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RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, compliance with federal air quality standards is critical to protecting public health, the environment, economic growth, and flexibility in transportation planning in Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) has estimated that violating federal air quality standards could cause Central Texas to lose \$24 - \$42 billion in economic growth over the next three decades; and

WHEREAS, numerous metro areas in Texas, including Central Texas, continue to face challenges with compliance with federal air quality standards, particularly for ground-level ozone (O₃); and

WHEREAS, air pollution levels in 2020 and 2021 will be critical to United States Environmental Protection Agency decisions on designating areas “nonattainment” for the forthcoming O₃ and particulate matter standards due to be promulgated by the end of 2020; and

WHEREAS, continued technical research and planning, at the local level, and reductions in emissions of nitrogen oxides within areas that are violating or at risk of violating the standards, are in the state’s interests; and

WHEREAS, the state Comptroller’s Office estimates that the Clean Air and the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) General Revenue-Dedicated Accounts will have a

combined fund balance of close to \$2 billion by the end of fiscal year 2019 that can only be used for air quality programs; and

WHEREAS, the Central Texas Clean Air Coalition of CAPCOG is an association of dozens of local governments and other organizations dedicated to air quality in Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson Counties; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is a member of the Central Texas Clean Air Coalition of CAPCOG; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City of Austin:

- Supports reinstating state funding for local/regional air quality planning, research, and monitoring in areas with air quality issues across the state; and
- Supports the strategic use of state resources for “near-nonattainment” areas in general to help them from becoming “nonattainment” areas; and
- Supports substantially increasing funding for TERP in general and the Diesel Emissions Reduction Incentive DERI in particular; and
- Supports the return of all unspent money that has been collected into Clean Air Account from motorists in Travis and Williamson Counties as a result of these counties’ participation in the vehicle inspection and maintenance (I/M) program and the Drive a Clean Machine (DACM) for use in air quality projects and programs; and

- Supports restructuring and reinstating the Local Initiative Projects (LIP) and DACM programs.

ADOPTED: _____, 2019

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

DRAFT