



**Transportation and Public Works Department Organizational Structure
Recommendation 20230516-004: Transportation and Public Works Department
Organizational Structure**

WHEREAS the purpose of the Bicycle Advisory Council (BAC) is to advise the City of Austin and other jurisdictions on all matters relating to the use of the bicycle, bicycle infrastructure, and individuals of all ages and abilities who utilize bicycles;

WHEREAS the purpose of the Pedestrian Advisory Council (PAC) is to advise the City of Austin and other jurisdictions on all matters relating to pedestrians, pedestrian infrastructure and individuals of all ages and abilities who walk;

WHEREAS on March 24th, 2023 Interim Assistant City Manager Robert Goode announced in a [memo](#) to all Austin Transportation employees that after a review of Austin Transportation, Public Works, the Corridor Program Office, and the Project Connect Office, Interim City Manager Jesús Garza concluded that “organizational alignments to ensure effective capital project delivery and to continue to provide transportation and public works services for our community”;

WHEREAS, the aforementioned memo denoted three major organizational changes: the consolidation of Austin Transportation and Public Works, the addition of the Corridor Program Office and the Project Connect Office to the new Department of Transportation and Public Works, and the establishment of a new Capital Delivery Department;

WHEREAS, the changes made by Interim City Manager Jesús Garza and Interim Assistant City Manager Robert Goode moved the City of Austin from a Transportation Focused Structure, a city where most or all transportation functions are housed in one department that is primarily focused on transportation, to a Transportation Inclusive Structure, a city where almost all transportation functions in one department that is not solely focused on transportation;

WHEREAS, the December 2022 National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) report “[Structured for Success](#)” highlighted multiple benefits of a Transportation Inclusive Structure, including better construction coordination and internal support functions, but the report also identified the following challenges often faced by Transportation Inclusive Structures (NACTO, pg 34):

- Transportation-Inclusive agencies have many competing priorities as they do more than transportation. This may lead to the department not prioritizing transportation projects that do not have a direct-line to city and department leadership.

- Transportation-Inclusive agencies have historically focused on maintaining existing assets and processes. This may stall the ability of the department to transition to a more multimodal transportation perspective that will require new projects and programs;
- Transportation-Inclusive agencies have very broad responsibilities (transportation, solid waste, stormwater, fleet management, etc.) but are often led by an executive who has either deep expertise in one area, but not all, or who has broad but little experience in many areas. This may lead to a lack of concentration in some areas and over concentration in others if there are not processes in place for leadership to communicate with staff experts.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BAC and the PAC request that that Interim City Manager Jesús Garza and Interim Assistant City Manager Robert Goode use the reorganization of the Austin Transportation and Public Works Department as an opportunity to improve coordination across the various divisions, programs, and offices charged with developing active transportation infrastructure and networks across Austin;

BE IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the BAC and the PAC request that that Interim City Manager Jesús Garza and Interim Assistant City Manager Robert Goode consider merging the following divisions, programs, and offices into one division of the Austin Transportation and Public Works Department focusing on Active Transportation:

- Active Transportation and Street Design Division (*of the former Austin Transportation Department*);
- Smart Mobility Office (*of the former Austin Transportation Department*);
- Safe Routes to School Program (*of the former Austin Public Works Department*)
- Urban Trails Program (*of the former Austin Public Works Department*);
- Sidewalk Program (*of the former Austin Public Works Department*);
- Neighborhood Partnering Program(*of the former Austin Public Works Department*);
- Corridor Program Office (*formerly a City Department*), to the extent the office has not been encompassed into the Capital Delivery Services Department; and
- Project Connect Office (*formerly a City Department*), to the extent the office has not been encompassed into the Capital Delivery Services Department.

BE IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the BAC and the PAC request that the Interim City Manager Jesús Garza and Interim Assistant City Manager Robert Goode ensure that, regardless of whether the previous recommendation is adopted, an official with primary jurisdiction over active transportation report directly to Assistant City Manager in charge of the Austin Transportation and Public Works Department.

Date of Approval: 16 May 2023

Vote: Unanimous

Attest: Spencer Schumacher, Vice Chair, Bicycle Advisory Council

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Spencer Schumacher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.