

## AGENDA



Thursday, March 5, 2009

**Public Works**  
**RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Item No. 13

**Subject:** Approve a resolution adopting the 2008 Sidewalk Master Plan (Pedestrian Master Plan Phase II) for the City of Austin to prioritize the need for absent sidewalks, update the City's Americans with Disabilities Transition Plan, and recommend a funding schedule for sidewalk improvements.

**Fiscal Note:** There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

**For More Information:** Annick Beaudet 974-6505, Robin Field 974-7064

**Boards and Commission Action:** Recommended by the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities, the Planning Commission and the Urban Transportation Commission. Related to Item #14.

**Prior Council Action:** September 28, 2006 Approval of interlocal agreement between the City of Austin and the Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) for planning services related to completing the Pedestrian Master Plan (Phase II), in the amount not to exceed \$549,503.

August 28, 2003 Approval of a Professional Services Agreement with Lockwood, Andrews, & Newman, Inc., Austin, Texas, for planning services to implement and enhance the policies outlined in the Austin's ADA Transition Plan and update existing Pedestrian Master Plan.

April 18, 2002 Policy adopted implementing the addition of both pedestrian and bicycle facilities for future construction, reconstruction, or major rehabilitation of a roadway.

November 30, 2000 Pedestrian Master Plan Adopted by City Council.

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The 2008 Sidewalk Master Plan supersedes the 2000 Pedestrian Master Plan. The name of the plan changed from the Pedestrian Master Plan to the Sidewalk Master Plan during the planning process, as the plan addresses only the sidewalk network and not the broader needs of pedestrians from an urban design standpoint.

The 2008 Sidewalk Master Plan provides a complete inventory of the City of Austin's sidewalk network and includes a sophisticated absent sidewalk prioritization matrix. The matrix was used to rank each absent sidewalk segment within the city limits. Absent sidewalk segments were further grouped into five categories from very low priority to very high priority. The matrix includes a range of variables from traditional planning inputs, such as proximity to pedestrian attractors, to new concepts in urban planning, such as public health data input. The matrix runs electronically in the City's Geographical Information System (GIS). The sidewalk network data is a valuable addition to the City's GIS base map layer that can be utilized by all GIS users at the City. The 2008 Sidewalk Master Plan is also an update to the City's ADA Right of Way Transition Plan.

The current version of the plan addresses the comments of the Planning Commission and the Urban Transportation Commission with only a few exceptions that were outside the scope of the Plan. The Plan does not address any absent sidewalk to/from the Greyhound bus station on US 290; the identification of a consistent funding source to implement the Plan; or the identification of state highway sidewalk needs.

The scope of the project did not include analysis or prioritization of sidewalk need within the state's right of way. Additional funding, scope amendment, and coordination with the Texas Department of Transportation would be necessary to incorporate this request.

The goal of the Sidewalk Master Plan is to provide comprehensive knowledge of the City's sidewalk needs, improve mobility for people with disabilities, improve air quality and traffic congestion, and increase the quality of life in Austin by making walking a viable mode of transportation.