



Thursday, October 19, 2006

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Item(s) to Set Public Hearing(s)
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

ITEM No. 51

Subject: Set a public hearing to consider the use of parkland for roadway improvements as part of the Cesar Chavez Conversion Project through dedicated parkland known as Town Lake Park, in accordance with Sec 26.001 et seq of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code. (Suggested date and time: November 16, 2006 at 6:00 p.m., Austin City Hall, Council Chambers, 301 W Second Street, Austin, TX)

For More Information: Junie Plummer, 974-7085; Laura Bohl, 974-7064

Boards and Commission Action: Preliminary plan recommended by the Urban Transportation Commission (8/15/05), Downtown Commission (8/17/05), Design Commission (8/22/05), and Parks Board (8/23/05)

Prior Council Action: Council passed a resolution on July 29, 2004 directing the City Manager to determine the best way to convert the five-block one-way segment of Cesar Chavez to two-way traffic and to determine the cost. Council passed a resolution on September 1, 2005 directing the City Manager to convert Cesar Chavez Street from one-way to two-way traffic from San Antonio to Brazos Streets with Urban Design enhancements in accordance with Option 2 (staff recommendation)

Additional Backup Material

(click to open)

- ☐ EXHIBIT
- ☐ MAP

Chapter 26 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code provides that the use of parkland for non-park purposes may be approved upon a finding that there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of this land

Approximately 0.42 acres of parkland along the south side of Cesar Chavez Street is proposed for public non-park use to allow for the construction of turn lanes at three intersections and some increases in lane widths to accommodate Capital Metro buses. There is no option to expand on the north side due to existing buildings situated close to the curb-line. The turn lanes are a provision of the option approved by City Council in order to maintain minimum levels of service for vehicular traffic.

In terms of mitigation, the project is providing enhanced pedestrian facilities and park improvements along the south side of Cesar Chavez. Those improvements include planting beds, park benches, the installation of 40 to 50 trees and a pedestrian promenade. The park improvements are in compliance with the Town Lake Comprehensive Plan. Mitigation land which equals or exceeds in acreage and value will be transferred from the Dawson Lane right-of-way to Town Lake Park.

In addition to the Chapter 26 process, the use of the park is also subject to additional approval by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the National Park Service due to a previous Federal Grant.

Approval of the use of parkland is made on the condition that all restoration is completed in accordance with the Standard Specifications and Construction Standards of the City of Austin and all restoration in parkland will be completed in accordance with PARD's Construction in Parks Specifications. The requestor is required to pay any and all costs associated with the restoration.

There is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of the dedicated parkland which includes all reasonable planning to minimize harm to such lands. The dates of public notification in the *Austin American-Statesman* are October 22, October 29, and November 5, 2006.

(512) 974-2642 FAX: 974-1239

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
MAILING ADDRESS:
505 BARTON SPRINGS ROAD
AUSTIN, TX 78704
ONE TEXAS CENTER



CESAR CHAVEZ
CONVERSION
PARKLAND R.O.W. EXHIBIT

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SHEET NO.

2 OF 2



SCALE: 1" = 120'

SAN JACINTO BLVD.
SAN JACINTO BLVD.

BRAZOS ST.

CONGRESS BLVD.

COLORADO ST.

LAVACA ST.

