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WHEREAS, the *Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan* was adopted in June 2012 and provides a long term vision for the City of Austin; and

WHEREAS, one of the central goals of the *Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan* is to foster complete communities across the city—places where Austinites of all abilities and ages can readily access goods, services, housing, jobs, open space, and educational and recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the *Imagine Austin Growth Concept Map* identifies Activity Centers and Activity Corridors where Austin will accommodate new residents, jobs, mixed use development, open space , and transportation infrastructure over the next thirty years to realize the vision of *Imagine Austin*; and

WHEREAS, focusing future growth along Activity Corridors and in Activity Centers well-served by transit that leverages investments in mobility, can improve mobility, expand transportation options, reduce the need for single-occupancy vehicles, and can facilitate the growth of vibrant, human-scaled places; and

WHEREAS, the *Austin Strategic Housing Blueprint* provides a strategy to increase the number of affordable units available to a range of incomes by creating 135,000 additional above and below market-rate housing units over the next ten years; and

WHEREAS, the *Austin Strategic Housing Blueprint* sets the goals of at least 75% of new housing should be within half a mile of *Imagine Austin* Activity Centers and Activity Corridors, at least 25% of new and preserved affordable housing be located a quarter mile from high-frequency transit, and that 75% of affordable housing created or preserved should be within three-quarters of a mile from local, fixed route transit service; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted the Strategic Direction 2023 to guide city decision making in support of *Imagine Austin* and includes six strategic outcomes that will guide city investments and programs: Economic Opportunity and Affordability, Mobility, Safety, Health and Environment, Culture and Lifelong Learning, and Government That Works for All; and

WHEREAS, Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority's Project Connect Vision establishes a vision of an interconnected, high-capacity transit network linking many of *Imagine Austin's* Activity Centers and Activity Corridors; and

WHEREAS, The 2016 Mobility Bond authorized \$482 million for the Corridor Mobility Program, and the Corridor Construction Program calls for investments that include mobility, safety, and connectivity improvements to accommodate multiple modes of transportation along 9 key corridors;

WHEREAS, creating a more robust transit network, expanding mobility options, and promoting a more resource-efficient built environment can help mitigate some of the effects of climate change and create a more sustainable and resilient city; and

WHEREAS, effective public engagement is a core value of the City of Austin and essential to the success of a small area planning effort; and

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WHEREAS, small area plans complement *Imagine Austin* by providing detailed land use, infrastructure, and service recommendations within the framework set by the comprehensive plan's policies and Growth Concept Map; and

WHEREAS, Austin City Council resolution #20170928-101 directed staff to identify corridors for future small area planning and develop criteria for selecting them; and

WHEREAS, Planning and Zoning Department staff have developed a recommendation to provide a spectrum of planning services including small area plans along identified *Imagine Austin* Centers and Corridors;

WHEREAS, North Lamar Boulevard is identified as an Activity Corridor on the *Imagine Austin* Growth Concept Map and there are two designated Activity Centers along North Lamar Boulevard;

WHEREAS, North Lamar Boulevard is currently served by the 801 MetroRapid bus line and is identified in the Project Connect Vision as the location for a potential future extension of high-capacity transit; and

WHEREAS, North Lamar Boulevard is included as one of 9 corridors identified for 2016 Mobility Bond investments under the Corridor Construction Program;

WHEREAS, the area around North Lamar Boulevard is currently home to around 8% of Austin's residents and is one of the most racially, ethnically, and linguistically diverse areas of the City;

WHEREAS, the area along North Lamar Boulevard is home to a larger percentage of families earning between \$15,000 and \$50,000 than the City as a whole, and includes a substantial number of unsubsidized, affordable multi-family housing units;

WHEREAS, several areas in the vicinity of North Lamar Boulevard were identified in the UT Gentrification and Displacement study as future displacement risk areas;

WHEREAS, the area along North Lamar Boulevard is home to a diverse array of small businesses, and work is underway in partnership with the City of Austin Souly Austin Program and the Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce to create a North Lamar International District merchants association;

WHEREAS, portions of the area along North Lamar Boulevard have been identified as parkland deficient areas; and

WHEREAS, the current land use pattern and the majority of the zoning along North Lamar Boulevard are not transit-supportive; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the area along North Lamar Boulevard is covered by outdated and aging plans: the North Lamar Area Study (1985), the North Austin Civic Association Neighborhood Plan (2000), and North Lamar Combined Neighborhood Plan (2010); and

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WHEREAS, staff has evaluated the activity centers and activity corridors designated by the *Imagine Austin Plan* and has identified the area along North Lamar Boulevard between US Highway 183 and Tech Ridge as a pilot area for small area planning under the Imagine Austin Centers and Corridors program;

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

The City Manager is directed to initiate a pilot small area planning process along North Lamar Boulevard generally within the study area shown on Exhibit A.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The scope of the pilot North Lamar Boulevard Plan should include the following elements:

- Development and implementation of a public participation plan that identifies methods for engaging the corridor's diverse population, commercial property owners, business owners, non-profits, organizations, and the general public, with a particular emphasis on reaching out to communities which have previously been underrepresented in planning processes;
- An analysis of existing conditions and the existing policy framework;
- Engagement of multiple City departments and implementing agencies throughout the process through a Technical Advisory Group and other methods;
- Development of a draft North Lamar Boulevard Plan which includes:
  - Future land use map (FLUM) and land use recommendations including recommendations for transitional areas between the corridor and adjacent residential areas;
  - Recommendations for capital investments;
  - Recommendations for urban design enhancements including enhancements within the public realm;
  - Recommendations for creation and preservation of affordable housing;
- Development of one or more implementation strategies which could include:
  - Recommended changes to zoning and/or land development code regulations necessary to realize the goals of the plan;
  - Identification and/or implementation of possible catalytic investments; and
  - Identification and/or implementation of additional implementation strategies necessary to realize the goals of the plan.
- Identification of any necessary amendments to previously adopted plans to ensure consistency within the North Lamar Boulevard planning area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The draft North Lamar Boulevard Plan should be consistent with the *Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan* and should meet the following key policy goals:

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- Future Land Use Map should allow for transit supportive densities and development patterns within a ¼ mile walkshed of any existing or planned transit stations;
- Future Land Use Map should provide for adequate future zoning capacity to accommodate the number and diversity of housing units that would be needed to support the targets of the Strategic Housing Blueprint;
- The plan should consider possible future displacement and gentrification impacts and should support preservation of existing affordable housing to the extent feasible;
- The plan should include an analysis of equity impacts of plan implementation and should provide for safeguards to ensure that any disproportional impacts are mitigated; and
- The plan should be responsive to public input while fitting within the framework of *Imagine Austin* and meeting identified policy goals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

Data will be collected and analyzed throughout the pilot North Lamar Boulevard planning process in order to evaluate the success of the overall pilot process, to identify lessons learned/needed improvements to future small area plans developed under the Imagine Austin Centers and Corridors program, and to identify the extent to which the planning process and draft plan meets the identified policy goals.

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Exhibit A: North Lamar Boulevard Plan Study Area

