

Bicycle Advisory Council Recommendation:
Consider Adding An Auto Toll on the new Redbud Trail Bridge

WHEREAS, the Bicycle Advisory Council (BAC) advises the City of Austin and other jurisdictions on all matters relating to the use of the bicycle, bicycle infrastructure, and individuals of all ages and abilities who utilize bicycles; and

WHEREAS, the Bicycle Advisory Council (BAC) advises the City of Austin and other government entities on bicycle planning, policy, design, funding, education, and enforcement regarding implementing and sustaining bicycle infrastructure;

WHEREAS, the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP) works towards shifting the mode share to allow more people to take transit, riding a bicycle, walk, carpool, or telework. The ASMP aims to increase transportation choices and access to those choices.

WHEREAS, the existing Redbud Trail bridge is used by more than 16,000 vehicles per day (2016 traffic study) [<https://communityimpact.com/austin/central-austin/city-county/2018/02/09/funding-redbud-trail-bridge-sought-2/>].

WHEREAS, the Redbud Trail Bridge project is projected to cost \$50 million and the City of Austin is seeking additional funding sources.

WHEREAS, upon completion, the Redbud Trail bridge infrastructure will require funding for ongoing maintenance, primarily due to large vehicle travel.

WHEREAS, the Redbud Trail Bridge is a key access point for residents and businesses of West Lake Hills, along with other municipalities not listed as funding sources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the BAC recommends the Public Works Department study the potential of including an auto toll on the new Redbud Trail Bridge. Some considerations include, but are not limited to:

- Adjusted rates for rush hour.
 - Congestion pricing is a proven, viable, and effective tool. Charging a fee for the parts of the roadway network used the most during the busiest times of day reduces demand. The charges incentivize travelers to switch to other modes of transportation, seek alternative routes, or travel at other times. The charges can help to reduce negative effects of traffic such as air pollution, carbon emissions, road damage, and traffic crashes. [<https://www.enotrans.org/eno-resources/enocongestionpricing/>]
- Lower rates for residents of cities listed as funding sources for the bridge.
- Locating the toll on the west side of the bridge.

Date: August 18, 2020

Vote: 7-0

Attest:



Emily Smith, staff liaison