

March 8, 2007
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To Mayor and Council
From 2006 Bond Oversight Committee
Date March 6, 2007
Re 2006 Bond Oversight Committee Recommendation on 2006 07 Budget Amendment

The 2006 Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) unanimously supports the City Manager's proposed FY2006 07 Budget Amendment

In addition, we respectfully offer an additional set of recommendations for program administration and planning. Regarding specific line items, we have the following suggestions:

Proposition 1

- Regarding sidewalk bond money, the BOC supports using funds both explicitly to repair damaged sidewalks and also to install barriers in pedestrian activity areas to make existing sidewalks more useful by making it harder for motorists to illegally park on sidewalks. However, we leave it to the department to make allocations.

Proposition 4

- Issues regarding the Mexican American Cultural Center's (MACC) Phase 1 funding have arisen. We ask that if additional money becomes available in FY07, it be added to the MACC Phase 1 project. Furthermore, the Bond Oversight Committee may consider FY08 funding for the MACC a priority.

Proposition 5

- The Committee recommends up to and exceeding \$600,000 of General Fund dollars be used for a consultant to assist with planning and implementation of Proposition 5. This suggestion is based on the facts that the City has no experience with GO spending in this program area and the \$55M balance.

alone will not make a significant impact on the City's affordable housing need without significant leveraging and application of national best practices. The Committee expects that a consultant with a proven track record and significant budget for research and planning will be able to help the City to multiply the expected benefits of the current funding.

Proposition 7

- As the City relocates the Municipal Court and the Town Lake Animal Shelter, the benefits gained in freeing up the existing space for other uses should be explicitly recognized.

In addition, we wish to express some additional principles:

- As the BOC continues to operate in FY07, we will forward suggestions to the City Council for changes to the FY07 program if any new information comes to light that would have affected our March 2 decision.
- We are extremely mindful of the need for strict compliance to and if possible superseding the requirements of all disability rights laws requiring access to all facilities in the bond program. We remind the City of Austin that to aim for exact compliance with any standard means we will sometimes miss our targets; whereas if we aim to do more, then it is less likely we will miss our targets.
- As the BOC continues to operate in FY07 and plans for FY08 and beyond, we will deliberately assess the geographic and demographic equity of the bond program such that if the FY07 plan had "winners" and "losers" the FY08 plan will lean more towards funding the FY07 "losers".
- The BOC requests that staff provide quarterly status reports on individual projects to help the BOC assess progress of the overall bond program.

Thank you for your attention, and we would be happy to address any questions or concerns you or staff may have.

Sincerely,

Beverly Silas
Chair
2006 Bond Oversight Committee