practices regarding  
30 coordination between City departments regarding the placement of electric  
31 distribution lines underground in the development of capital projects and identify  
32 opportunities for improvement to ensure that the potential for underground  
33 placement is thoroughly considered.

34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

35 The City Manager is directed to coordinate planning across departments and  
36 pursue, where feasible, the transition of overhead electric distribution lines to  
37 underground facilities for all future publicly funded capital projects in or along the  
38 public right-of-way including, but not limited to, along Corridor Mobility Project,  
39 Project Connect lines, and other similar transportation and public works projects  
40 that are in the early stages of project design at the time of adoption of this  
41 resolution.

42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

43 The City Manager is directed to identify, as a pilot, areas and priority  
44 locations where capital projects have already been identified to focus on as an  
45 initial phase of implementation of this resolution. The process of identifying pilot  
46 projects may consider criteria including, but not limited to, feasibility, highest need  
47 (such as service to critical infrastructure, repeated outages due to  
48 vegetation/exposure, extensive tree canopy, etc.), timeliness within the planning  
49 process, ~~and equitable geographic dispersion-~~, stakeholder input, and fiscal impact.

50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

51 The City Manager is encouraged to coordinate these efforts with private  
52 utilities that co-locate overhead service lines on City-owned utility poles and non-  
53 City-owned telecommunications or utility poles within the same right-of-way as  
54 prescribed in the Utilities Criteria Manual.

55 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

56 The City Manager is directed to report back on progress related to these  
57 efforts to the Electric Utility Commission and the Austin Energy Utility Oversight  
58 Committee within 180 days of the adoption of this resolution.

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62 **ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Myrna Rios  
City Clerk