Thursday, December 17, 2009

Item(s) to Set Public Hearing(s) RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 95

Subject: Set a public hearing to consider an ordinance amending Chapter 25-2, Subchapter E, of the City Code to reclassify East Riverside Drive between Pleasant Valley Road and Highway 71 from an Urban Roadway to a Core Transit Corridor. (Suggested date and time: February 25, 2010, 6:00 p.m. at Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX).

For More Information: Erica Leak, 974-2856; Sylvia Arzola, 974-6448.

Prior Council Action: November 29, 2007 – The City Council authorized the negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with Anton Nelessen and Associates, Inc. for the East Riverside Corridor Master Plan.

This action will set a public hearing to consider an amendment to Chapter 25-2 Subchapter E: Design Standards & Mixed Use, to reclassify East Riverside Drive between Pleasant Valley Road and Highway 71 from an Urban Roadway to a Core Transit Corridor.

This proposed code amendment is a recommended implementation step in the Draft East Riverside Corridor Master Plan. Concurrently with this code amendment the Council will consider the adoption of the East Riverside Corridor Master Plan as a vision for the area.

Currently, the Design Standards designate East Riverside Drive from Interstate 35 to Pleasant Valley Drive as Core Transit Corridor, but not further east. In order to ensure that the entire length of East Riverside Drive within the area of the Corridor Plan is required to meet consistent urban design standards, the portion of the road from Pleasant Valley Road to SH 71 is recommended to be designated as a Core Transit Corridor for application of standards in Subchapter E: Design Standards and Mixed Use. This will ensure that any new development occurring along East Riverside Drive will provide 15-foot sidewalks/street tree zone and place buildings closer to the street, creating a more pedestrian-oriented corridor.