



Concepts for Rainey Street Improvements

Presentation to UTC – January 8, 2013

- Introduction/Scope Definition
- District Overview
- Regulatory Framework
- Rainey Street Challenges
- Work in Progress
- Alternatives Analysis
- Recommended Alternative
- Next Steps Discussion

Introduction/Scope Definition



- Area of Review:
 - South of Cesar Chavez
 - West of IH-35
 - North of Lady Bird Lake
 - East of the MACC
- Multi-department team engaged:
 - Austin Energy
 - Austin Transportation
 - Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office
 - Planning & Development Review
 - Public Works
 - Real Estate Services
- Today's objective is to present a recommendation for discussion and approval.

District Overview

- Approximately 72 properties in the Rainey Street District
- Current mix of uses:
 - Mixed Use
 - Residential
 - Restaurant
 - Cocktail Lounge



Regulatory Framework

- Central Business District
- Convention Center Overlay District
- Waterfront Overlay/ Rainey Street Subdistrict
- National Historic Register District



Existing Challenges



- Inclusion of Rainey Street in CBD has resulted in proliferation of restaurants and cocktail lounges.
- Improperly managed parking, missing and non-compliant sidewalks, and poor lighting have created safety issues.
- Residents of the district have raised concerns about degradation of access and quality of life.

- Street Lighting
- Code Changes
- Parking
- Infrastructure Improvements

- Austin Energy has upgraded roadway lighting.
- The Rainey substation site has been secured and will provide opportunities for designs compatible with the goals of the neighborhood. Projected date for the substation is 2017.
- Transmission lines are currently located at the substation site; additional lines will not be required.
- Austin Energy will work with PWD on the design, approval, and purchase of a combination street/pedestrian light that will meet the safety requirements for the neighborhood.

Cocktail Lounges

- CBD zoning allows cocktail lounges as a permitted use. All of the Rainey St area is zoned CBD.
- Planning Commission earlier this year initiated a code amendment to make cocktail lounges a conditional use with the Rainey St. area even with CBD zoning.
- This amendment is going to the Planning Commission in January and will be before the City Council in early February.

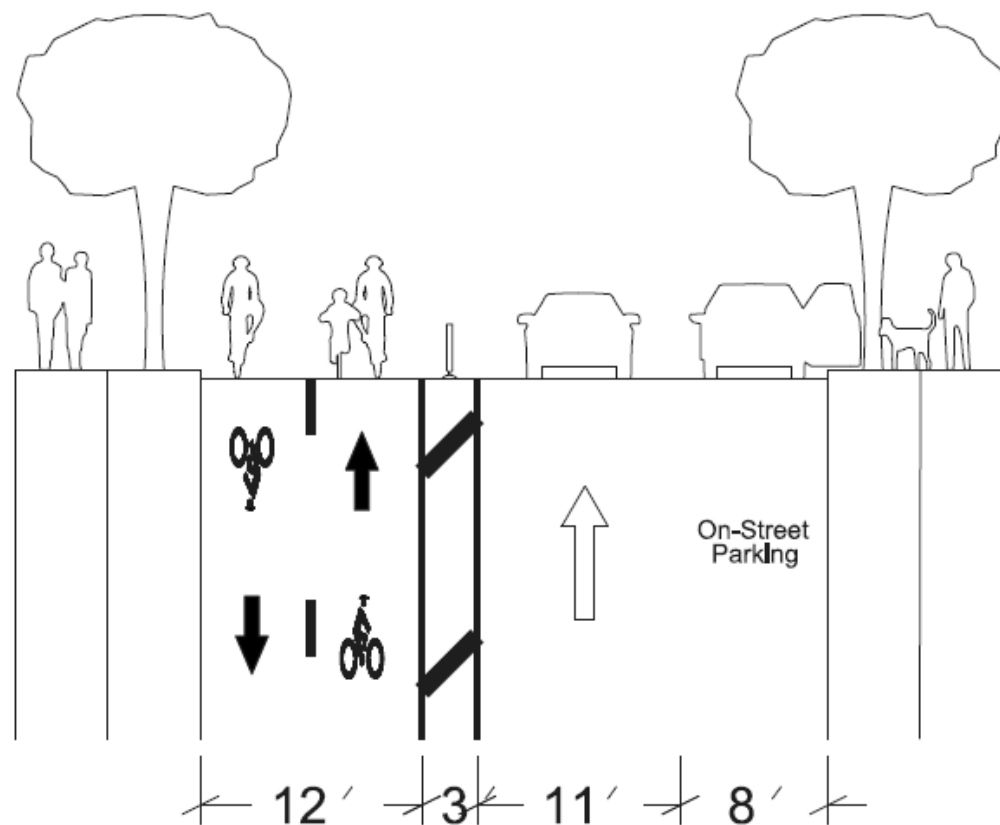
Historic Structures/ District

- Rainey Street from Driskill Street to River Street was designated a National Register Historic District in 1985.
- Existing Rainey Street Subdistrict Regulations provide incentives for relocation of historically significant structures within the Subdistrict.
- Historic Landmark Commission adopted a resolution requesting initiation of a code revision expanding the incentives to encourage relocation outside of the Subdistrict to increase the chance that projects will pursue relocating historically significant buildings to appropriate locations vs. demolishing those buildings.
- This amendment went to the Historic Commission in December, and will be presented to the Planning Commission in January. It is scheduled to be before the City Council in early February.

Recommendation

- Convert Rainey Street to one-way northbound from River Street to Driskill Street.
- Incorporate a buffered cycle track into the design (similar to Rio Grande).
- Add/repair sidewalks and bulb-outs as required to achieve ADA compliance.
- Redesign or remove the traffic circle at the intersection of River and Rainey Streets.
- Implement Parking Management District to finance improvements.
- Add reverse angle parking on East Avenue.
- Add pay stations to East Avenue.
- Meter the parking at the MACC lot per MACC Board recommendation.
- Improve roadway/pedestrian lighting.
- Implement parking management district.
- Collaborate on promenade connecting to Sabine Street.
- Collaborate on realigning Cesar Chavez/Red River intersection.

Proposed Cross Section



Proposed Next Steps

- Immediate - Parking
 - Implement parking improvements to East Avenue
 - Install pay stations at the MACC parking lot
 - Install pay stations on Rainey Street
 - Initiate Parking Management District process
 - Initiate limited Residential Parking Permit program
- After SXSW in March 2013
 - Convert Rainey to one-way northbound from River to Driskill
 - Redesign or remove traffic circle at Rainey and River
 - Install contraflow bicycle lane and shared lane
 - Construct sidewalks and bump-outs
- Ongoing
 - Negotiate installation of pedestrian/bicycle promenade
 - Negotiate realignment of intersection at Red River and Cesar Chavez Streets