



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Marc Ott, City Manager
DATE: November 9, 2015
SUBJECT: Resolution No. 20150618-093 – Capital Metropolitan Transit Authority ¼ Cent Funds

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to communicate the staff recommendation as requested in the above referenced resolution related to the CMTA ¼-Cent funds.

Summary

The Interlocal Agreement between the City and Capital Metropolitan Transit Authority (CMTA) specified that any improvements proposed for CMTA ¼-Cent funding enhance regional mobility; support public transit; provide leverage for federal or private funds; add to an existing program; or expedite a critical mobility project. Resolution 20150618-093 also directed that ¼-Cent funds be used in these types of improvements, as well as those that address the following purposes: transportation safety, improved access to schools, new traffic signals, existing infrastructure needs, traffic calming, and improved access to transit. The initial ¼-Cent Funding was approximately \$139.5 million dollars, of which \$21.8 million remains to be programmed. The following staff recommendation (Attachment 1, Quarter Cent Funding Staff Recommendation) for use of ¼-Cent funds was developed using the Quarter Cent Mobility Project Development Process (Attachment 2). The staff recommendation can be summarized as follows:

Table 1: System Improvements, Council Member Top Priorities, & Grouped Mobility Projects Around Schools and Transit		
Distribution	Sum of Cost	% of Total (\$21.8M)
System Improvements (<i>see Table 3 for distribution of funds by program</i>)	\$6,769,000	31%
Council Member Top Priorities and Grouped Mobility Projects Around Schools and Transit (<i>see Table 4 for distribution of funds by program</i>)	\$14,966,200	69%
Total	\$21,735,200	100%

Table 2: Distribution of Total ¼-Cent Funds by Program

Program	Sum of Cost	% of Total (\$21.8M)
Active Transportation (Bicycle Facilities)	\$1,678,120	8%
Advanced Transportation Management System	\$2,704,000	12%
Arterial Streets Geometric Improvements Program	\$1,650,000	8%
Capital Metro	\$200,000	1%
Local Area Traffic Management	\$154,200	1%
Sidewalk Program	\$7,483,880	34%
Signals Program	\$3,490,000	16%
Travel Demand Management Program	\$1,000,000	5%
Urban Trails Program	\$3,375,000	16%
Total	\$21,735,200	100%

Analysis

Staff from the Austin Transportation Department (ATD) and Public Works Department (PWD) developed a General Comprehensive Mobility Project Development process that can be adapted per the parameters of funding sources. Based on the direction given to staff in the Interlocal Agreement and Council Resolution, specific planning filters and prioritization factors were developed for the ¼-Cent Funding source to narrow the mobility needs assessment to specific project candidates (see Attachment 2: Quarter Cent Mobility Project Development Process).

The filtering and prioritization factors included mobility infrastructure needs within the overlap of school and transit stop service areas (0.25 mile), as well as needs within completed Corridor Mobility Preliminary Engineering Reports. Quantitative prioritization factors included improvements recommended within adopted Small Area Plans (Neighborhood Plans, etc.); improvements within a center or corridor identified by the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan; high traffic crash areas; whether improvements serve a critical arterial; and improvements on a MetroRapid Bus Service Route. Staff also considered specific requests made by Capital Metro.

In August and September of 2015, ATD and PWD staff met with the Mayor, Council Members, and their respective staff members to discuss the process, solicit feedback about the process, and inquire about Citywide and/or Council District-specific priorities. During this process the Council Member Top Priorities category was established based on eligible project candidates that did not fall within the filtering parameters.

Staff Recommendation

The tables below illustrate the distribution of recommended projects by System Improvements versus Council Member Top Priorities and localized Grouped Mobility Projects Around Schools and Transit. The full list of project candidates for ¼-Cent funds, including Council priorities and staff recommendations is provided in Attachment 1: Quarter Cent Funding Staff Recommendation

Table 3: System Improvements by Program		
Program	Sum of Cost	% of Total (\$6.8M)
Active Transportation	\$600,000	8.86%
Advanced Transportation Management System	\$964,000	14.24%
Signals Program	\$830,000	12.26%
Travel Demand Management Program	\$1,000,000	14.77%
Urban Trails Program	\$3,375,000	49.86%
Total	\$6,769,000	100.00%

Table 4: Council Member Top Priorities and Grouped Mobility Projects Around Schools and Transit by Program		
Program	Sum of Cost	% of Total (\$15M)
Active Transportation	\$1,078,120	7.20%
Advanced Transportation Management System	\$1,740,000	11.63%
Arterial Streets Geometric Improvements	\$1,650,000	11.02%
Capital Metro	\$200,000	1.34%
Local Area Traffic Management Program	\$154,200	1.03%
Sidewalk Program	\$7,483,880	50.01%
Signals Program	\$2,660,000	17.77%
Total	\$14,966,200	100.00%

As noted in the Attachment 2: Quarter Cent Mobility Project Development Process, approved projects for ¼-Cent funding will be coordinated with other planned work by the City, state-franchised utilities, and private development to maximize dig-once coordination opportunities. A change control process will be established in the case where approved projects by City Council have constructability conflicts and/or underruns, receive grant funding, and/or can be incorporated by another project.

The process and staff recommendation will be presented to both the Urban Transportation Committee on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 and to the Mobility Committee on Monday, November 16, 2015 (Attachment 3: Quarter Cent Funding Overview and Staff Recommendation Presentation).

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Quarter Cent Funding Staff Recommendation

Attachment 2: Quarter Cent Mobility Project Development Process

Attachment 3: Quarter Cent Funding Overview and Staff Recommendation Presentation

Attachment 4: Staff Recommendation by District

CC:

Robert Goode, Assistant City Manager
Howard Lazarus, Public Works Department Director
Robert Hinojosa, Public Works Department Assistant Director
Rob Spillar, Austin Transportation Department Director
Gordon Derr, Austin Transportation Department Assistant Director