





MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Mendoza, P.E., Interim Director
Transportation and Public Works Department 

THROUGH: Robert Goode, P.E., Interim Assistant City Manager 

DATE: Manager July 19, 2023

SUBJECT: **Final staff response to Resolution 20210610-041 relating to the design and permitting of urban trails**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on the completion of the final two process improvements outlined in [Resolution No. 20210610-041](#), creating an urban trail stakeholder group to make recommendations to City Council on City Code or administrative process changes with the goal of making the design and permitting of urban trails less costly and more efficient while maintaining appropriate environmental protections.

Process Improvement: Accelerate the site plan review process for urban trails using a streamlined list of City of Austin reviewing disciplines.

Implementation Progress: This process improvement is complete with the launch of the Public Projects Review Team. The mission for this team is to properly steward financial resources of capital and publicly funded projects by providing a timely and collaborative permitting process. The overall process flow of the new program is intended to shorten the time required for the formal review processes by facilitating communications between the design team and a dedicated permit review team throughout the design process.

Process Improvement: Ensure consistency in interpreting the City Code provisions governing trail projects, potentially by establishing a dedicated review team familiar with trail projects and relevant requirements and variances or, more generally, with Capital Improvement Projects.

Implementation Progress: This process improvement is complete with the launch of the Public Projects Review Team. The mission for this team is to properly steward financial resources of capital and publicly funded projects by providing a timely and collaborative permitting process. The overall process flow of the new program is intended to shorten the time required for the formal review processes by facilitating communications between the design team and a dedicated permit review team throughout the design process. This approach will promote consistency in interpreting the City Code provisions governing trail projects.

For information in response to the other process improvements and implementation plans: the pre-submittal process, improved communication with developers, executive level leadership quarterly meetings; as well as amendments to the Land Development Code, please see previous update memos linked here: [October 1, 2021 memorandum](#) and [October 3, 2022 memorandum](#)

Cc: Jesús Garza, Interim City Manager
Jose Roig, Director, Development Services Department
Jorge Morales, Director, Watershed Protection Department
Kimberly McNeeley, Director, Austin Parks & Recreation Department