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- Leverage innovative financing models and partnerships to support, maintain, and expand parks, open spaces, recreational facilities, and our urban trail network; and

WHEREAS, the Bergstrom Spur is an approximately 6-mile long inactive rail corridor running from Vinson Drive in Southwest Austin to U.S. 183 in Southeast Austin near the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport; and

WHEREAS, this corridor will provide vital connections, not just to the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport but to the South Pleasant Valley Corridor, the Country Club Creek Trail, the buffered cycle tracks on Todd Lane, Burleson Road, East and West St. Elmo Road, South Congress Avenue, current and future transit stations, and other civic assets ; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Trails Master Plan, adopted by Council in September of 2014 identified the Bergstrom Spur as a Tier I Urban Trail; and

WHEREAS, in June of 2019, City Council authorized the execution of an interlocal cooperation agreement with the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) for the development of a corridor Platinum Planning study for the Bergstrom Spur; and

WHEREAS, the Bergstrom Spur Corridor Study, funded through a CAMPO grant of \$280,000 and \$70,000 matching funds from the voter-approved Proposition 1 - 2016 City of Austin Mobility Bond - was completed in December of 2020; and

43 **WHEREAS**, this study envisions the Bergstrom Spur as “a vibrant multi-use
44 corridor that is accessible by and connected to the regional transportation network”
45 and “will provide safe, functional, and equitable transportation options for
46 utilitarian and recreational purposes” and it identified opportunities to transform
47 the Bergstrom Spur into a corridor that will

- 48 • Enhance public health;
- 49 • Improve connectivity and mobility;
- 50 • Celebrate and value the corridor’s people and historical character;
- 51 • Promote environmental and social sustainability; and
- 52 • Catalyze economic development and upward mobility; and

53 **WHEREAS**, improvements to this corridor would serve historically
54 underserved neighborhoods in Southeast Austin and would provide residents in the
55 area more options for transportation to transit, schools, employment centers,
56 commercial centers, and recreation facilities; and

57 **WHEREAS**, increasing active transportation options to Austinites can reduce
58 traffic congestion, improve air quality, and have positive impacts on public health
59 and our local economy; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

61 The City Council formalizes its support for U.S. Representative Lloyd
62 Doggett’s Member Designated Project Funding request of up to \$25 million to the
63 U.S. House Committee on Appropriations to provide connectivity improvements to

the approximately six-mile Bergstrom Spur and commits to fund a 20% local grant match for this project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed and authorized to identify, including exploring use of general obligation bonds, 20% local matching funds and a contingency plan for any project cost overruns or funding shortfalls if the Member Designated Project Funding award provided is less than \$25 million.

ADOPTED: _____, 2021 **ATTEST:** _____
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk