

AGENDA



Thursday, August 20, 2009

**Public Works
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 16**

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Austin and the Texas Department of Transportation for construction of sidewalk improvements along Plains Trail from South Meadows Drive to Kramer Lane as approved through the 2007 Safe Routes to School Program; approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Public Works Department Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20080908-002 to appropriate \$557,800 in grants funds and amending the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Public Works Department Capital Budget of Ordinance No. 20080908-003 to appropriate \$557,800 from the Public Works Department Special Revenue Fund; and authorize acceptance of a Safe Routes to School Program Grant in the amount of \$557,800.

Amount and Source of Funding: The total grant amount of \$557,800 will be provided by the Texas Department of Transportation. This grant does not require any local match.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Mike Curtis 974-7056, Diane Rice 974-7081, Robin Field 974-7064

This action appropriates \$557,800 in grant funds for construction of sidewalk improvements along Plains Trail from South Meadows Drive to Kramer Lane as approved through the 2007 Safe Routes to School Program.

The new sidewalk will facilitate a safe passage for children attending McBee Elementary School. Of the 722 students attending McBee Elementary, all live south of Kramer Lane and within a two mile radius of the campus. Therefore, they are not eligible for Austin Independent School District transportation. Plains Trail has been identified by the Safe Route to School Committee as being the desired route for children to walk or ride their bikes to school. The existing drainage system along Plains Trail is undersized and in rain events, the bar ditches flood and students are forced to walk in the street.

The Public Works Department recognizes the need to upgrade the undersized drainage system to address the flooding issue and provide the students a safe way to travel to and from school and is working closely with the Watershed Protection Department to resolve the issue. The Watershed Protection Department will be upgrading the drainage system and Public Works will follow with the construction of the sidewalk.