

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease (CDC) Vitalsigns reports that only 48% of adults get enough aerobic physical activity; and

WHEREAS, the CDC goes on to state that walking is the most popular aerobic physical activity; and

WHEREAS, a recent study by the University of Kansas found that cognitive functions declined less in people that live in walkable areas; and

WHEREAS, active transportation is best achieved when people of all ages feel they can do it safely; and

WHEREAS, walkability is a measure of how friendly an area is to walking; and

WHEREAS, Imagine Austin's Priority Program 7 calls for creating a healthier Austin; and

WHEREAS, in 1969 around 48% of children 5-14 years of age usually walked or bicycled to school and by 2009 that figure had dropped to 13%; and

WHEREAS, the neighborhoods immediately east of I-35, north of Lady Bird Lake, were planned in a fairly organized grid with small block sizes that are suitable for walking; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin adopted Complete Streets policy states that streets should serve all people, with multi-modal travel networks that are safe, comfortable, and interesting place for people; and

WHEREAS, the East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood, the Holly Neighborhood and the Guadalupe Neighborhood support safe, healthy, walkable communities; and

WHEREAS, a letter of support from the East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Planning Team states, “our team voted unanimously to support the development of a walkability study, with the possibility of partial payment of the cost of the study to come from profits earned by the installation of parking meters in our Neighborhood”; and

WHEREAS, the Guadalupe Association for An Improved Neighborhood (GAIN) endorses a walkability study of their neighborhood; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

The City Manager is directed to explore key features and deliverables of a walkability study for the area bounded by I-35, Manor Road, Chestnut/Pleasant Valley and Lady Bird Lake by identifying costs, potential funding sources, and the scope of such a study and report back to the Pedestrian Advisory Commission and Council within 210 days.

ADOPTED: _____, 2014

ATTEST: _____
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk