



June 7, 2023

Members of the Comprehensive Plan Joint Committee,

AFSCME Local 1624 supports item 3 on the Comprehensive Plan Joint Committee's agenda for June 8. The Imagine Austin Year 10 Progress Report should be updated to include Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP) goals as they relate to telework.

In the ASMP, Austin set a goal for "50-50 Mode Share" by 2039, meaning 50% of Austin workers would commute by a method other than driving alone. The goal is to keep the number of vehicles on the road from increasing as Austin continues to grow. At the time the plan was adopted in 2019, 74% of Austin workers commuted alone in their vehicles.

Then the pandemic hit, and the nature of work changed in Austin and around the country. Workers and employers realized they could be just as productive working at home as they were in the office while gaining time usually spent in traffic. Teleworking appears to be here to stay.

The 2021 U.S. Census American Community Survey estimates show that 38.8% of Austinites telework, which puts the city on the precipice of its ASMP goal: the percentage of people driving alone to work is down to 51.1%.

Austin needs the support of the entire community to achieve its mobility goals, but the City must be an example and start with its own employees. The City should be doing everything in its power to give its employees as many options as possible, including teleworking, to reduce congestion on the roads for everyone.

We ask that you please include this important information in the report, as it proves to be a major contributor to meeting our mobility and climate goals.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol Guthrie".

Carol Guthrie,  
AFSCME Local 1624