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Gridlock

DRAFT PROPOSAL - please edit for our discussion at meetings - add your thoughts or comments.

Austin is a weird city but it's also a captive city. Like a garden in a waste land within Central Texas, surrounded by toll roads in order “to keep *the cat in the hat*”.

AUSTIN TOMORROW PROGRAM

The Austin Tomorrow Program envisioned a horse and buggy environment where people live in a beehive with retail on the ground floor, housing on top and mass transit laid out on a **GRID**. Much like the older metropolises of Paris and New York.



The **GRID** provides the shortest distance between two points for traffic flow. When the main artery becomes clogged, the grid can take up the slack redirecting traffic to another artery thereby alleviating **gridlock**.

AUSTIN TODAY PROGRAM

With the coming of the modern high speed automobile, Wi-Fi and the allure of wide open spaces, the city spread out all different directions. I call this the **Austin Today Program**.

LOOP AND LOLLYPOP

To accommodate this evolving reality, Austin was looped by isolated communities, like lollipops dangling from the outer loops.

What if we could reconnect the *dead-end* lollipops, it would be like adding an extra lane to the outer loops. Then create shortcuts between the lollipops, to reestablish the **GRID**. We would have the **best of both worlds**.



REBUILDING THE GRID

District 6 representative, Don Zimmerman proposed **Fire Break Parkway**. It provided a shortcut between the failed highway FM 2222 and US 183 via Spicewood Springs/McNeil. *It was rejected citing dangers to the environment usurping the safety of the human environment and discounting the advantages of easier human traffic flow.*

FINANCIAL ISSUES

There is a financial issue relating to population density. Should central Austin get more attention than the outlying districts? *Maybe we should think in terms of 10 city centers!* Take for instance, a mile of road with 100,000 people living along it. Then there is a lonely mile of road with 1 person living along it. But during the day both are congested. Which should get the most attention?

PROPOSAL: That the Austin city plan be updated:

1. to interconnect the outlying neighborhoods into a more grid like pattern to reconnect with downtown;
2. that Fire Break Parkway be reconsidered;
3. that Austin redistribute public resources equally to the 10 Districts created by voters.