



COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT MOBILITY COMMITTEE

Date: November 16, 2015

Agenda Item #: 5

Agenda Item: Discussion and possible action on a recommendation related to proposed projects available to utilize the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority quarter-cent fund.

Vote: On a 4-0 vote, the committee voted to forward the item to full City Council for approval of Council Member Sherri Gallo's resolution, as stated below:

"The Mobility Committee recommends that the Council adopt a resolution setting the following process for determining the ¼ cent infrastructure improvement projects that address district specific and/or citywide priorities for improving mobility as determined by each Council District Member and the Mayor.

No later than December 31, 2015, each City Council member shall submit a list of priority infrastructure improvement projects for their District, totaling no more than \$1.9 million, to the City Manager and ATD that meet the purposes for use of the ¼ cent funds, as identified by ATD and Public Works staff.

All funds remaining, shall be used for citywide priorities as prioritized by the Mayor, that meet the purposes for use of the ¼ cent funds as identified by ATD and Public Works staff."

Sponsors/Department: Austin Transportation Department and the Public Works Department

Summary of Discussion: Annie Van Zadt, with the Public Works Department, provided background on the quarter-cent fund. The quarter-cent program began in 2001, and is the funding mechanism for the CMTA Build Central Texas Program. Funding source was a quarter (1/4) of the City of Austin 1 cent sales tax dedication to Capital Metro. This program ended in 2004 and is no longer receiving new funding, but continues to build projects. From this fund, \$21.8 million remains available for projects.

Since July, City staff has been developing projects and meeting with the mayor and council members to discuss the process, recommendations and council member priorities in relation to this funding. Ms. Van Zadt explained that staff's recommendations focus on low-cost, high-benefit projects, including sidewalks, pedestrian hybrid beacons/signals, local area traffic management and bicycle facilities.

Annick Beaudet, with the Austin Transportation Department, reviewed a description of the programs that will oversee the recommendations that staff considered for the funds.

Program	Description	Project Types
Active Transportation Program	New and improved bicycle facilities and signage projects identified by the Bicycle Master Plan.	Cycle Track Protected Bike Lane
Advanced Transportation Management System	Includes technologies and communications infrastructure that assist with reducing the impact on roadway travelers during peak commute times.	Signal communications equipment Traffic cameras Signal battery backup system
Arterial Streets Geometric Improvements	Alterations to a roadway to improve mobility and safety on arterial streets.	Intersection improvements Adding or extending turn bays Closing median openings
Local Area Traffic Management	Traffic calming requests to improve the quality and safety of neighborhood streets.	Roundabouts Median islands Speed humps & cushions Chicanes & bulb-outs
Program	Description	Project Types
Sidewalk Program	Addresses infrastructure needs in the pedestrian network.	Sidewalks Curb ramps Safety features (e.g. hand railings) Curb & gutter improvements
Signals Program	Provide multimodal mobility and access for the transportation system.	New signals Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons (PHBs) Signal upgrades
Urban Trails	Non-motorized, multi-use pathways used by bicyclists, walkers, runners, and others that link to the on-street pedestrian and bicycle networks.	Upper Boggy Creek Trail Pleasant Valley over Lady Bird Lake Seaholm Pedestrian Crossing

Finally, Ms. Beaudet provided a detailed summary of staff recommendations. See extensive backup for additional details.

Distribution	Sum of Costs	% of Total (\$21.8M)
System Improvements	\$6,769,000	31%
Grouped Mobility Projects Around Schools and Transit and Council Member Top Priorities	\$14,966,200	69%
TOTAL	\$21,735,200	100%

Program	Sum of Cost	% of Total
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%

Following staff's recommendations and public comments, Council Member Sherri Gallo provided the following resolution as an alternative to staff's recommendations:

"The Mobility Committee recommends that the Council adopt a resolution setting the following process for determining the ¼ cent infrastructure improvement projects that address district specific and/or citywide priorities for improving mobility as determined by each Council District Member and the Mayor.

No later than December 31, 2015, each City Council member shall submit a list of priority infrastructure improvement projects for their District, totaling no more than \$1.9 million, to the City Manager and ATD that meet the purposes for use of the ¼ cent funds, as identified by ATD and Public Works staff.

All funds remaining, shall be used for citywide priorities as prioritized by the Mayor, that meet the purposes for use of the ¼ cent funds as identified by ATD and Public Works staff.

The City Manager, Public Works and ATD will expend the \$21.8 remaining ¼ cent funds to pay for the improvements as identified by each City Council member and the Mayor.”

Council Member Gallo believes this option divides the funds equally between the 10 districts so that council members can directly address the needs they’re hearing from their respective constitutions. Chair Kitchen added that she would not feel comfortable identifying projects for these funds in other council member’s districts.

Public Comments:

- Elliot McFadden, Executive Director, B-Cycle: Expanded on the Bicycle Advisory Council’s recommendation to allocate \$1 million of the fund to expand Austin B-Cycle and gave updated details on Austin B-Cycle’s impact to the Austin community.
- David King, Resident: Supports using the funds for sidewalks, traffic calming projects.
- Miller Nuttle, Bike Austin: Stressed that system wide improvements are best for these funds because they will encourage people on the best practices of getting around town.
- Anan Ramanavan, Resident: Expressed support to use funds to build a protected bicycle lane on Riverside. Showed committee 750 petitions from residents who also support this project.
- Leo Anderson, Resident: Supports using the funds to put a protected bicycle lane on Far West Boulevard. Believes it is important to support alternate modes of transportation.
- Katie Pace, Resident: Expressed support for staff recommendations. Also feels it is important that these funds be used for alternative modes of transportation.
- Sari Alborno, Sustainable Food Center: Supports using funds for the completion of the Upper Boggy Creek trail to help better connect residents to parks, a community garden and the sustainable food center.
- Alba Sereno, Go Austin/Vamos Austin Coalition: Seeks improvements for complete streets, pedestrian hybrid beacons and sidewalk projects.
- Todd Hemington, Capital Metro: Expressed concern that Capital Metro would have like to have seen a greater focus on projects and initiatives that directly improve public transportation services.

Direction: This item will go to the full City Council meeting on Dec. 17, 2015.

Recommendation: Council Member Sherri Gallo moved that the committee forward the item to Council with a recommendation to approve with her amendments. Council Member Don Zimmerman seconded the motion. On a 4-0 vote, the committee voted to forward the item Council for approval of this resolution.