

21 November 2015

NCINC2 Resolution Supporting a Long-Range Vision for IH35 without Upper Decks

WHEREAS the Texas Department of Transportation has announced a \$4.3 billion 10-year plan (“Mobility 35”) for Interregional Highway 35 (IH35) that includes adding an auxiliary lane to the Upper Decks through North Central Austin and retrofitting support beams to handle additional weight (the “TxDOT Plan for the Upper Decks”) and which reinforces a cycle of auto-dependency in committing significant tax dollars to expanding the life of the Upper Decks without a long-range vision for IH35 without the Upper Decks; and

WHEREAS the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan calls for a Healthy, Sustainable and Compact & Connected City and the City of Austin should take a leadership role in decision-making regarding proposals for IH35, advocating for principles consistent with the Imagine Austin Plan; and

WHEREAS the Upper Decks are a visual, physical, economic and psychological obstacle that discourages pedestrian and bicycle mobility, disconnects neighborhoods, depresses property values and economic development and subjects nearby residential and commercial areas to elevated noise, air and water pollution; and

WHEREAS the North Central I-35 Neighborhood Coalition 2 (NCINC2) has been recognized as a stakeholder in the Mobility35 planning process by City Council Resolution 20140626-090, and NCINC2 and the City have repeatedly asked for TxDOT to convene a true stakeholder’s working group to discuss the various solutions that might be explored in this segment of the Mobility 35 Plan; and

WHEREAS other proposals within the Mobility35 planning process have benefitted significantly from iterative revision through public stakeholder input, especially when that input has supported the tenets of the Imagine Austin Plan, while the TxDOT Plan for the Upper Decks has not yet received sufficient input from the citizens of Austin; and

WHEREAS NCINC2 requires a long-term comprehensive independent study before it can support a significant investment into expanding the capacity and life of the Upper Decks; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that in absence of such a long-term comprehensive study, NCINC2 opposes the TxDOT Plan for the Upper Decks and requests that the City of Austin fund a plan for a comprehensive vision for the Upper Decks that includes an analysis of the social, environmental and economic benefits to the City that might be derived by their eventual removal.

ADOPTED 21 Nov. 2015

ATTEST Marty Hood
Marty Hood, NCINC2 Secretary