

AGENDA



Thursday, December 17, 2009

**Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Item No. 41

Subject: Approve an ordinance vacating the west half of San Antonio Street between 4th and 5th Streets; authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute a master agreement with the United States General Services Administration (GSA) to allow certain streets right-of-way to be used for the new federal courthouse project; amending Chapter 12-1 of the City Code to prohibit vehicular traffic and limit where utilities may be placed; providing for the use of funds from GSA; and waiving or crediting certain fees and requirements.

Amount and Source of Funding: No unanticipated financial impact.

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

For More Information: Fred Evins, Redevelopment Project Manager / 974-7131; Thomas Nuckols, Assistant City Attorney / 974-2568

Boards and Commission Action: Urban Transportation Commission recommended approval of San Antonio Street vacation on Sep 09/08/2009; Zoning and Platting Commission recommended approval of San Antonio Street vacation on September 15, 2009.

Prior Council Action: February 12, 2004 - Council authorized initiation of street vacation in the 400 block of San Antonio Street for the Federal Courthouse, and requested GSA cost participation for Republic Square Park improvements.

The requested ordinance will authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute a master agreement with the United States General Services Administration (GSA) to provide use of City right-of-way and to waive certain fees in order to facilitate construction of the new federal courthouse and surrounding improvements desired by the City.

The master agreement will provide the GSA with the following:

- West half of San Antonio Street right-of-way between 4th and 5th Streets, subject to utility easements and public access easement;
- Waiver of utility fees (water, wastewater, and electric) valued at \$67,000;
- Recognition that GSA is exempt from regulatory fees (review fees, inspection fees, permit fees) valued at \$4.65 million;
- Waiver of fiscal posting requirements for right-of-way improvements; and
- Grant licenses to allow GSA to install Great Streets improvements and security bollards.

The master agreement will provide the City with the following:

- \$1.2 million contribution to be used by PARD to make improvements to Republic Square Park;
- Great Streets streetscape improvements along the W. 4th, Nueces and W. 5th Street block faces of the new Austin Federal Courthouse;
- Conversion of 400 block of San Antonio Street to a public pedestrian plaza that will accommodate community events such as the Farmer's Market;
- GSA maintenance of San Antonio Street pedestrian plaza;
- GSA maintenance of security bollards in Nueces and San Antonio Street rights-of-way;

- Landscape reestablishment in transition zone between the San Antonio pedestrian plaza and Republic Square Park.