



M E M O R A N D U M

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Richard Mendoza, Director, Public Works Department
Date: August 19, 2020
Subject: **Response to Council Resolution 20200220-045 relating to the administrative process for Urban Trails**

On February 20, 2020, City Council passed Resolution 20200220-045, which directed the City Manager to create an urban trails stakeholder group to examine and make recommendations on how to improve the administrative processes and requirements associated with the design and permitting of urban trails. The resolution directed staff to report back to Council by August 21, 2020.

Staff Update

As an initial step, the Urban Trails Program convened a stakeholder group consisting of trail advocates and city staff for a virtual meeting on April 10, 2020. The key needs identified during this meeting were:

- A model comprehensive approach to balance access to the environment with protection of environmental features
- A holistic examination of environmental impact
- Differentiation between private and public development in code
- A strategy to address review and comment inconsistencies
- Designated and empowered trail reviewers to be involved throughout the process

A survey was sent to all stakeholders and appropriate project managers following the initial meeting with a goal of identifying specific obstacles trail projects have faced. Urban Trails staff also reached out to design engineers to provide feedback on code sections that have added time and cost to projects or prevented a project from moving forward.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the need to convene a large group of representatives in order to put forward recommendations, staff needs additional time to complete the response to this resolution. We anticipate providing a response no later than December 31, 2020.

Should you have questions about this work, please contact Katie Wettick, Urban Trails Program Manager, at Katie.Wettick@austintexas.gov

CC: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Gina Fiandaca, Assistant City Manager