



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

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

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

DATE: April 9, 2015

SUBJECT: CAMPO Transportation Policy Board Meeting Agenda

The Transportation Policy Board (TPB) will meet on Monday, April 13, 2015, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Room 3.102 of the Joe C. Thompson Conference Center. The conference center is located on the University of Texas campus at 2405 Robert Dedman Drive. Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) staff has prepared an agenda packet ([Agenda](#)).

Of all the agenda items for the regular Transportation Policy Board (TPB) meeting, Austin Transportation Department staff is providing recommendations on the following items:

- **Action Item 4A - Consider and Take Action on 2035 Regional Transportation Plan Amendments and Accompanying Resolution;**
- **Action Item 4B - Consider and Take Action on FYs 2015 – 2018 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments and Accompanying Resolution;**
- **Action Item 5 – Draft 2040 Regional Transportation Plan Update and Review of Comments**
- **Action Item 7 - Consider and Take Action on CAMPO Appointment to the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority**

Item 1) Certification of Quorum

Quorum requires at least 10 members of the Transportation Policy Board (TPB) to be present to conduct business. The City of Austin is represented by four members of Council. Council (the appointing body) may appoint alternates in case a CAMPO representative is unable to attend, allowing the alternate to vote and count towards quorum. Previous Councils have passed a resolution that allows any one of the council member representatives to serve as an alternate to any one of the other CAMPO members in the event the original CAMPO member is unable to attend. A TPB member may appoint a proxy to attend and speak at the meeting, but that proxy does not count towards quorum nor can the proxy vote unless designated by Council as an alternate. City staff recommends Council Action to establish a proxy process and will be bringing an item to Council to establish this process.

Item 2) Public Comments

Public comments on items not identified for “action” on the agenda or that are not on the agenda are allowed under this item. Citizens wishing to speak have from 9:00 AM on the Tuesday before the board meeting up until 4:30 PM the day of the policy board meeting to sign up to speak. Public comment on

“action” items is allowed at the time the specific item is taken up.

Item 3) Report from the Chair of Technical Advisory Committee

The TPB is supported by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comprised of transportation and policy experts from member jurisdictions. The TAC meets in advance of the TPB and provides technical recommendations from their professional vantage points. The TAC is currently chaired by Mr. Todd Hemingson, Vice President of Transit Planning for Capital Metro. Senior Austin Transportation Department staff members have served as chair of the TAC in previous years. Assignment typically rotates and is selected by the TAC membership. The report from the Chair, allows the TAC to communicate directly to the TPB on items before the body for consideration. Although the City of Austin participates as part of the TAC, the Austin Transportation Department (ATD) provides this supplemental memorandum prior to CAMPO Policy Board Meetings to allow members of Council and our representatives to CAMPO to better understand City staff’s perspective and recommendations on the proposed items.

Item 4A Action) Consider and Take Action on 2035 Regional Transportation Plan Amendments and Accompanying Resolution

CAMPO staff received an amendment request from CTRMA to modify the CAMPO 2035 Plan:

- US 183 N Express Lanes
 - Project Description: Construct ~~1 managed lane~~ 2 express lanes in each direction
 - Let Year: ~~2015~~ 2017
 - Open Year: ~~2017~~ 2019

CAMPO staff will provide an overview of this amendment and request Policy Board approval of it. According to CTRMA, they submitted this amendment request to ensure the environmental process will be able to continue without any interruptions due to inconsistencies between the CAMPO 2035 Plan and the environmental documents.

City Recommendation: City staff has no objection to US 183 N Express Lanes amendment request.

Please note, the CTRMA amendment request to modify the project information for Loop 1 S Express Lanes (2 express lanes in each direction, instead of 1 express lane in each direction) has been pulled, after CTRMA announced last week it would not be pursuing the proposed amendment. When this item was presented at the TAC meeting on March 25th, the TAC voted 14 in favor and 12 against. A vote this close on the TAC rarely occurs.

