

2016-2017 BUDGET QUESTION
Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT: Austin Transportation

REQUEST NO.: 57

REQUESTED BY: Garza

DATE REQUESTED: 6/14/16

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REQUEST: Please outline the past projects and corresponding costs associated with improvements along Airport Boulevard and East Riverside. Please also include a description of the planning efforts and any associated costs for these corridors including land use and transportation studies in the response.

RESPONSE:

Airport Boulevard

The primary goal of the Airport Boulevard Corridor Development Program was to develop recommendations to improve safety, mobility, sustainability, and quality of life along Airport Boulevard from North Lamar Boulevard to US 183. This includes the development of a multi-modal program of improvements that would ultimately meet the needs of all users of the transportation system within and around the corridor. The Corridor Development Program will work in concert with redevelopment initiatives throughout the corridor to ensure the safe, efficient, and multi-modal accessibility that was identified as a priority through public participation in the project.

Data collection for the program began in the summer of 2011. The program engaged interested stakeholders in the development of a long term vision for Airport Boulevard. Public meetings were used to gather input about existing conditions, validate the objectives of the project, receive feedback about the design solutions, and further explain the reasons for undertaking the project. Other stakeholder meetings occurred on an as-needed basis, including meeting with land owners who expressed concerns or desired additional information about the corridor development process. This document sets the groundwork for a Vision that helps to guide the next steps in the project delivery process.

Recommendations in the report were depicted conceptually to illustrate and demonstrate feasibility; prioritized as short-term, medium-term, or long-term depending on their potential implementation time frame; and evaluated to determine projected benefits and estimated costs for construction.

The report was completed in April 2014. The City of Austin spent \$430,000 to analyze the corridor and develop this report.

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East Riverside Drive

The primary goal of the East Riverside Drive Corridor Development Program was to develop a set of recommendations to improve safety, mobility and quality of life along Riverside Drive between IH 35 and SH 71. This program would transform the East Riverside Drive Corridor from a “through” place to a “to” place by taking the vision of the East Riverside Drive Master Plan and outline an execution plan to make this vision a reality. This report involves a multi-faceted “Complete Street” approach to provide a well-developed and high quality plan which provides a dynamic, pedestrian friendly environment while offering multimodal access to areas of work, residence and recreation.

In developing the East Riverside Corridor Development Plan it was important to understand the community and stakeholders within the corridor, its existing and future issues, and develop recommendations that may be used in implementing change. The strategies used for successful public involvement and community engagement included community focus group meetings, public open house meetings and community outreach tactics.

An assessment of the existing characteristics helped identify current issues such as safety, roadway deficiencies, environmental and land use constraints, and motorized and non-motorized mobility along the corridor. In addition, this assessment helped to create a benchmark to measure against in order to develop the appropriate short-, medium-, and long-term roadway improvements that will increase the versatility of the corridor and improve the quality of life for all users of East Riverside Drive.

An evaluation of future roadway improvements, multimodal improvements, development activities and the subsequent impacts on traffic volumes and traffic operations enabled this study to achieve the visions and goals of the East Riverside Corridor Master Plan and Regulating Plan.

The findings and results of the plan development tasks were established to develop physical recommendations and alternative improvements within the corridor that meet the project goals and provide implementable solutions.

The report was completed in December 2013. The City of Austin spent \$600,000 to analyze the corridor and develop this report.