



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Bicycle Advisory Council

Recommendation Number 20230418-004: Affirmation of the Barton Skyway Bikeway project

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has a comprehensive active transportation plan which was recently formalized as the ATX Walk Bike Roll plan, which aims to improve walking, biking, and rolling infrastructure throughout the city; and

WHEREAS, the ATX Walk Bike Roll Bikeway plan recognizes the importance of flex post-protected bikeways, and concrete curb-protected intersections in creating safe and comfortable spaces for people to bike and walk; and

WHEREAS, surveys conducted by the City of Austin as part of the formulation of the ATX Walk Bike Roll plan demonstrate strong support for protected bikeways, including flex post-protected bikeways, among the citizens of Austin; and

WHEREAS, the Barton Skyway project constructed a flex post-protected bikeway with the goal of improving bicycle infrastructure and promoting active transportation options; and

WHEREAS, a Change.org petition titled "Stick-A-Geddon - Unsafe & Ugly on Barton Skyway 78704" has been circulated, requesting the removal of the bikeway for aesthetic and safety reasons which gathered 663 signatures; and

WHEREAS, a second Change.org petition with 3,698 signatures has been created in response, affirming the importance of the Barton Skyway project and requesting for further permanent improvements; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has previously implemented similar protected bikeway projects, such as the Shoal Creek Bikeway, which have been successful and garnered community support—even despite some initial adjustment period to the new project; and

WHEREAS, bikeways with more permanent physical construction methods such as concrete barriers are more costly than flex post protection, and should be reserved for roads with higher design speeds than Barton Skyway.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bicycle Advisory Council (BAC) affirms the importance of flex post-protected bikeways in creating safe and comfortable spaces for people to bike and walk, as recognized by the ATX Walk Bike Roll Bikeway plan; and

LET IT BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bicycle Advisory Council recognizes the strong community support for protected bikeways, including flex post-protected bikeways, as demonstrated by surveys conducted by the City of Austin; and

LET IT BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bicycle Advisory Council affirms the importance of the Barton Skyway project and recognizes the benefits it brings to the community in terms of increasing active transportation options and improving bicycle infrastructure; and

LET IT BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bicycle Advisory Council recommends that, given the significant community support demonstrated by the second petition, the project be kept as is; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bicycle Advisory Council supports the continuation of the flex post-protected bikeway as an important step in meeting the goals of the ATX Walk Bike Roll Bikeway plan, while balancing costs which ensures equitable investment across the city; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED the Bicycle Advisory Council recommends that staff assess any safety issues after a year of surveillance, to ensure that the design elements used in the Barton Skyway project are safe and comfortable for all modes of transit, and enact any modification if necessary to this project and other projects which use similar design elements—with particular focus on transitions from a two-way bikeway to a one-way bikeway as potential places where confusion may occur.

Date of Approval: 18 April 2023

Vote: Unanimous

Attest: Les Case, Bicycle Advisory Council Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Les Case', written in a cursive style.