

Pedestrian Advisory Council Recommendation:

Redesigning railroad crossings for safety of bicyclists and pedestrians

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Pedestrian Advisory Council (PAC) is to advise the City of Austin on pedestrian planning, policy, design, funding, education, and enforcement efforts regarding the creation, maintenance, and operation of pedestrian facilities;

WHEREAS, railroad crossings can present a special hazard for conveyances with narrow wheels, including bicycles, wheelchairs, pedicabs, scooters, and other small vehicles;

WHEREAS, pedestrian treatments at railroad crossings are often nonexistent or include narrow sidewalks close to high speed traffic in the adjacent lane;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the PAC recommends that the Austin City Council direct the city manager to work with owners of rail rights of way and other regional partners to identify and allocate funds necessary to identify, prioritize, redesign, and reconstruct railroad crossings, allowing bicyclists, wheelchair users, pedicabs, and other small vehicle users to cross the tracks at a safe angle without entering motor vehicle lanes and for all users, including pedestrians, to have safe and comfortable treatments for crossing tracks;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PAC recommends that the specific locations of hazardous railroad crossings to be considered for improvements include, but not be limited to, key gaps in the priority sidewalk network and the railroad crossings on Vinson Dr/Emerald Forest near St. Elmo, on W. Mary St. near Evergreen, on Rosewood Ave. near the Pleasant Valley underpass, and on the northbound and southbound MoPac frontage road between Gracy Farms Ln. and Park Bend Rd. at the Red Line.

Date of Approval: August 5, 2019

Vote: 7 – 0 with Greenfield and Walker absent

Attest:



Jay Blazek Crossley, PAC Chair