

RESOLUTION NO. 20090827-055

WHEREAS, the Street Smarts Task Force included a diverse representation of stakeholders and met for over a year developing policy recommendations for the City Council; and

WHEREAS, many applicable recommendations were adopted in the 2009 Bicycle Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, some of the recommendations fall outside the purview of the 2009 Bicycle Master Plan because they relate to motorists and pedestrian safety; and

WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute showed that text messaging while driving increases the risk of a crash or near crash by 20 times; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Austin finds that it is in the interest of overall transportation safety that additional recommendations gain added public input and proceed through the boards and commission process;
NOW, THEREFORE,

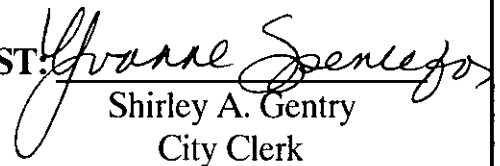
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to prepare ordinances to accomplish the following:

1. Prohibiting the writing, sending or reading of text messages, instant messages, and emails, or viewing the internet, on a mobile phone or other portable electronic device while operating a motor vehicle or bicycle;
2. Requiring a three-foot safe passing distance for vulnerable road users.

ADOPTED: August 27, 2009

ATTEST:


Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk