



RECOMMENDATION

Pedestrian Advisory Council

Recommendation Number 20180604-07B: The Sidewalk Funding Gap

WHEREAS, a lack of pedestrian infrastructure makes walking a challenge for most Austin residents and renders much of the city inaccessible to people with disabilities, yet the City of Austin is committed through Imagine Austin and the updated [Sidewalk Master Plan](#) / Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan to building a compact, connected, and walkable city for people of all abilities;

WHEREAS, in June 2016, the Austin City Council adopted an updated Sidewalk Master Plan / ADA Transition Plan with the 10-year goal of addressing all very high and high priority absent sidewalks within a quarter-mile of all identified schools, bus stops and parks, including both sides of arterial and collector streets and one side of residential streets, which would address 390 miles of new sidewalks out of the 2,500+ miles of missing sidewalks in Austin at an estimated funding required for all 390 miles of new sidewalks of about \$250 million (\$25 million/year);

WHEREAS, the goal for existing sidewalks is 320 miles of repair and rehabilitation over 10 years at an estimated cost of \$150 million (\$15 million/year), with the goal of bringing these functionally deficient sidewalks (80% of the existing network) into compliance with the ADA and meeting the goals established in the adopted ADA Transition Plan;

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council committed the City of Austin to build a walkable city for all in its Sidewalk Master Plan / ADA Transition Plan, which specifically sets out total funding amounts of at least \$40 million per year, beginning in FY2019, with a ramp up in FY2018 of \$32.5 million;

WHEREAS, the Pedestrian Advisory Council (PAC) estimates that in FY2018 spending will fall short of the annual spending targets by about \$13.8 million and our current understanding is that all proposals presented to us for funding in FY2019 will result in a funding gap of \$16.3 million;

WHEREAS, these gaps between promised spending and currently planned spending could be resolved both through the city FY2019 budget and 2018 Bond proposal;

WHEREAS, the best information available to the Pedestrian Advisory Council (PAC) indicates that there remains a gap of +/- \$120 million in funding for sidewalks for FY2018 - FY2027 even if all expected and proposed funding sources are realized;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pedestrian Advisory Council recommends that Council identify and dedicate funds to fill the \$13.8 million and \$16.3 million missing sidewalk funds in FY2018 and FY2019 budgets, respectively, to be included in the final version of the FY2019 budget;

And be it further resolved that the PAC recommends that Council start with supporting the 2018 Bond proposal of \$20 million for sidewalks and the staff proposal to dedicate Transportation User Fee funds in the budget to

sidewalks in at least the amount proposed of \$1 million in 2019, and an additional \$1 million each year following for five years;

And be it further resolved that the Pedestrian Advisory Council recommends that Council develop a plan for addressing the funding gap of +/- \$120 million over the ten-year life of the Sidewalk Master Plan / ADA Transition Plan through FY2027, before finalizing the FY2019 budget or 2018 Bond proposal;

And be it further resolved that the PAC recommends that Council adopt a resolution instructing the City Manager and Public Works Director to create and publish an annual report to be presented to the Mobility Committee, the Pedestrian Advisory Council, and other interested entities providing an update on progress on meeting the goals of the Sidewalk Master Plan / ADA Transition Plan, including addressing the current state of the funding gap.

Date of Approval: June 12, 2018

Vote: 5-0 with Greenfield, Deolloz, Gamble, and Schaub absent

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Branigan Mulcahy', written in a cursive style.

Branigan Mulcahy, Pedestrian Advisory Council Chair