

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	15328	Agenda Number	45.
Meeting Date:	5/24/2012		Department:	Public Works
Subject				
<p>Approve an ordinance authorizing negotiation and execution of an Advance Funding Agreement between the City of Austin and the Texas Department of Transportation that awards the City \$1,200,000 to extend the program limits of the IH35 Corridor Development Program to study mobility improvements; accepting grant funds in the amount of \$1,200,000 from the Texas Department of Transportation; amending the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Austin Transportation Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20110912-005) to appropriate \$1,200,000; and amending the Fiscal Year 2011-12 Austin Transportation Department Capital Budget (Ordinance No. 20110912-006) to transfer in and appropriate \$1,200,000 from the Austin Transportation Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund for the study of mobility improvements. Related to Item # 11.</p>				
Amount and Source of Funding				
<p>The total grant in the amount of \$1,200,000 will be provided by TxDOT. A local match is not required.</p>				
Fiscal Note				
<p>A fiscal note is attached.</p>				
Purchasing Language:				
Prior Council Action:	June 23, 2011: Council approved negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with Parsons Brinckerhoff Americas, Inc. to provide engineering services for the initial scope of the IH-35 Corridor Development Program.			
For More Information:	Gary Schatz, 974-7189; Allison Dietzel, 974-7098; Susan Garnett, 974-7064			
Boards and Commission Action:				
MBE / WBE:				
Related Items:				
Additional Backup Information				

Traffic congestion within the Austin region is recognized by many as one of the major challenges to the future economic, environmental, and social health of the City. Residents of the City are affected daily by long commutes, congested freeway corridors, and a general lack of alternative travel routes. IH-35, running from south to north through the center of the community is among the most congested corridors within the region, the fourth most congested in Texas and the 17th worst in the U.S. according to the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI).

The project team is currently developing a series of short-, mid-, and long-range context sensitive solutions based on the identified need from the Capital Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) in the region's 2035 Long Range Plan and Metropolitan Planning Work Plan to maximize the potential throughput of the corridor between William Cannon on the south and US 290E on the north. Along with proposed solutions, the scope includes a corridor investment plan, identification of projects for future bond elections and other fund sources, identification of partnering opportunities, and coordination of public outreach. The project team has held two public workshops and 23 stakeholder meetings with adjacent businesses, neighborhoods, educational institutions, churches and interested associations which have generated over 300 ideas, these ideas were evaluated to define the problem, and used to identify and refine alternatives for technical and public review, and plan refinement to develop an implementation strategy. Other agency stakeholders included in the program development: Federal Highway Administration; Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT); Travis County; TTI; CAMPO; Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (CTRMA); Capitol Metropolitan Transit Authority (CMTA); and the City of Austin's Police, Fire, and Emergency Management Services departments.

The proposed study is a result of TTI's recommendation to extend the current evaluation limits to SH45 on the north, to tie into Williamson County's concurrent evaluation to the north, and SH45 on the south. On February 23, 2012, the Texas Transportation Commission approved distribution of TxDOT's Rider 42 Appropriations from Proposition 12 General Obligation Bond Proceeds for Bridge, Safety, Connectivity, and Congestion Relief Projects in the amount of \$1,200,000 to supplement the City's current development program. No funding match is required to receive the grant from TxDOT. Rider 42 funds shall be used to outsource engineering work for the most congested roadway segments in each of the four most congested regions of the state that are included in the 50 most congested roads in the state as listed in the State's Top 100 Most Congested Roadways list as of January 1, 2011.

This Advance Funding Agreement will allow the City to use State funds to expand the existing program limits from William Cannon on the south to State Highway 290 on the north to new program limits of State Highway 45 on the south to State Highway 45 on the north. The expansion will provide a holistic approach to determine congestion relief solutions along and around the IH35 corridor.

This project is managed by the Public Works Department.