

RESOLUTION NO.

**WHEREAS**, the Shoal Creek Trail is a 3.9-mile trail that follows Shoal Creek from 38th Street to Lady Bird Lake; and

**WHEREAS**, the Shoal Creek Trail serves as a critical path for multimodal commuters, recreational cyclists, pedestrians, and runners; and

**WHEREAS**, the Shoal Creek Conservancy worked with City staff, subject matter experts, and stakeholders to create the “Shoal Creek Trail: Vision to Action Plan” (the “Plan”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Plan outlines major project improvements, most notably the extension of the Shoal Creek Trail by nearly 9 miles to the north; and

**WHEREAS**, the Plan calls for connecting the Shoal Creek Trail to the Walnut Creek Trail, ultimately forming a 30-mile continuous loop of urban trails traversing the City from Lady Bird Lake to Walnut Creek Metropolitan Park; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout 2018, the Shoal Creek Conservancy and the Public Works Department presented the Plan to the Parks and Recreation Board, the Historic Landmark Commission, the Pedestrian Advisory Council, the Urban Transportation Commission, the Bicycle Advisory Council, the Downtown Commission, the Planning Commission, and to Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the Plan identifies several geographic focus areas; and

21       **WHEREAS**, one such focus area, the Cypress and Shoal Creek Project, begins  
22 where Shoal Creek flows into Lady Bird Lake and continues northward to West 5th  
23 Street; and

24       **WHEREAS**, the Cypress and Shoal Creek Project aims “to create a series of  
25 inviting public spaces and improve pedestrian and cyclist safety and connectivity in the  
26 rapidly transforming area of west Downtown Austin, located south of West 6th Street  
27 between Nueces and Seaholm Drive”; and

28       **WHEREAS**, a key feature in this focus area is the historic, wooden railroad trestle  
29 bridge spanning Shoal Creek just south of the new bicycle/pedestrian bridge; and

30       **WHEREAS**, with support from the Austin Parks Foundation and Spring  
31 Condominiums, the Shoal Creek Conservancy commissioned a structural and reuse  
32 evaluation study of the railroad trestle bridge, which was constructed in 1876 and then  
33 reconstructed in 1925; and

34       **WHEREAS**, the study concluded that the railroad trestle bridge could be  
35 rehabilitated and repurposed as a public space; and

36       **WHEREAS**, the goals for the Cypress and Shoal Creek Project focus area  
37 include:

- 38       • Preserve and repurpose the railroad trestle bridge.
- 39       • Construct the new, main trail to pass under the existing West 3rd Street
- 40       bridges.



- 41 • Interpret the history of the Waterloo Settlement and its relationship with the  
42 railroad and Austin's communities of color.
- 43 • Improve or replace the contemporary 3rd Street bicycle/pedestrian bridge to  
44 provide a better, wider paved surface and possibly connect to the railroad trestle  
45 bridge to form a public plaza that joins the Lance Armstrong Bikeway and the  
46 Shoal Creek Trail.
- 47 • Ensure that the Trail can safely accommodate all ages and abilities.
- 48 • Improve bicycle and pedestrian safety along West Avenue, including the bridge  
49 that runs along West Avenue over Shoal Creek, just north of the Independent  
50 Condominiums at the 3rd Street and West Avenue intersection.
- 51 • Re-vegetate the creekscape with native, riparian trees, and grasses.
- 52 • Program nature tours and volunteer work days to learn about and maintain the  
53 Creek Corridor.
- 54 • Reconnect the improved Central Library reach of the Shoal Creek Trail from its  
55 current endpoint between 2nd and 3rd Streets to the new Trail improvements  
56 between West Avenue and West 5th Street; and

57 **WHEREAS**, the implementation strategies articulated in the Plan for this focus  
58 area call for:

- Integrating the Cypress Street Public Plazas concept into the improvements fronting the Independent Condominiums and 3rd + Shoal residential projects within the 3rd Street right-of-way.
- Managing public parking, public space programming, and security within the entire Seaholm/Lower Shoal Creek District.
- Extending the existing Seaholm Tax Increment Financing District term and purpose, extending its geographic area eastward to Nueces Street, and using this funding to implement projects such as:
  - the restoration and reuse of the railroad trestle bridge;
  - construction of the main Trail passing under the railroad trestle bridge;
  - the removal of the switchback ramp; and
  - the creation of the public plaza between West Avenue and Shoal Creek.

**WHEREAS**, the City has previously expressed interest in several individual goals and elements of the Cypress and Shoal Creek Project focus area, such as the creation of a Public Plaza Program (Resolution No. 20181018-037), addressing shifting modes of transportation by incentivizing transit use (Resolution No. 20181213-044), and accelerating the timetables for planned bicycle, scooter, transit, and tier one urban trail infrastructure projects (Resolution No. 20190328-040); and

**WHEREAS**, as the City moves forward in achieving robust sustainability goals and multimodal and transit independence, completing the Cypress and Shoal Creek



79 Project will provide enhanced connectivity, cohesion, and conviviality in a dense and  
80 dynamic portion of Downtown; and

81 **WHEREAS**, while private support will help fund this Project, advancing these  
82 goals and implementation strategies for this Project will require cross-collaboration  
83 between many City Departments; and; **NOW, THEREFORE:**

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

85 City Council directs the City Manager to review ~~prioritize the completion of~~ the  
86 Cypress and Shoal Creek Project and make a recommendation relative to the overall  
87 prioritized needs of the City. ~~The City Manager is instructed to~~ working in partnership  
88 with the Shoal Creek Conservancy and the Downtown Austin Alliance, and to streamline  
89 City processes, wherever applicable, so ~~the final that~~ projects can be accessed by  
90 multimodal users in the near future. The City Manager is directed to include an update  
91 on the progress of the Seaholm Intake Facility restoration project.

92 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

93 City Council directs the City Manager to conduct a feasibility and financial  
94 analysis of projects identified in the review described above, including the Cypress and  
95 Shoal Project as well as other appropriate projects within and proximate to the Seaholm  
96 TIF District. In conducting this analysis, the City Manager is directed to consider  
97 multiple options for the funding of projects, including but not limited to, philanthropic  
98 funding, parks and mobility bonds, parkland dedication funds, hotel occupancy tax

ITEM 75  
AUGUST 8, 2019  
BASE RESOLUTION V2  
ADLER AMENDMENT V2

99 heritage tourism and preservation funding, as well as the extension of the Seaholm Tax  
100 Increment Financing District's term, purpose, and geographic area ~~eastward to Nueces~~  
101 ~~Street and south to include the Seaholm Intake Facility located on parkland to help~~  
102 ~~partially fund the Cypress and Shoal Creek Project improvements, consistent with~~  
103 financial policies regarding Tax Increment Financing as adopted or amended by City  
104 Council.

105 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

106 City Council directs the City Manager to provide Council no later than the end of  
107 this fiscal year: (1) a detailed update, in memorandum format, of the progress of the  
108 Cypress and Shoal Creek and other identified Pprojects, and (2) an update, in  
109 memorandum format, of the progress of the feasibility and financial analysis conducted  
110 in response to this resolution of the extension of the Seaholm Tax Increment Financing  
111 ~~District~~, as well as other private and public funding sources available to the Cypress and  
112 Shoal Project as well as other appropriate projects within and proximate to the District.

113

114

115 **ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2019

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

116

Jannette S. Goodall

117

City Clerk