

RESOLUTION NO. 20231109-029

WHEREAS, on August 8, 2019, Council unanimously approved Resolution No. 20190808-078, declaring a climate emergency in the City and calling for an acceleration of the timeline for achieving the City's climate goals; and

WHEREAS, telework is a critical component in meeting the goals of the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP) and the Austin Climate Equity Plan; and

WHEREAS, telework significantly reduces the need for daily commuting, leading to a substantial decrease in carbon emissions from vehicles, thereby helping combat climate change; and

WHEREAS, the ASMP outlines clear transportation mode-shift goals for the City, along with goals for traffic demand management, reduction and elimination of free parking at City facilities, and promotes compact and sustainable development; and

WHEREAS, on April 11, 2019, Council approved Ordinance No. 20190411-033, adopting amendments to the ASMP as an amendment to the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, on September 30, 2021, City Council approved the adoption of the Austin Climate Equity Plan, which sets a new community-wide goal of equitably reaching net-zero community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2040, including a goal that by 2030, 50 percent of trips in Austin be made using public transit, biking, walking, carpooling, or avoided altogether by working from home; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has expressed interest in providing recommendations on this matter and has not had an opportunity to have amendments considered by Council; and

WHEREAS, on October 24, 2023, the Planning Commission approved an action, making recommendations to Council to initiate amendments to the Climate Equity Plan and the ASMP related to the City's telework policies; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

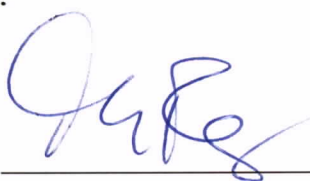
Council affirms the City's role as a leader and model employer in achieving our long-term goals and that our comprehensive plans should reflect that role.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

Council initiates amendments to the Climate Equity Plan and to the Imagine Austin Comprehensive plan and elements or portions thereof, including the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan, as recommended by the Planning Commission on October 24, 2023, in the attached **Exhibit "A."**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

Council directs the City Manager to draft the amendments based on the proposed recommendations and submit the draft amendments for review to any applicable boards or commissions as needed, including the Joint Sustainability Committee and Planning Commission, with draft amendments to be returned for Council consideration no later than February 15, 2024.

ADOPTED: November 9, 2023 **ATTEST:** 
Myrna Rios
City Clerk

PLANNING COMMISSION

MEMORANDUM

Request Council Initiate Amendments to the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan and elements or portion thereof including the Climate Equity Plan and Austin Strategic Mobility Plan in regards to Telework Policies

The Planning Commission recommends that the Austin City Council initiate the suggested changes to the comprehensive plan to ensure that the City of Austin is a leader for workplace, mobility, and environmental policies that implement the vision of Imagine Austin and advance the priorities it espouses. As the Planning Commission, we are tasked with the stewardship and oversight of the City's comprehensive plan. The development of Imagine Austin engaged thousands of Austin's residents, a wide array of stakeholders, consultants, and City employees through a robust process that included public meetings, online surveys, traveling teams, and more.

As elements of the Comprehensive Plan, the Austin Strategic Mobility and the Climate Equity Plans represent vital aspects of this larger vision, bringing us closer to complete, sustainable, and resilient communities. These plans outline clear modeshift goals for the City, along with goals for traffic demand management, reduction and elimination of free parking in city facilities, and compact and sustainable development.

We have identified a few key areas where goals in these plans require clarifying language to make clear the role of the City of Austin in the implementation and modeling of these policies. Furthermore, we have identified gaps where it would strengthen the plan to add clarifying language around the specific strategies required to implement these plans.

We therefore recommend the initiation of amendments to the comprehensive plan that will bolster and clarify the intent of the stated goals within these plans and advance our shared community priorities. Nothing less than the successful implementation of Imagine Austin is at stake. As one of the largest employers in Central Texas, the City of Austin will not successfully achieve the goals in its comprehensive plan, nor prompt the private sector and other public entities to meet these goals, if the City itself fails to model these policies.

Furthermore, the Planning Commission requests that while these changes to the comprehensive plan are being considered by the Austin City Council, changes in policy that might impact achieving these goals are paused or reconsidered to ensure that Austin is committed to providing leadership on the implementation of community mobility and climate equity goals.

[illegible]