

AGENDA



Thursday, June 8, 2006

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Public Works
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL
ACTION

ITEM 23

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Subject: Approve an ordinance authorizing acceptance of grant funds in the amount of \$2,649,910 from the Texas Department of Transportation; and amending the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Neighborhood Planning & Zoning Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20050912-001, to appropriate \$2,649,910; and amending the Fiscal Year 2005-06 Neighborhood Planning & Zoning Capital Budget of Ordinance No. 20050912-002 to appropriate \$2,649,910 for the East 7th Street Corridor Improvements Project.

Amount and Source of Funding: The total grant amount of \$2,649,910 will be provided by TxDOT. The required \$160,098 local match is available in the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Amended Capital Budget of the Neighborhood, Planning and Zoning Department.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Renée Orr 974-7241; Pollyanne Melton 974-6459; Laura Bohl 974-7064.

Prior Council Action: On March 1, 2001, Council passed two resolutions regarding this corridor. The first addressed pedestrian safety and focused on "pedestrian crossing improvement options" and "improvements for sidewalk quality, safety, accessibility..." The second resolution identified the corridor as a gateway into downtown Austin from the airport and directed staff to "beautify" E. 7th Street and "transform [it] into a scenic gateway" with input from the community. On June 12, 2003 Council authorized negotiations with Urban Design Group for design services for the project.

Boards and Commission Action: A briefing was presented to the Design Commission and to the Urban Transportation Commission. (Related to item 23)

Additional Backup Material

(click to open)

☐ Ordinance

☐ FISCAL NOTE

The East 7th Street Corridor Improvements Project proposes safety and urban design enhancements along East 7th Street from IH-35 to Shady Lane. The first segment of the project will be implemented along E. 7th between Chicon and Pleasant Valley for an estimated cost of \$6,949,910, including federal funding of \$2,649,910. The proposed improvements provide for continuous five-foot (or wider) sidewalks on both sides of the street. Colored concrete and pavers will be used to visually narrow the roadway and to

highlight pedestrian areas. The installation of public art and pedestrian way-finding components, shade trees, street illumination, and a gateway at the Pleasant Valley intersection will further enhance the corridor for both pedestrians and motorists.