



**RCA
CITY OF AUSTIN
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**AGENDA ITEM NO.: 21
AGENDA DATE: Thu 03/02/2006
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SUBJECT: Approve a striping plan for Shoal Creek Boulevard between 38th Street and Foster Lane.

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: Funding in the amount of \$72,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Approved Operating Budget of the Public Works Department for the installation of the appropriate warning signs and to remove the curb islands.

FISCAL NOTE: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

**REQUESTING Public Works
DEPARTMENT:**

**DIRECTOR'S
AUTHORIZATION: Sondra Creighton**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Sondra Creighton, 974-7175; Laura Bohl, 974-7064

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: March 29, 2001 – Resolution # 010329 directing the City Manager to conduct a transportation analysis for Shoal Creek Boulevard, with review by the Urban Transportation Commission, for a pilot traffic calming program. December 16, 2004 – authorizing execution of a construction contract with JAY-REESE CONTRACTORS, INC., Austin, TX, for the Shoal Creek Transportation Project in an amount not to exceed \$295,285.50. September 29, 2005 - authorizing removal of the curb islands from Shoal Creek Boulevard between 38th Street and Foster Lane.

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: July 5, 2000 - Urban Transportation Commission; September 18, 2000 - Urban Transportation Commission; August 19, 2002 - Urban Transportation Commission; July 18, 2005 - Urban Transportation Commission; February 13, 2006 - Land Use and Transportation Subcommittee.

PURCHASING: N/A

MBE / WBE: N/A

The Shoal Creek Boulevard Transportation Project was implemented following a five-year public involvement process to develop a solution which would accommodate stakeholders by calming traffic, providing a safe route for cyclists and pedestrians, and maintaining unrestricted on-street parking.

The project was completed in the Spring of 2005, and subsequently, at a public meeting, a significant majority of citizens voiced opposition to the project. Council, at their September 29, 2005 meeting, authorized the removal of the curb islands and instructed staff to work with Stakeholders to develop striping options which should be brought back at a later date after reviewing the re-striping plan with the Land Use and Transportation (LUT) Subcommittee.

Public Works staff facilitated an extensive public input process to obtain striping options. The stakeholders in this process included residents, tenants and businesses from the Rosedale and Allandale neighborhoods, and cyclists from the Austin Cycling Association and the Austin Ridge Riders. The process included soliciting suggestions as to how to re-stripe the Shoal Creek Blvd. and included a workshop in which stakeholders ranked their favored options. Ballots were then distributed to approximately 6300 stakeholders to allow them to vote on their favorite option.



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At the December 5, 2005 meeting of the LUT Subcommittee the results of the public input process were presented. Additionally, staff from the Texas Transportation Institute reported on their research of other communities to address the impact of narrow lanes/roads on speeding, and Best Practices on bicycling and pedestrian facilities. Two top stakeholder options were reviewed, Option #2 and Option #3. Option #2 calls for utilizing 2 - 6-foot wide car-free bike lanes, 2 - 10-foot wide travel lanes separated by a 1 foot wide centerline, and 1 - 7-foot wide parking lane on the east side only. Option # 3 calls for 2 - 10-foot wide bicycle / parking lanes and 2 - 10-foot wide travel lanes. Staff recommends Option #2 as it is consistent with the Bike Plan and meets AASHTO guidelines.

At that meeting, Council Member McCracken suggested that various pilots be implemented on Shoal Creek Boulevard for a period of nine months. The Subcommittee voted unanimously to implement these pilot projects, but asked for staff to first develop a process for the implementation and advise them of the cost. A vote was not taken regarding the striping plan for Shoal Creek.

At the February 13, 2006 LUT Subcommittee meeting, the members voted unanimously for Option #3, and reaffirmed that the curb islands be removed (as previously authorized by Council). The LUT Subcommittee also recommended that pilot projects should not be implemented on Shoal Creek Boulevard at this time, but tried on other streets. The candidate streets and the layouts for these pilot projects will be determined and brought back to the LUT subcommittee.

Sidewalks will be constructed along Shoal Creek Boulevard as part of the sidewalk program. It is anticipated that construction will start in mid April 2006 and will take 6-8 months to complete.