

AGENDA



Thursday, April 29, 2010

**Planning and Development Review
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 31**

Subject: Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Financial and Administrative Services Department Capital Budget of Ordinance No. 20090914-003 to transfer \$500,000 to the Planning and Development Review Department Capital Budget; and amending the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Planning and Development Review Department Capital Budget of Ordinance No. 20090914-003 to appropriate the \$500,000 transfer from the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Contingency Program for the IH-35 Makeover Project.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Financial and Administrative Services Department Capital Budget - Capital Improvements Program Contingency. Related to Item #24.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Greg Guernsey, 974-2387; Ed Van Eenoo, 974-2610; Sylvia Arzola, 974-6448.

This action approves the transfer of \$500,000 from the Financial and Administrative Services CIP Contingency Program to the Planning and Development Review Department Capital Budget for the IH-35 Makeover Project. There is a related agenda item for consideration by Council for this project.

The City of Austin manages two surface parking lots owned by the Texas Department of Transportation, between E. 6th and E. 8th Streets under the elevated section of the Interstate 35. In that section of the city, I-35 is located where a broad boulevard called Eastside Drive used to be. The median area of Eastside Drive connected the residential areas east of the boulevard with downtown Austin. In the postwar era, I-35 was constructed in place of Eastside Drive in a series of elevated and buried sections which separated the east side of Austin from downtown.

In 2004, a diverse group of citizens, businesses, and neighborhood leaders formed a coalition to help transform this neglected area into a public asset - a safe, clean and attractive gateway reconnecting downtown to East Austin. This coalition, called the I-35 Makeover Coalition, has provided private sector support to promote a project that includes improved lighting, landscaping, and public artwork.

The I-35 Makeover Coalition has obtained a grant of \$250,000 from Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB) to help fund the landscape portion of the I-35 Makeover Project, which will be let separately by TxDOT following completion of the City of Austin construction project on the site. In addition, a March 2005 Austin City Council resolution explicitly supported using parking revenue from I-35 parking lots for the I-35 Makeover Project. Based on this, city staff developed a plan to fund the proposed cost from revenue generated by the parking lots.

In March of 2007, City Council passed a resolution setting aside \$1.5 million to be provided by the future issuance of non-tax supported certificates of obligation and \$600,000 from parking lot revenues to be used for the I-35 Makeover Project.

The project will improve pedestrian circulation, upgrade and update the parking lot to current City standards and improve drainage. The installation of specialty lighting fixtures will enhance the safety,

comfort, and aesthetics of the area. Overall, this project will reconnect the eastside neighborhoods to downtown Austin and support the recent growth and renovation of the surrounding area.