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OPINION

Letters to the editor

Wish list for new year includes WLH, RW bus service

Dear Editor:

Thanks for your recent people on Rollingwood resident Rob Spillar and his new job as Austin's transportation director. This is an example of how we all need to do whatever we can to address the Capitol region's transportation problems, regardless of where we live.

As another example, for several years, I've had the honor to serve as chair of the Regional Transit Coordination Committee, representing the general public. We are working on strategies to eliminate jurisdictional barriers, which make it difficult for people to get where they need to

go, using public transit, within our 10-county region.

Partly due to RTCC's efforts, Capital Metro recently changed a long-standing policy to now allow it to provide some of its services to areas not included in its service area, like Rollingwood and West Lake Hills. I have encouraged all cities in the area to work with Capital Metro to take advantage of this new policy. For instance, Rollingwood has the opportunity to get the Capital Metro bus, route 30, which now goes, all day long, up and down Bee Cave Road through Rollingwood, to add a bus stop on one or both sides of

the road. This could benefit customers of nearby Rollingwood businesses, employees of those businesses, and nearby citizens of Rollingwood, West Lake Hills, and Austin who want another means to "go to town," "go to the mall" or, better yet, "get to work." There would be some cost for this service, but the overall benefits should be significant and greater.

While Rollingwood works to restore funding for Bee Cave Road phase 2 improvements, and while adjacent benefiting businesses provide the necessary right-of-way, there is the opportunity to design a transportation corridor

that replaces that dangerous low-water bridge. There is also an opportunity to provide a safer, not necessarily bigger, roadway with center turn lanes, wider shoulders for emergencies, pedestrian sidewalks and accommodations for buses and bicycles.

Finally, I commend the mayor of West Lake Hills for his recent formation of a transportation commission to look at the "big picture" of area transportation needs and possible solutions, considering all modes of transportation.

Bill Hamilton
Regional Transportation
Coordination Committee chair