However, the proposed project is still being pursued in the CAMPO 2040 Plan. City staff has serious concerns regarding the technical feasibility of the project and the evaluation of the impacts of the project on connecting roadways (for example, the capacity of Cesar Chavez to absorb one new direct connects from Mopac South, in addition to the Express lane direct connect from Mopac North planned to open in the next year), as well as the environmental implications of the surrounding area. Moreover, the project is entirely in the City of Austin and Travis County jurisdictions, and as such, City Council should be given the opportunity to understand the proposed project changes. Therefore, City staff requests that the 2040 Project Plan definition remain consistent with the definition in the CAMPO 2035 Plan (one primary express lane in each direction.)

Item 4B Action) Consider and Take Action on FYs 2015 – 2018 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments and Accompanying Resolution

CAMPO staff will provide an overview of the amendments for the FYs 2015 – 2018 TIP and request Policy Board approval of them

CAMPO staff received requests for 7 amendments from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Capital Area Rural Transportation System (CARTS), and the City of Cedar Park totaling \$83,152,874:

1. CARTS Interurban Express – Capital
2. CARTS Interurban Express – Operations
3. CARTS San Marcos UZA – Capital
4. CARTS San Marcos UZA – Operations
5. FM 1431
6. SH 71 – SH 21/SH 95 Overpass
7. SH 71 – SH 21/SH 95 Ramp

City Recommendation: City staff recommends approval of the FYs 2015 – 2018 Transportation Improvement Program amendments and accompanying resolution. This item was approved unanimously by the TAC.

Item 5 Action) Draft 2040 Regional Transportation Plan Update and Review of Comments

CAMPO staff will review comments to the draft CAMPO 2040 Regional Transportation Plan and recommend changes to the document for TPB concurrence.

City Recommendation: City staff reviewed the draft CAMPO 2040 Plan and submitted technical comments to CAMPO staff on April 2nd.

City staff recommends that policies in the CAMPO 2040 Plan remain consistent with *Imagine Austin* and provide for a transportation system that accommodates the mobility of all ages and abilities. Specifically, policies that support CAMPO Centers and pedestrian and bicycle projects have been changed substantially from the CAMPO 2035 Plan. Specifically, City staff recommends consistency with the 2035 Plan policies (see *City of Austin Technical Review/Request for Changes on CAMPO 2040 Regional Transportation Plan* submitted to CAMPO on April 2nd.)

The City of Austin staff generally concurs with the projects contained within the CAMPO 2040 Plan. However, based on City policy, enumerated in the *Imagine Austin Plan Comprehensive Plan* and subsequent Council actions, staff recommends objection to projects that: do not meet the intents of City policy, exacerbate traffic capacity constraints, and pose potential damage in environmentally-sensitive areas or impact City of Austin Water Quality Protection Lands. Specific projects, such as Loop 1 S Express Lanes project, are outlined in the *City of Austin Technical Review/Request for Changes on CAMPO 2040 Regional Transportation Plan* submitted to CAMPO on April 2nd.

Item 6 Action, Public Hearing) Approval of the March 09, 2015 Meeting Summary

The meeting minutes from the March 9, 2015 meeting will be provided by the CAMPO Executive Director. Any corrections that may be needed will be solicited. This is an action to approve the meeting minutes from that day. Staff has no recommendation for changes to the meeting minutes.

Item 7 Action, Public Hearing) Consider and Take Action on CAMPO Appointment to the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority

The CAMPO Director will seek approval of an appointee to fill the unexpired term of former City of Austin Mayor Pro Tem Mike Martinez to represent CAMPO on the Capital Metro Board. This item was also considered at the March 9th TPB meeting, but TPB members decided to form a nominating committee to recommend an appointee.

City Recommendation: City staff recommends that City of Austin Councilmembers on the Transportation Policy Board strongly advocate for an additional councilmember as the representative on the Capital Metro Board. The City of Austin is the largest jurisdiction within the Capital Metro operating area. In 2013, approximately 93.7% of the CTMA sales tax revenue came from the City of Austin geographic area. Representation of CAMPO by one of the City of Austin CAMPO members would provide city residents with improved direct representation at Capital Metro.

Item 8 Action, Public Hearing) Consider and Take Action on Amendment 6 to the FYs 2014 and 2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Accompanying Resolution

CAMPO staff recommends that the TPB approved Amendment 6 to the FYs 2014 and 2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and the accompanying resolution (Attachment A, Item Backup). The UPWP can be found at <http://www.campotexas.org/plansprograms/unified-planning-work-program>

Specifically, the UPWP is the work plan for an MPO prepared every year. It establishes the planning priorities of the metropolitan area and directs the performance of activities by documenting the estimated expenditures and funding sources.

On November 10, 2014, the TPB approved UPWP Amendment 5. The proposed Amendment 6 to the FYs 2014 and 2015 UPWP is detailed as follows and is shown in Attachment B, Item Backup.

- Task 1 - Add \$90,000 Transportation Planning Funds (TPF) for TEMPO (Association of Texas Metropolitan Planning Organizations) Support. Also, add policy retreats to subtask 1.1, Program Administration
- Task 2 - Add \$50,000 Transportation Planning Funds (TPF) for Travel Demand Modeling projects to be completed in FY 2015.
- Task 4 - Add \$78,689 Transportation Planning Funds (TPF) for 2040 Plan project to be completed in FY 2015.
- Task 5 - Add \$344,389 FTA 5307 Funds and \$86,097 Local Funds for Capital Metro's Transit Development Plans.

City Recommendation: This item concerns CAMPO's planning work program. City staff has no objection to Amendment 6.

Item 9 Information) Discussion on Requested Transportation Development Credits

CAMPO staff will present this item for discussion.

CAMPO staff recommends that the Transportation Policy Board award the use of 1,076,000 Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) for the non-federal match for the Capital Area Rural Transportation System (CARTS) Interurban Express-Capital and San Marcos Urbanized Area (UZA)-Capital projects and the accompanying resolution. The applications are provided in Attachment A of the Item Backup. Specifically, CARTS is seeking a total of 1,076,000 in TDCs from CAMPO for projects that have

already been awarded STP-MM (Category 7) funding and is now seeking incorporation of these projects into the FY's 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program.

Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) can be used to fulfill some or all of the federal matching fund requirements normally associated with the use of federal highway and transit reimbursements for eligible capital, operating and planning activities (23 U.S.C. §120). By fulfilling the requirement for a non-federal share of a federally funded transportation project, the use of TDCs allows 100% federal reimbursement of eligible project costs. Credits are earned when the state, a toll authority, or a private entity expends funds on capital improvements to public highways using revenues from toll receipts and related transactions, including borrowed funds supported by these revenues. Eligible expenditures do not include debt service, returns to investors, or the routine operation and maintenance of toll facilities.

Item 10 Information) Discussion on Eligible Activities and Selection Criteria for Transportation Alternatives Program Call for Projects

CAMPO staff will discuss the proposed Eligible Activities and Selection Criteria for the Transportation Alternatives Program Call for Projects.

The TAP provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives (MAP-21 §1103). CAMPO is charged with holding a competitive call for this formula funding allocated to the Austin Urbanized Area based upon population. Eligible activities and selection criteria are focused on planning, design, and construction projects to accommodate non-motorized forms of transportation, as well as infrastructure-related projects that will substantially improve the ability of students to walk and bicycle to school (Safe Routes to School projects).

A total of \$12.52 million is available through CAMPO for Fiscal Years 2015-17. The official call for projects is anticipated to be issued by April 17th, 2015 with applications due June 26th and awards by October 12th, 2015. Staff is currently evaluating projects to include corridor improvements, pedestrian safety improvements, trail projects and bike share expansion.

Item 11 Information) Report on Transportation Planning Activities

A. CAMPO Texas Legislative Report

B. CAMPO TPB Retreat Update

Item 12 Information) Announcements

Future TAC and TPB meetings are announced.

- Next TAC Meeting – April 22, 2015
- Next TPB Meeting – May 11, 2015

Item 13 Adjournment

City staff will attend the Transportation Policy Board meeting. If your office has additional questions related to the agenda or would like an individual briefing prior to the meeting, please do not hesitate to contact Gordon Derr at 974-7228.

Please let us know if you need additional information.

cc: W. Gordon Derr, P.E.
Council Executive Assistants