

**RESOLUTION NO.**

**WHEREAS**, the City's Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget includes a Capital Budget of \$1.6 billion for planned spending, determined by a five-year planning cycle for infrastructure and facility investments; and

**WHEREAS**, all capital and neighborhood-level safety improvement projects are funded through an extensive planning cycle process and implemented as funds are identified and become available; and

**WHEREAS**, Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funded projects are processed through an administrative prioritization that varies depending on the project type, the department, and other factors; and

**WHEREAS**, the planning and prioritization can result in a years-long process between when a community need is identified and when projects get funded and constructed, a delay that can lead to public frustration and mistrust that local government can be responsive to community needs; and

**WHEREAS**, Austin City Council District offices are often most directly in touch with the needs of the district residents and can identify needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the San Antonio City Council has two discretionary funds available for city council members which focus on safety improvement projects, including installing sidewalks, accessibility and connectivity for residents' preferred modes of transportation, painting crosswalks, street repairs, upgrades to drainage systems, and other safety treatments and capital projects, and these funds are managed by city departments and San Antonio residents and neighborhood organizations can submit project requests and ideas through their council member office and the city's Public Works, Transportation, and Capital Improvements Departments; and

26           **WHEREAS**, the City of Houston also administers council district service  
27 funds, where each council member receives a set amount of discretionary funds  
28 that they can allocate toward a specific community need such as street repairs,  
29 infrastructure enhancements, neighborhood beautification projects, support for  
30 local nonprofit organizations, overtime pay for Houston police, staff overtime to  
31 expedite residential permitting review requests, park improvements, sidewalk  
32 repairs, community center upgrades, and miscellaneous neighborhood  
33 enhancement projects, and the projects are updated on a publicly accessible online  
34 dashboard with a detailed accounting of how each council district utilizes the  
35 discretionary funds and the status of funded projects; and

36           **WHEREAS**, discretionary funds can serve as a mechanism that allows  
37 council district offices to respond quickly to address community needs and  
38 constituent concerns without navigating lengthy city planning and budgetary  
39 processes in a way that is responsive and provides attention to minor projects that  
40 often get overlooked in the broader budget or delayed by citywide initiatives;

41 **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

43           The City Manager is directed to explore a pilot program for implementing  
44 Council Member District Service Funds for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget, and  
45 the purpose of these funds shall be to address neighborhood-specific needs of  
46 individual council member districts promptly, for use at the discretion of each  
47 council member within a recommended legal and ethical framework.

49 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

50 The City Manager shall develop recommendations, in collaboration with the  
51 City Council offices and the Office of Equity and Inclusion, for the implementation  
52 of Council Member District Service Funds, including but not limited to:

- 53 • the budgeted amount for each Council District considering factors such as  
54 equitable dispersion, areas of historical disinvestment, growth areas, and  
55 alignment with the City’s Capital Improvement Program,
- 56 • any ordinance necessary to meet the City’s existing legal and ethical  
57 framework including conflict of interest policy and comply with state law  
58 regarding the use of public funds, transparency, and reporting,
- 59 • a decision-making framework that provides for consistency and transparency  
60 in how funding shall be utilized by Council offices, and
- 61 • a mechanism for publicly and transparently reporting the utilization of funds  
62 and the progress of funded projects.

63 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

64 The City Manager shall report back to Council with recommendations by  
65 March 1, 2025 for further Council consideration and input.

67 **ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

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

68 Myrna Rios  
69 City Clerk