



**RCA
CITY OF AUSTIN
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 29
AGENDA DATE: Thu 03/25/2004
PAGE: 1 of 2

SUBJECT: Approve a resolution authorizing City of Austin's participation in the State's Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program as a strategy of the Clean Air Action Plan.

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

FISCAL NOTE: N/A

REQUESTING Transportation, Planning **DIRECTOR'S**
DEPARTMENT: and Sustainability **AUTHORIZATION:** Austan Librach

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Fred Blood, 974-3533; Sylvia Arzola, 974-6448

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: 8/3/00 - Council approved resolution directing the City Manager to begin evaluation and implementation of ozone reduction strategies for the City of Austin.

10/5/00 - Council approved a resolution directing the City Manager to take steps to reduce emissions and increase fuel efficiency of the City's fleet vehicles.

3/22/01 - Council approved a resolution expressing the City's intent to develop, in coordination with local jurisdictions, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, a memorandum of agreement leading toward the implementation of an Ozone Flex Plan for the Central Texas region

11/8/01 - Council approved a resolution authorizing negotiation and execution of an Interlocal Agreement (O-3 Flex Plan) with other entities in the 5-county Austin/San Marcos Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) to improve air quality in the Central Texas region.

10/10/02 - Approve a resolution authorizing negotiation and execution of an Interlocal Agreement with other entities in the 5-county Austin/San Marcos Metropolitan Statistical Area for entry into the Early Action Compact, a voluntary program to facilitate early compliance with the 8-hour ozone standard by 2007.

12/4/03 - Public hearing and approval of Draft Early Action Compact Plan.

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: Reviewed by Environmental Board, Resource Management Commission and Planning Commission.

PURCHASING: N/A

MBE / WBE: N/A

The Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) Program is a required control strategy in the Clean Air Action Plan. The I/M program will require all registered gasoline vehicles 2 to 24 years old and primarily operated in the program counties to undergo an annual emissions inspection test in conjunction with the annual state safety inspection. State certified inspectors would utilize on-board diagnostics and two-speed idle test to verify the effectiveness of the vehicle emission system.



**RCA
CITY OF AUSTIN
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**AGENDA ITEM NO.: 29
AGENDA DATE: Thu 03/25/2004
PAGE: 2 of 2**

The I/M program will require all subject gasoline vehicles 2 to 24 years old registered and primarily operated in the I/M program counties (Hays, Travis and Williamson) to undergo an annual emissions inspection test in conjunction with the annual safety inspection. Emissions inspection tests are conducted at all safety inspection stations. The entire vehicle safety and emissions inspection should be completed in about 20 minutes from the time the vehicle is driven into the inspection bay. If a vehicle fails the emissions inspection test, the items of failure will be indicated on the Vehicle Inspection Report. The vehicle should be repaired and returned to the same inspection station with 15 days for a free re-test. A passing emission inspection test (or test waiver) is required in order to renew vehicle registration or to receive a safety inspection sticker. The program will not apply to motorcycles or slow moving vehicles, as defined by Section 547.001, Transportation Code.

The On Board Diagnostics II (OBD) testing program will be used to test 1996 model year and newer vehicles. All 1996 and newer vehicles less than 14,000 pounds (passenger cars, pickup trucks, sport utility vehicles) are equipped with OBD systems. The OBD system monitors emission performance components to ensure that the vehicle runs as cleanly as possible. The Two-Speed Idle (TSI) testing program will be used to test 1995 model year and older vehicles. The TSI test uses a tailpipe probe exhaust gas analyzer to measure VOC and CO while the vehicle is idling at a low and a high rate.

The State will implement the I/M Program on or after April 1, 2005, but not later than December 31, 2005. Austin will not implement the I/M program: (1) if the Early Action Compact is invalidated before the Austin/Round Rock Clean Air Action Plan is adopted into the State Implementation Plan, unless there is a separate agreement among the participating local jurisdictions; and (2) unless the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) determines that the Austin/Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area Clean Air Action Plan for the Early Action Compact is adequate as evidenced by written notification to the parties.

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, Austin entered into an Early Action Compact with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to proactively and effectively address air quality issues in the Austin / Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area (“MSA”); and

WHEREAS, Austin and other communities in the MSA have drafted a Clean Air Action Plan consisting of numerous state and locally implemented measures to improve air quality in the region, including a motor vehicle emissions inspection and maintenance program; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Council authorizes the City of Austin’s participation in the state’s vehicle inspection and maintenance program (“I/M Program”) as a strategy of the Clean Air Action Plan for the Austin / Round Rock MSA Early Action Compact (“Plan”).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

This resolution becomes effective only after the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality determines, as evidenced by written notification to the parties, that the Plan is adequate.

Austin will not implement the I/M program if for any reason the Early Action Compact for the Austin / Round Rock MSA is invalidated before the Plan is adopted

into the State Implementation Plan, unless the parties enter into a separate implementation agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

Austin will be included in the I/M program which is adopted under Section 382.302 of the Texas Health and Safety Code as part of the Plan. The I/M Program will initially inspect vehicle emissions using on-board diagnostics and two-speed idle tests.

The I/M Program will be implemented on or after April 1, 2005 but not later than December 31, 2005.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

Two years after the I/M program is implemented, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality will evaluate the program, meet with the parties, and make recommendations to improve the program.

Austin may petition the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to terminate the I/M program in Austin if four years after the program is implemented the program does not achieve its goals or is determined by Austin to be unnecessary.

ADOPTED: _____, 2004

ATTEST: _____
Shirley A. Brown
City Clerk