MATCHLINE STA. 15+50

STA 32+10.63
END ROADWAY
IMPROVEMENTS

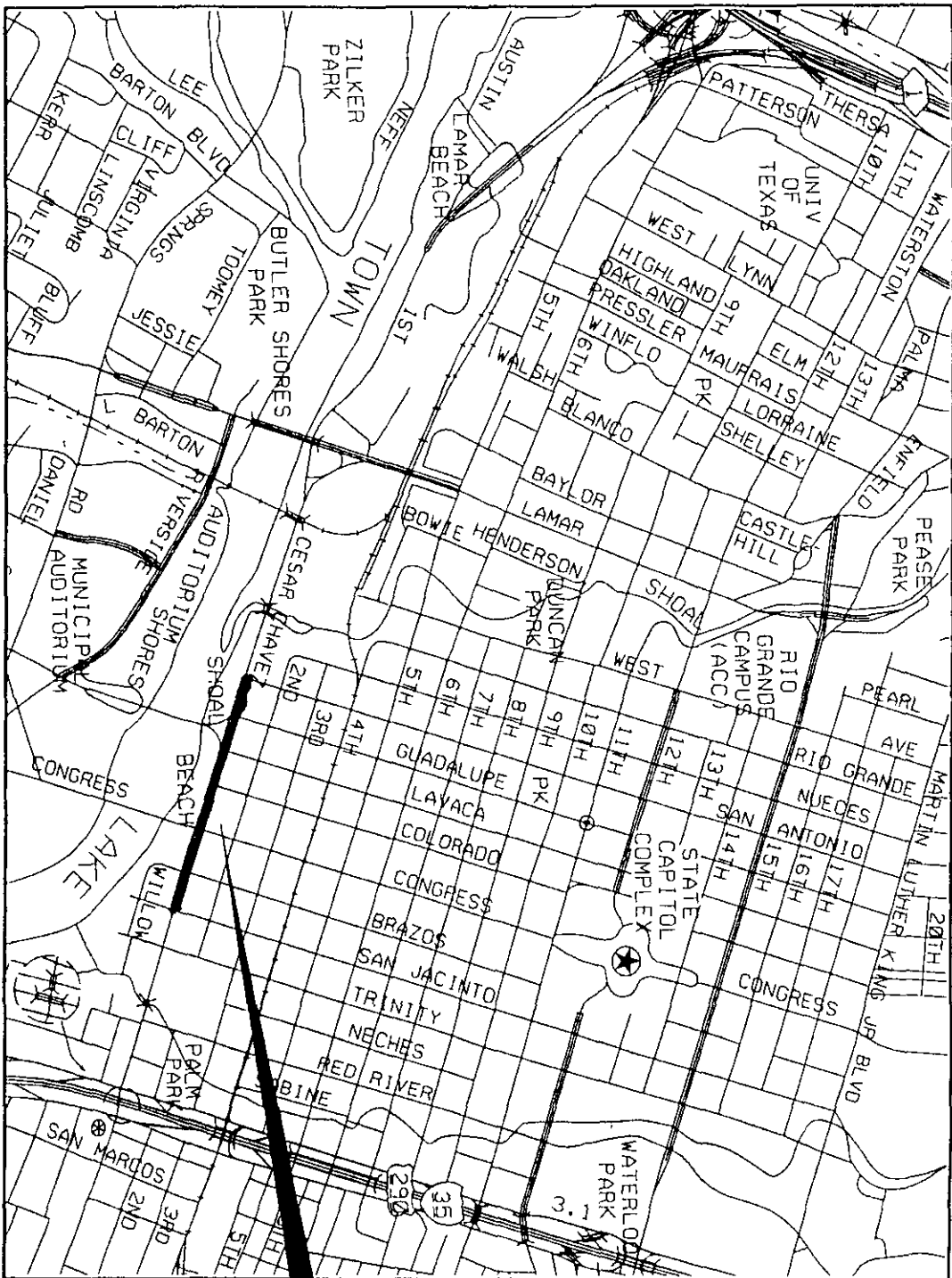
PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN
ESPLANADE WITH
LANDSCAPING

AREA TAKING
= 0.14 ACRES

PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN
ESPLANADE WITH
LANDSCAPING

TOTAL PARKLAND TO BE
USED FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY = 0.42 ACRES

NOTE: PARKLAND AREAS MEASURED FROM THE EXISTING B.O.C. TO THE
PROPOSED B.O.C.. AREAS ARE APPROXIMATE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.



VICINITY MAP
(N.T.S)

PROJECT LOCATION