

Pedestrian Advisory Council Recommendation:

More sidewalk funding in the FY 2019-2020 budget

WHEREAS, the Pedestrian Advisory Council (PAC) advises City of Austin on pedestrian planning, policy, design, funding, education, and enforcement efforts regarding the creation, maintenance and operation of pedestrian facilities in order to ensure a safe and enjoyable circulation for both commuting and recreation within the City of Austin;

WHEREAS, the people of Austin want more and better sidewalks and have voted overwhelmingly in favor of bonds that increased taxes to increase sidewalks funding twice in recent years;

WHEREAS, lack of sidewalks and lack of adequate funding for sidewalks is a significant equity issue;

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is obligated to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, including dutifully fulfilling its ADA Transition Plan, which includes a target to spend \$15 million a year on rehabilitating existing sidewalks up to ADA standards, along with another \$25 million a year for new or missing sidewalks in the Sidewalk Plan, yet the Austin City Council has not met these targets in the two budget years since adoption of these plans;

WHEREAS, the City adopted a goal in the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP) of reducing single occupant vehicle commuting to below 50% mode share by 2039, including doubling people walking to work from 2 to 4%, and from 2009 through 2017 walking to work as a percent of total commutes in the city has increased by 21% according to our analysis of American Community Survey data;

WHEREAS, the City has done excellent work analyzing, mapping, and prioritizing the missing and broken sidewalks, has staff and consultants ready to execute the Sidewalk Plan / ADA Transition Plan as promised, and building sidewalks is one of the most efficient and productive transportation investments we can make at this time;

WHEREAS, the Pedestrian Advisory Council approved [Recommendation Number 20180604-07B: The Sidewalk Funding Gap](#) on June 4, 2018 regarding the city's efforts related to sidewalk funding including a call for staff to present annual updates on progress on the Sidewalk Plan / ADA Transition Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pedestrian Advisory Council recommends that the Austin City Council increase the proposed spending on sidewalks in the FY 2019-2020 Public Works Department budget by at least \$4.2 million in order to meet the target identified in the City's ADA Transition Plan;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PAC recommends that before adoption of the FY 2020-2021 budget, City Council direct the City Manager to publish budget amounts that are planned for each mode of travel so that they may be easily compared to ASMP mode share goals;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PAC recommends adopting some form of annual update of progress on the Sidewalk Plan / ADA Transition Plan that includes meaningful estimates of amount and cost of sidewalks built each year, in order to monitor progress on the goals established by Council in adoption of the plan;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PAC recommends the City Council include in a 2020 safe, multimodal bond adequate funding to complete the Sidewalk Plan / ADA Transition Plan when supplemented by other already allocated funding within the planned timeline.

Date of Approval: September 9, 2019

Vote: 9-0 with Henderson and Levinson absent and Wald and McGrath voting as full members for the purposes of the meeting

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JBC', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jay Blazek Crossley, PAC Chair