



Urban Transportation Commission

Recommendation Number 20190813-04C: Speed Management Program

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has experienced a greater than 20% increase in traffic fatalities between July 2018 and July 2019, meaning the death in traffic of a family member, friend, loved one, neighbor, or coworker about every five days;

WHEREAS, the National Traffic Safety Board found that “the relationship between speed and injury severity is consistent and direct. Higher vehicle speeds... are closely linked to injury severity,” mean a decrease in speed can be the difference between life and death for crash victims;

WHEREAS, peer cities which have reduced their default speed limit to 20 or 25 mph have experienced significant decreases in crashes and fatality rates;

WHEREAS, Goal #1 of the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan chooses human safety over car throughput and gives specific direction to develop speed management guidelines: “**Prioritize the protection of human life over all else** in the planning, design, and operation of Austin’s transportation network.”;

WHEREAS, Imagine Austin commits the city: “...to eliminating transportation related deaths and serious injuries through a holistic Vision Zero approach”;

WHEREAS, the Austin Transportation Department has received over 600 eligible applications for neighborhood speed management, but lacks the resources to fulfill these requests;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Urban Transportation Commission recommends that City Council fund Austin Transportation Department’s Speed Management Program in the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget with an operating budget which allows wide-spread and robustly implemented engineering solutions and community outreach/education programs;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the UTC recommends that Speed Management programs include dedicated funds for both existing and future streets to achieve safe bike and pedestrian experiences.

Date of Approval: August 13, 2019

Record of the vote: 6 – 0 with Alvarado, Davis, Reyna, and Wilfley absent

Attest:

Jim Dale, Executive Staff Liaison