

2017-2018 BUDGET QUESTION
Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

REQUEST NO.: 52

REQUESTED BY: Tovo

DATE REQUESTED: 6/23/17

DATE POSTED: 7/13/17

REQUEST: Please provide an update on the Red Bud Trail design. How much has been spent to date on this project? What are the deliverables thus far? Is the design phase completed? If so, can you please provide a link to the finished product? What are the next steps associated with the project?

RESPONSE: This project is for the replacement of the Emmett Shelton Bridge that connects Austin to West Lake over Lady Bird Lake just downstream of the Tom Miller Dam. The project funding was originally established to complete a Bridge Conceptual Engineering Report (BCER), which is essentially an equivalent to a Preliminary Engineering Report for major bridge projects, as well as complete some civil design. The BCER work is currently underway and the civil design work has not yet begun. The project web page (<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/redbud-trail-bridge-project>) includes general project information and links to preliminary conceptual designs. Four outreach meetings were hosted by the City in 2016, and comments from the Open House on June 7, 2016 are available on the project website.

To date, four bridge alignment options have been prepared, but all four options are dependent upon abutting property owners granting right-of-entry in order to complete the environmental survey and study, which has not been granted. Therefore, a fifth alignment option is currently in progress that will strive to not be dependent upon right-of-entry onto private property. The owner's refusal to grant right-of-entry has delayed the BCER work by over one year, and the multiple bridge route options were unexpected.

To date, City Council has appropriated approximately \$3.7 million for both Public Works Department (PWD) and Austin Water (AW) to complete the BCER and some civil design. The following table summarizes the funding information for this project:

	Appropriations to Date	Obligations to Date	Balance to Date
AW	\$342,241	\$162,514.86	\$179,726.14
PWD	\$3,419,243	\$1,251,114.63	\$2,168,128.37
Total	\$3,761,484	\$1,413,629.49	\$2,347,854.51

Of the PWD funds, \$3.3 million is from the 2012 Bond Program (\$3 million specifically earmarked for this bridge and \$300,000 from PWD's 2012 Bridges, Culverts & Structures CIP

Program). The other funding sources were the 1998 Bond (\$80,000 from the roadway improvements proposition) and 2006 Bond Programs (\$40,000 from the roadway improvements proposition), but these funds are fully obligated. Austin Water has contributed funds because water and wastewater utilities will be included in the bridge design and construction. The remaining balance to date will be used towards completing the Bridge Conceptual Engineering Report and some Civil Design, unless additional bridge alignment options are needed.

At this point, we have developed a very rough cost estimate to design and construct this new bridge. We believe that we need an additional \$48.5 million to complete the project. After an alignment option is chosen, an additional \$3 million will be needed to complete the design and we project that \$45.5 million will be needed to construct the project. Public Works is exploring options for funding this project including a potential Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) grant in the fall of 2017 and potential 2018 bond program funding under the Bridges, Culverts and Structures subcategory.

The next steps are to complete the fifth bridge route option and the corresponding environmental survey and study. Staff will present the BCER options for Council approval before initiating the design phase.