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26 TTC, that formalized the TTC’s long standing tradition of stewardship of the Butler
27 Trail; and

28 **WHEREAS**, Section 2 of Exhibit D, Park Operations and Maintenance Plan,
29 in the Butler Trail POMA requires TTC to regularly work on the Butler Trail and
30 surrounding parkland; and

31 **WHEREAS**, the Parks and Recreation Department, Watershed Protection
32 Department, Urban Forestry, Office of Sustainability, Travis Audubon and TTC
33 developed the Urban Forestry and Natural Area Management Guidelines in 2015
34 (the “2015 Butler Trail Urban Forestry and Natural Area Management Guidelines”),
35 updated in 2022, that provides guidelines that acknowledge the ecological and
36 cultural significance of the site and recommend ways to sustain and improve the user
37 experience and ecological function of the urban forest and natural areas around Lady
38 Bird Lake and the Butler Trail; and

39 **WHEREAS**, the Parks and Recreation Department, Urban Trails Program,
40 Public Works Department and TTC developed a Safety and Mobility Study for the
41 Butler Trail (the “Butler Trail Safety and Mobility Study”) in 2021 that provides
42 recommendations for conserving natural spaces while offering the highest quality
43 user experience through maintenance and enhancements to sustain the Trail and
44 accommodate for the increasing use; and

45 **WHEREAS**, in 2017, provisions were added to the Land Development Code
46 that require infrastructure – including the previously-existing Butler Trail – to be at
47 least 50 feet from the shore of Lady Bird Lake, making approximately 85 percent of
48 the Butler Trail legally non-compliant with the Land Development Code; and

49 **WHEREAS**, the City’s Watershed Protection Department has determined
50 that many sections of the Butler Trail may require improvements to better support
51 the ecological function of the shoreline and reduce erosion; and

52 **WHEREAS**, certain activities related to satisfying the Butler Trail POMA
53 obligations for the operation, maintenance and capital improvements, as well as
54 recommendations of the 2015 Butler Trail Urban Forestry and Natural Area
55 Management Guidelines, of the existing Butler Trail cannot be implemented without
56 violating the Land Development Code setback provisions; and

57 **WHEREAS**, an inability to satisfy the Butler Trail POMA obligations and
58 the recommendations in the 2015 Butler Trail Urban Forestry and Natural Area
59 Management Guidelines will cause a significant negative impact to the recreational
60 value of the Butler Trail; and

61 **WHEREAS**, improvements recommended by the Butler Trail Safety and
62 Mobility Study also cannot be implemented without violating the setback
63 amendments of the Land Development Code; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

65 The City Council initiates amendments to City Code Title 25 (Land
66 Development) to allow the Butler Trail to remain within the setbacks applicable to
67 Lady Bird Lake; and to allow capital improvements made to the Butler Trail to
68 comply with the recommendations from the 2015 Butler Trail Urban Forestry and
69 Natural Area Management Guidelines, maintenance standards of care listed in the
70 Butler Trail Butler Trail POMA, and the recommendations provided in the Butler
71 Trail Safety and Mobility Study, including the 14-foot minimum width of the trail.
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74 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

75 The City Council directs the City Manager to process Code amendments
76 necessary to accomplish the purposes set forth in this resolution and return with a
77 draft ordinance for City Council consideration on or before October 1, 2023.

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80 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2023

ATTEST: _____

81 Myrna Rios
82 City Clerk
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