

**RESOLUTION NO. 20061102-032**

**WHEREAS**, increasing traffic levels along major transit corridors are causing disruptive noise volumes for residents in immediate proximity to major transit corridors, and

**WHEREAS**, the construction of future sound walls and/or other noise mitigation methods along major transit corridors depend on an uncertain timeline of capacity improvements to those corridors, and

**WHEREAS**, improving the energy efficiency of homes through methods such as the installation of certain windows and additional insulation may improve the home's ability to mitigate outdoor noise transmission, and

**WHEREAS**, Austin Energy currently provides home improvement rebates and financing through the nationally recognized Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® program and some of the program's qualifying measures may also deter outdoor noise, **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

That the City Manager is directed to have a specialist in outside noise reduction for the home evaluate Austin Energy's current Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® program measures and other available technologies in order to assess their effectiveness at reducing traffic noise in homes along major transit corridors. The City Manager is directed to work with residents along major transit corridors to make recommendations on measures to provide outside noise reduction.

The recommendations shall include

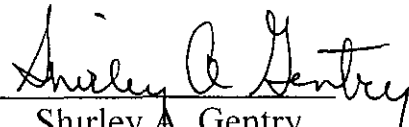
- (a) Possible funding sources, including those other than Austin Energy resources, to match existing rebates for window replacements and attic insulation, which can lessen the impact of outdoor noise,
- (b) A consumer outreach strategy to demonstrate how recommended home improvements can reduce outdoor noise levels inside the home,
- (c) An opinion from the Historic Landmark Commission for homes which could use window upgrades but risk losing their historic designations,
- (d) Suggestions on geographic areas for a pilot program and/or recommendations on implementation of the program over time, and
- (e) Other improvements to the program which would help provide incentives for residents to use the program

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That the recommendations shall go before the Electric Utility Commission and the Resource Management Commission before coming back to City Council

**ADOPTED:** November 2, 2006

**ATTEST:**

  
Shirley A. Gentry  
City Clerk