

**Bicycle Advisory Council Recommendation -
West 31st Street/Shoal Creek Boulevard Safety and Mobility Pilot
Recommendation 20210622-002**

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Bicycle Advisory Council (BAC) is to advise 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;

WHEREAS, the City approved an updated city-wide transportation plan in 2019, the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP), that expands the vision of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan into actionable mobility-related goals and objectives to guide Austin's near- and long-term transportation investments;

WHEREAS, the foremost goals of the ASMP are improving safety on our transportation network and significantly changing the City's work commute mode split to be less reliant on single-occupancy vehicle trips with a reduction in the percentage of single-occupancy trips to 50% by 2039;

WHEREAS, reaching these mode shift goals will require the City to invest in new all ages and abilities infrastructure and to increase overall miles of connected bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure that is part of a larger network;

WHEREAS, the West 31st Street/Shoal Creek Boulevard pilot trail segment represents an important link in a complete city-wide bike and trail network, providing connections to important transit stops, the Shoal Creek Trail, local businesses, service providers, recreational facilities, and other vital locations;

WHEREAS, the West 31st Street/Shoal Creek Boulevard pilot trail segment is adjacent to two schools (Brykerwoods Elementary and St. Andrew's Lower School) and can provide safe routes to school on an all ages and abilities facility;

WHEREAS, enhancing network connectivity in any one area of the city enhances the whole network and provides increased safety and comfort for road users across the city when they travel between destinations;

WHEREAS, the recent construction of the Shoal Creek Boulevard Bikeway has demonstrated that a 20 foot spacing between flex posts is not adequate for preventing cars from entering and obstructing the bike lane, undermining its ability to function as protection of an all ages and abilities lane;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bicycle Advisory Council requests the City of Austin implement a permanent trail connection at 31st-34th Street that fulfills the following minimum criteria:

- Prioritizes the safety and comfort of the most vulnerable road users
- Preserves accessibility for individuals with the lowest mobility and ability levels
- Maintains a minimum width of 12 feet with separated lanes for cyclists and pedestrians, per NACTO's guidelines on ideal widths for shared use paths, with a width of 14 feet preferred if possible
- Preserve the new all-way stop at 34th Street and Shoal Creek Boulevard and consider adding signage to draw attention to the bicycle and pedestrian crossing
- Provide protection along the entire length of the in-street shared use path, with a strong preference for a 2-3 foot buffer and flex posts spaced so as to prevent cars from pulling into the bicycle lane between posts (i.e. 10 feet)

Date: June 22, 2021

Vote: 7-0 with Smith and Selvaggio absent

Attest: Briana Cohen, BAC Chair

Briana Cohen