



MEMORANDUM

TO: City of Austin Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Erica Leak, Senior Planner, Planning and Development Review Department, 974-2856

DATE: February 10, 2010

RE: Code amendment to reclassify a portion of East Riverside Dr. (C20-2009-013)

C.C. Date: February 25, 2010

Attachment:

Attachment 1: Map showing portion of East Riverside Drive to be reclassified as a Core Transit Corridor.

Description:

Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance amending Title 25 of the City Code to amend the Land Development Code (LDC) Chapter 25-2 Subchapter E: Design Standards and Mixed Use to reclassify East Riverside Drive between Pleasant Valley Road and Highway 71 from an Urban Roadway to a Core Transit Corridor.

Background:

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

Currently Subchapter E: Design Standards & Mixed Use designates East Riverside Drive from S. Lamar Blvd. to Pleasant Valley Rd. as a 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 zones and place buildings closer to the street, creating a more pedestrian-oriented corridor.

Related Case:

A related master plan case (MP-2009-0001) is being proposed to adopt the East Riverside Corridor Master Plan as an amendment to the Austin Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan as a vision for the East Riverside Corridor. The master plan case will be presented for consideration at the same public hearings as this code amendment.

Departmental Comments:

The draft code amendment was circulated for Inter-Departmental Review on July 24, 2009. No objections were received related to the code amendment.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the proposed code amendment.

Planning Commission Date and Action:

At its Feb. 9th meeting, the Planning Commission voted 8-0 to recommend approval of an amendment to the Land Development Code (LDC) Chapter 25-2 Subchapter E: Design Standards and Mixed Use to reclassify East Riverside Drive between Pleasant Valley Road and Highway 71 from an Urban Roadway to a Core Transit Corridor.

City Council Date and Action:

February 11, 2010: Staff will brief City Council on the proposed code amendment on Feb. 11, 2010.

February 25, 2010: The code amendment is scheduled for action by City Council on Feb. 25, 2010.