

**Motion Sheet
Council Member Ora Houston
10/18/2018 Regular Council Meeting
Item 15**

Motion:

I move to amend the City of Austin State Legislative Agenda for the 86th Texas Legislature as follows:

- (1) Under subtitle, "Transportation & Aviation", of the State Legislative Agenda, insert the following after the first sentence: "Support legislation that allows the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Capital Metro), or another regional partner, to develop commuter rail service to connect Downtown Austin, East Austin, Manor, Elgin, Travis and Bastrop counties, which proposed commuter rail is identified by Capital Metro as the 'Green Line Commuter Rail' of its 'Project Connect System Plan'."
- (2) Under subtitle, "Transparent and Efficient Government", of the State Legislative Agenda, insert the following after the fourth sentence: "Support legislation allowing the City of Austin to use, with state agencies and governmental entities, the value due the City of Austin on the ledger (property transaction log) of the Texas Facilities Commission, which value currently meets or exceeds \$1,319,208."

Rationale in Support of Motion:

Item 1: Green Line Commuter Rail

The City of Austin seeks to expand its residents' transportation choices, improve mobility, enhance the environment and move towards the regional vision for growth and the development of commuter rail service to connect Downtown Austin, East Austin, Manor, Elgin, and Travis and Bastrop counties (the Green Line). Development of the Green Line will support: greater social equity and economic opportunity for the region's highest percentage of low to moderate-income families through access to jobs, educational opportunities, and services in the City of Austin; regional land use plans; and the Envision Central Texas plan. Capital Metro's Project Connect is a high-capacity transit plan with the goal of connecting people, places, and opportunities through a complete, congestion-proof system of reliable and frequent high-capacity transit services running in dedicated lanes or on tracks, away from other traffic. Project Connect has been and will continue to be closely coordinated with City of Austin transportation initiatives including the 2016 Mobility Bond Corridor Program and the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan and is complementary to and supportive of those programs.

Item 2: Value of Ledger with Texas Facilities Commission

On May 26, 1997, the City of Austin executed a license agreement (also known as a property exchange agreement) with the General Services Commission (predecessor of the Texas Facilities Commission) for the purpose of an underground tunnel under the alley between Brazos and San Jacinto Streets and between East 15th and East 16th Streets, which is valued at \$606,600 on the Texas Facilities Commission ledger (also known as the ledger of the Property Exchange Agreement of 1997 and the property transaction log). On October 7, 1999, the City of Austin vacated the right of way of the 1700 block of Brazos, which is valued at \$712,608 on the Texas Facilities Commission ledger. The City of Austin wishes to take advantage of the value currently held in the Texas Facilities Commission ledger and any subsequent additions to the ledger to improve the lives of its residents. Legislation is required to allow Austin to obtain the value currently held on the ledger for use with other state agencies or governmental entities.

RESOLUTION NO. XXXX (Green Line)

WHEREAS, the City of Austin seeks to expand its residents' transportation choices, improve mobility, enhance the environment and move towards the regional vision for growth and the development of commuter rail service to connect Downtown Austin, East Austin, Manor, Elgin, and Travis and Bastrop counties (the Green Line) is consistent with the City of Austin's goal; and

WHEREAS, development of the Green Line would support regional land use plans and the Envision Central Texas plan; and

WHEREAS, the Green Line will support greater social equity and economic opportunity for the region's highest percentage of low to moderate-income families through access to jobs, educational opportunities, and services in the City of Austin; and

WHEREAS, the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Capital Metro) is developing Project Connect, a high-capacity transit plan with the goal of connecting people, places and opportunities through a complete, congestion-proof system of reliable and frequent high-capacity transit services running in dedicated lanes or on tracks, away from other traffic; and

WHEREAS, Project Connect has been and will continue to be closely coordinated with City of Austin transportation initiatives including the 2016 Mobility Bond Corridor Program and the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan and is complementary to and supportive of those programs; and

WHEREAS, the Green Line is included in Project Connect; and

WHEREAS, on June 28, 2018, the City of Austin removed the requirement that Capital Metro reimburse the City of Austin for the unallocated \$6 million under the Quarter Cent program and obligated Capital Metro to use those funds for

preliminary engineering work and environmental analysis on Project Connect corridors; and

WHEREAS, on May 22, 2018, the Travis County Commissioners Court dedicated funds to study potential financing options for development of the Green Line; and

WHEREAS, Senator Kirk Watson and Representative Celia Israel filed legislation during the 85th Legislative Session to relieve restrictions on Capital Metro's ability to construct the Green Line; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

The City Council amends the City's State legislative agenda for the 86th Legislative Session to include support of legislation that allows the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority, or another regional partner, to develop the Green Line.

ADOPTED: _____, 2018

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. XXXX (Texas Facilities Commission Ledger)

WHEREAS, on May 26, 1997, the City of Austin exchanged \$606,600 with the General Services Commission for the properties that makes up the alley between Brazos and San Jacinto Streets and between East 15th and East 16th Streets and a license agreement for an underground tunnel; and

WHEREAS, on October 7, 1999, the City of Austin exchanged \$712,608 with the General Services Commission for the right of way vacation of the 1700 block of Brazos; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has the value of these exchanges totaling \$1,319,208 are currently held on a ledger with the Texas Facilities Commission; and

WHEREAS, the City has never been able to use the value it holds on this ledger in part because the Texas Facilities Commission is just one of many state agencies that holds property in the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, The City of Austin wishes to take advantage of the value currently held within the ledger and any subsequent additions to the ledger, to improve the lives of its residents; and

WHEREAS, legislation in the Texas State Legislature would be needed to allow Austin to obtain the value currently held on the ledger; and

WHEREAS, State Senator Kirk Watson and State Representative Donna Howard in a letter addressed to Mayor Adler and Council Members dated November 28, 2017 expressed willingness to file a bill and/or otherwise work through the legislative process in the 86th legislative session to enable the City of Austin to claim the value currently held on the ledger; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

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28 The City Council amends the City's state legislative agenda to support
29 legislation that allows the City of Austin to use the value on its ledger with the
30 Texas Facilities Commission with other state agencies and entities.
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33 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2018

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk