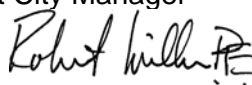




## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and Council

**CC:** Marc A. Ott, City Manager  
Robert D. Goode, P.E., Assistant City Manager

**FROM:** Robert Spillar, P.E., Director   
Austin Transportation Department

**DATE:** March 28, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Airport Boulevard Corridor Study

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As part of the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan, the Austin Transportation Department has completed the preliminary engineering study for the Airport Boulevard Corridor. Airport Boulevard was one of the roadway corridors that were part of the 2010 Mobility Bond package approved in November 2010 by Austin voters for analysis. The Airport Boulevard corridor report is now available at the Austin Transportation Department's website - [\\Coacd.org\dfs\FileTransfer\ATD Airport Blvd Corridor Report](http://Coacd.org\dfs\FileTransfer\ATD Airport Blvd Corridor Report).

### **Background**

As part of the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP), the City of Austin and the ASMP team implemented a robust public involvement process that worked with the community, a council appointed Citizens Task Force, and several other partnering agencies to develop the 2010 Mobility Bond program. The \$90 million bond package contained a variety of mobility improvements that included pedestrian, bicycle and transit facilities for selected roadways within the City of Austin. On November 2, 2010, Austin voters approved the bond package including funds to conduct a preliminary engineering design effort (PEDE) for Airport Boulevard.

### **Study Purpose**

The purpose of performing the corridor study PEDE was to identify the needs of the roadway in order to develop a multi-modal transportation system supportive of mixed-use, pedestrian, transit, and bicycle friendly development patterns. The project required the establishment of a vision, plan, and implementation strategy for the corridor. The study includes the identification of short, mid, and long-term transportation improvements to improve safety; increase vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle mobility and accessibility; and improve quality of life along the corridor.

The process for the corridor effort included:

- A comprehensive public involvement process.
- Analyzing the corridor to identify key issues and needs and defining the community vision for Airport Boulevard.

- Land use and urban design recommendations to improve the function and appearance of the built environment and stimulate revitalization.
- Transportation analysis and recommendations for creating a safe, multi-modal, transit-supportive corridor, and identification of improvements for better circulation and connectivity.
- Identification of infrastructure improvements that would be required to implement the plan.

### **Project Details**

The focus of this effort has been to create a long-term vision for the corridor. However, the ultimate outcomes of the process go beyond defining a vision to establishing a program of improvements and policy revisions that make incremental steps towards achieving the overall vision. The Airport Boulevard Project developed both short and medium/long-term recommendations for consideration as future funding opportunities arise, whether local, regional, or national. Development of an overall “complete street” concept that provides for all users was a guiding principal throughout the process. This effort was closely coordinated with the Upper Airport Boulevard Initiative that is currently underway by the Planning and Development Review Department.

- **Short-Term Recommendations**

Quick implementation of improvements within the corridor can help to show progress in the wake of a significant public outreach effort, while also helping to move traffic in a more efficient manner throughout the corridor. Since intersections are one of the most significant factors controlling a corridor’s overall mobility, properly planned intersections and evaluation of new types of intersection control will assist in making incremental steps toward the ultimate vision for the corridor. Improvements to intersections were a focus of the Airport Boulevard Corridor Development Program, given the desire of the community to maintain a 4-lane configuration of the roadway. Pedestrian infrastructure and roadway crossing locations were areas of particular focus throughout the process.

- **Medium/Long-Term Recommendations**

Medium and Long-Term projects will require significant amounts of coordination, planning, design, and ultimately funding in order to become a reality within the corridor. Construction of new bicycle and pedestrian improvements, implementation of the roadway vision established for the corridor, and addressing drainage and storm water improvements, are all part of the overall project recommendations.

### **Moving Forward**

The completion of the preliminary engineering effort for Airport Boulevard represents a significant achievement through the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan and the Imagine Austin Plan. While it is in fact significant, there are still many roadway corridors within the City of Austin that would benefit from a similar analysis effort. Funding is needed to implement the recommended improvements for Airport Boulevard. The 2012 bond package included partial funding for North Lamar Boulevard.

The Austin Transportation Department will be scheduling and making presentations to the Urban Transportation Commission and the Comprehensive Planning and Transportation Committee of the Austin City Council regarding the findings of the Airport Boulevard Corridor Report.