WHEREAS, the Mueller community is envisioned to contribute positively to the quality of life of surrounding neighborhoods by offering a seamless extension of neighborhood fabric, new amenities, appropriate transition and connections, and a diverse pattern of uses; and

WHEREAS, East 51st Street is a prominent border of the Mueller community and represents an important transition to the established Windsor Park neighborhood to the north; and

WHEREAS, a coordinated vision of East 51st Street is needed to provide guidance on the future scale and character of the corridor, including its transportation role, streetscape treatments, and compatible land development along both sides; and

WHEREAS, in the spring of 2011, Catellus Austin LLC commissioned McCann Adams Studio and Kinney & Associates to undertake a planning and design process to establish a coordinated vision for East 51st Street between IH35 and Old Manor Road, where the street provides important frontage for both the Mueller and Windsor Park neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the planning effort enabled a dialogue to develop a coordinated vision among key stakeholders to development a coordinated vision, including representatives from the Windsor Park, Ridgetop, Pecan Springs, and Mueller neighborhoods, PromiseLand Church, Our Lady’s Maronite Catholic Church, The University of Texas, Austin Independent School District, Austin Film Society, RMMA Planning Implementation Advisory Commission, City of Austin, and Catellus Austin LLC; and
WHEREAS, the East 51st Street Vision Plan draws from and compliments the recommendations in the University Hills/Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan, which envisions 51st Street as a “pedestrian-friendly street with businesses that support both the neighborhood to the north of 51st Street and the proposed businesses and land uses within Mueller”; and

WHEREAS, the East 51st Street Vision Plan imagines a multi-modal urban street that accommodates safe pedestrian and bicycle movement as well as calm vehicular traffic and transitions the street from a vibrant urban landscape west of Berkman Drive to a generously vegetated parkway to the east; and

WHEREAS, the East 51st Street Vision Plan has wide community support from the surrounding neighborhoods, including official endorsements from the Windsor Park, Cherrywood, and Mueller Neighborhood Associations; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

That the City Council endorses the East 51st Vision Plan in principle and directs the City Manager to bring forward a list of potential action items to implement its recommendations.

ADOPTED: April 26, 2012

ATTEST: Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk