



STUDENT GOVERNMENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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9/22/09
Passed with Unanimous consent
of Assembly

AR 14 In Support of the Speedway Project

Authors Carly Castetter, Matt Daley, John Lawler, Johanna Spencer
and Thaddeus Scott Woody

Sponsors: Representatives Carly Castetter, Matt Daley, John Lawler
and Thaddeus Scott Woody

WHEREAS, The University of Texas at Austin is committed to improving the student experience on campus and to "creating welcoming spaces where the UT community can interact"; and

WHEREAS, The Speedway Project would convert Speedway from Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to Dean Keeton and the East Mall into a pedestrian-friendly space encompassing a total of sixteen acres;ⁱ and

WHEREAS, The Speedway Project is estimated to be completed within the next decade, in six stages, at an estimated cost of \$130 million to be raised through generous private donations;ⁱⁱ and

WHEREAS, This project is designed by world renowned landscape architect Peter Walker, the designer of the World Trade Center Memorial, who is known for his minimalist and contemporary style; and

WHEREAS, The Speedway Project would promote and is consistent with Recommendation Ten in The Report of the Commission of 125 to "construct student activity space on the east side" of campus;ⁱⁱⁱ and

Providing Student Activity Space

WHEREAS, The Speedway Project would expand the East Mall area to more resemble the West Mall in terms of providing space to gather, for student tabling, organization, events, and fairs; and

WHEREAS, This project envisions the "creation of outdoor dining options for students in a high traffic area near the center of campus";^{iv} and

WHEREAS, This project would include, as a part of its initial phase, improvements to the bus circle on East 23rd Street that would create an outdoor amphitheater that would serve as a venue for productions, including those produced by the Drama and Theater Departments;ⁱⁱⁱ and

WHEREAS, This project creates spaces in front of Welch Hall and other buildings along Speedway to serve as outdoor classrooms for students and professors to learn in a natural environment;^{iv} and

WHEREAS, This project encourages artistic expression in a public format to engage thought and discussion; and

WHEREAS, This project would reduce impervious cover by 50 percent, thereby providing more green space and improving the aesthetic appeal of campus;^{iv} and

WHEREAS, The Campus Environmental Center, an agency of Student Government, strongly supports this project because it aligns with its goals of creating more green space, increasing energy efficiency, and reducing waste on campus;^v and

Improved Safety, Accessibility, and Efficiency

WHEREAS, The Speedway project will provide improved lighting in the Speedway and East Mall areasⁱⁱ, increasing safety at night; and

WHEREAS, This project provides improved "accommodations and accessibility for students with disabilities in the Speedway and East Mall" areas, in, among other locations, the stretch of land between Welch Hall and Waggoner Hall;ⁱⁱ and

WHEREAS, This project provides for bicycle transportation and parking, a key component of The Parking and Traffic Policies Committee of the Faculty Council, which calls for the inclusion of safe, usable and reasonable bicycle routes to and within campus without obstacles inhibiting bicycle use and provides adequate bicycle parking;^{vi} and

WHEREAS, This project will widen Speedway to thirty feet and provide for a mixed-use avenue large enough for bicycle and pedestrian traffic to intermingle;^{vii} and

WHEREAS, This project will improve landscape runoff, update utilities, and include more electrical outlets for student and faculty use;^{iv} and

WHEREAS, A new fountain will replace the current Pease Fountain on the East Mall that wastes over a million gallons of water a year despite limited use and suffers from foundation problems due to poor construction;ⁱⁱ and

WHEREAS, The proposed fountain would preserve water and create a more welcoming, dual-function structure that could be turned on and off "like a Texas creek," intended to provide a multi-purpose space;ⁱ therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Student Government of The University of Texas at Austin strongly supports the Speedway Project and its attempts to improve the student experience, foster a university-wide sense of community, and beautify the campus.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Student Government of The University of Texas at Austin strongly encourages students to be involved and engaged in the fundraising process, and that we strongly implore alumni and donors to assist in this project's funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this legislation be sent to the Office of the President, the Office of the Vice President for Operations, the Director of the Office of Campus Planning and Facilities Management Mr. David Rea, and Former Dean of the School of Architecture Professor Lawrence Speck, the Associate Vice President of the University Development Office Mr. David Onion, and the Executive Director of Development of the University Development Office Ms. Diane Daniel.

ⁱ "Transforming Speedway" by Jamey Smith, Communications Coordinator, University Development Office.

http://www.giving.utexas.edu/supportut/initiatives/MI_DOC_SPEEDWAY.html

Accessed July 27, 2009.

ⁱⁱ David Rea, Director of Office of Campus Planning & Facilities Management, based on interviews.

ⁱⁱⁱ The Report of the Commission of 125, Recommendation Ten, page 27.

^{iv} Dr. Patricia Clubb, Vice President for University Operations, quoted in August 6, 2009 interview.

^v Rachel Aitkens, Co Director of Campus Environmental Center

^{vi} 2009-2010 University of Texas at Austin Student Government AR7.

^{vii} From email correspondence with David Rea, Director, Office of Campus Planning & Facilities Management