

AGENDA



Thursday, August 28, 2008

**Contract and Land Management
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**
Item No. 17

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of an amendment to the professional services agreement with URBAN DESIGN GROUP (WBE/FW 63.55%), Austin, TX for engineering services for the East 7th Street Corridor Improvements Project in the amount of \$370,752 for a total contract authorization not to exceed \$1,101,738.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$24,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2008 Amended Capital Budget of the Public Works Department. Funding in the amount of \$112,077 is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Capital Budget of the Neighborhood Planning and Zoning Department. Funding in the amount of \$234,675 is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Capital Budget of the Austin Water Utility.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Clay Harris 974-7895, George Adams 974-2146, Matt Cullen 972-0250, April Thedford 974-7141

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9B of the City Code (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) through the achievements of Good Faith Efforts with 14.48% MBE and 14.84% WBE subconsultant participation to date.

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission.

Prior Council Action: On March 1, 2001, Council passed two resolutions regarding this corridor. The first addressed pedestrian safety and focused on pedestrian crossing improvement options and improvements for sidewalk quality, safety and accessibility. The second resolution identified the corridor as a gateway into downtown Austin from the airport and directed staff to beautify East 7th Street and transform it into a scenic gateway with input from the community.

On June 12, 2003, Council authorized negotiations with Urban Design Group for design services.

On June 8, 2006, Council approved negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation to receive federal funding for this project.

On August 10, 2006 Council approved negotiations w/ Urban Design Group for additional design, bidding and construction phase services.

The East 7th Street Corridor Improvements project is the culmination of several combined efforts to improve this heavily used section of the primary corridor connecting downtown to east Austin and ABIA. The Corridor project limits are from Chicon to Pleasant Valley and the plans include: intersection improvements with underground utility upgrades at the intersections; rehabilitation of existing sidewalk and installation of new sidewalk and curbs; addition of pavers in the center turn lane; street trees and landscaping; some lighting improvements; accessibility improvements; public art "obeliscos" and an access/parking road in the block between Pedernales and Calles Streets. These improvements are

based on a 2001 Corridor Planning Study for East 7th Street from IH35 to US 183. The planning study included analysis of redevelopment options and workshops with the community to develop design prototypes. This plan identified the segment from Chicon to Pleasant Valley as the first to be implemented.

Corridor design work began in 2003 with extensive citizen input. Design development was near completion in mid 2007 when the City made the decision to separate underground utility improvements in the intersections in order to meet deadlines for the Austin Clean Water Program. This utility work is currently in construction.

The original Corridor project included street refinishing in this section of East 7th Street. However, in preparation for the 2006 Bond election, the necessity of full-depth reconstruction of East 7th Street from Navasota to Pleasant Valley was identified. In order to maximize efficiency and minimize public inconvenience, this separately funded work will be completed in conjunction with Corridor streetscape improvements.

This proposal is to complete the design for replacement of water and wastewater lines and to modify the streetscape and pedestrian improvements to coordinate with the street reconstruction work. The combined Corridor Improvement and Street Reconstruction plans are scheduled to be completed by the summer of 2009. The plans must be approved by TxDOT and begin bidding in August 2009 in order for the City of Austin to receive Federal Grant money in the amount of \$2,649,910. Construction is scheduled to start in late 2009.