



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Urban Transportation Commission

Recommendation Number 20240706-005 Bridge Investment in Sidewalks and Bikeways

WHEREAS, the Urban Transportation Commission and Joint Sustainability Committee previously supported an investment of \$211,386,000 as part of the Environmental Investment Plan to fund short-term mobility goals found in the ATX Walk Bike Roll Plans;

WHEREAS, Urban Transportation Commission Recommendation 20240305-006 noted that the proposed investment should “be considered a bridge investment to ensure adequate funding to reach our short-term mobility goals and that the City Council direct staff to develop a plan for future funding strategies to ensure Austin can reach our long-term mobility goals;”

WHEREAS, the Department of Capital Delivery Services (CDS) recommended the City Council develop an Integrated Bond Program Development and Delivery Plan, ensuring reliable project delivery timelines and reestablishing a six-year bond cycle beginning with a November 2026 Bond Election; and

WHEREAS, current [CDS projections](#) show the Sidewalks Program will be left with only \$6,660,751 by September 30th, 2025, leading to an 80.35% reduction in the program’s bond spending from the previous year and a likely similarly sharp cutoff in new sidewalk construction;

WHEREAS, the 2024 Local Mobility Annual Plan includes over 110 miles of new and improved bikeways that are currently in development with a likely cost of around \$73,699,000.00, based on CDS data and Bike Plan cost assumptions, while only \$27,019,731 of 2016 and 2020 Bikeways Bond funding remains unspent;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Urban Transportation Commission recommends that if the City Council opts not to bring forward a comprehensive bond package in 2024, the City Council direct the City Manager to develop a 2024 Bridge Investment Package, estimated at \$75 million, to ensure the Sidewalks and Bikeways programs can maintain their current operating level through 2027; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Urban Transportation Commission supports the creation of an Integrated Bond Program Development and Delivery Plan, and recommends the City Council ensures a future 2026 Bond is integrated with the goals and timelines established in the 2023 ATX Walk-Bike-Roll plans as well as delivers on the promises made to voters as part of the 2016 Corridor Program.

Motioned by: Commissioner Schumacher

Seconded by: Commissioner Somers

Date of Approval: 6-0

Record of the vote: 7/9/2024

Attest: Natalie Stone

(Staff or board member can sign)