

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has adopted policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ease traffic congestion city-wide; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 Central Austin Circulation Study, completed by the Transportation Department, found that the downtown street grid leading into and out of Central Austin is at capacity and that a greater proportion of the daily trips contributing to this congestion are devoted to peak period travel and therefore are likely work-related trips; and

WHEREAS, findings from this study point to the need for a coordinated short-and long-term approach to improving mobility for the citizens of Austin; and

WHEREAS, in January 2010 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed strengthening the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ground-level ozone, and is considering more stringent standards for other local air pollutants; and

WHEREAS, based on current data, the City of Austin and Travis County are significantly at risk of being out of compliance with the newly proposed ozone standard; and

WHEREAS, other cities, such as Portland, Santa Monica, and Seattle have successfully implemented commuter benefit programs to reduce vehicle miles traveled by offering employees the option of "cashing out" their subsidized parking space and walking, biking, taking transit, carpooling, or vanpooling to work; and

WHEREAS, an employee commuter benefit program, including a parking cash-out option, could increase revenue for the City by reducing the need for employee parking and costs associated with leasing parking space, allowing existing employee spaces to be converted to revenue-producing activities and eliminating the need for new parking construction; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is directed to examine ways to reduce City of Austin employee single-occupancy vehicle trips by creating a revenue-neutral or revenue-positive employee commuter benefit program and present results to Council by April 7, 2011.

ADOPTED: _____, 2011 **ATTEST:** _____
Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk