

AGENDA



Thursday, October 14, 2010

**Planning and Development Review
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 22**

Subject: Authorize payment of the City's annual membership dues in the Lone Star Rail District, in an amount not to exceed \$49,500.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Operating Budget of the Planning and Development Review Department.

For More Information: Greg Guernsey, 974-2387; Lisa Nickle, 974-1417; Sylvia Arzola, 974-6448.

Prior Council Action: August 7, 2008: Council approved annual dues for Fiscal Year 2007-2008, in the amount of \$49,500.

November 6, 2008: Council approved annual dues for Fiscal Year 2008-09, in the amount of \$49,500.

October 1, 2009: Council approved annual dues for Fiscal Year 2009-2010, in the amount of \$49,500.

This action will authorize payment of annual membership dues to the Lone Star Rail District (formerly the Austin-San Antonio Intermunicipal Commuter Rail District) for Fiscal Year 2010-2011, in the amount of \$49,500.

The Texas Legislature authorized the formation of an Intermunicipal Commuter Rail District (Commuter Rail District) in 1997 to provide commuter rail services between Austin and San Antonio. The City of Austin, by resolution, expressed its approval and consent to the creation of the Commuter Rail District in 1998. The

District was initially comprised of four local governments: City of Austin, Travis, San Antonio and Bexar Counties but since its creation in 2002, other cities and counties along the corridor have joined the District.

The Lone Star Rail District is an independent public agency focused solely on the mission of providing regional passenger rail service to Central and South Texas along the Austin/San Antonio corridor. The Rail District's governing statute authorizes the district to "acquire, construct, develop, own, operate, and maintain" passenger rail facilities and services. Member organizations are required to pay annual dues.