

DRAFT FOR REVIEW & COMMENT, 10 August 2015

**NCINC2 Resolution Opposing the TxDOT IH35 Upper Decks Proposal**

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

WHEREAS the Upper Decks are a visual, physical, economic and psychological obstacle that discourages pedestrian and bicycle mobility, disconnects neighborhoods, and depresses property values and economic development; 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 TxDOT Plan for the Upper Decks reinforces a cycle of auto-dependency and commits significant tax dollars expanding the life of the Upper Decks and without having studied long-term alternatives for Upper Decks; 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

WHEREAS, 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 the Member Neighborhoods of NCINC2, which include Blackland, Cherrywood, Delwood II, Eastwoods, Hancock, Mueller, Ridgetop, Holy Cross, Schieffer-Willowbrook, Wilshire Wood/Delwood I and Windsor Park, abut IH35 and are disproportionately subject to elevated noise, air and water pollution, heat island effect and the negative social and economic impacts of the Upper Decks; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that NCINC2 opposes the TxDOT Plan for the Upper Decks and calls upon the City of Austin to fund a mobility planning study on a long-term solution for the Upper Decks that includes an analysis of the social, environmental and economic benefits to the City that might be derived by their removal.

ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_ 2015

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_