



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Commission on Aging

Recommendation Number: (20250312-11): Funds for Senior Transportation Programs

WHEREAS, the City of Austin Demographer has provided information that the aging population in Austin is the fastest growing segment of our city, currently representing 10.8% of our population¹; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center, as the nation's aging population continues to rise – with 1 in every 5 Americans expected to be 65+ by 2020 – the provision of safe and accessible transportation options remains a top concern of older adults, caregivers and the communities where they live²; and

WHEREAS, older adults and those with a disability who cannot secure rides to social events can feel isolated from their communities, which puts them at risk for depression and cognitive decline³; and

WHEREAS, according to City of Austin transportation data in 2022, less than 50% of our population has access to innovative public transit service or is within one quarter mile of regular fixed route transit⁴, lack of access is even more difficult for older adults and people with disabilities as they often need door to door services; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission on Aging encourages the Austin City Council to fund \$250,000 in Austin Public Health's Social Services grant funds annually specifically for older adult transportation programs, to insure our older adults and those with disabilities have access to medical appointments, food and necessities as well as social interaction to prevent isolation.

¹ "Age of Change, Austin's Transforming Demographics 2010-2010", City of Austin Planning Department, Published September 2023 and Updated August 2024.

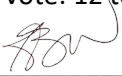
² <https://www.nadtc.org/about/transportation-aging-disability/unique-issues-related-to-older-adults-and-transportation/>

³ "How Access to Affordable Transportation Leads to Better Health Outcomes for Older Adults", National Council on Aging, June 17, 2024.

⁴ https://data.austintexas.gov/Transportation-and-Mobility/M-C-3_Percentage-of-population-that-has-access-to-p3t8-4eip

Date of Approval: March, 12, 2025.

Record of the vote: 12 to 0. Motioned by Commissioner Anderson, Seconded by Commissioner Kareithi.

Attest: 

(Chair)