



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

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

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

**DATE:** July 15, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Safety Improvement Program Update

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As part of the Safety Improvement Program approved by City Council in September 2015, the Austin Transportation Department (ATD) will be initiating construction of roadway safety improvements at the following four intersections:

1. Lamar Boulevard / Parmer Lane
2. Lamar Boulevard / Rundberg Lane
3. 183 Service Road / Cameron Road
4. IH 35 Service Road / Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard

The fifth project, at the intersection of Slaughter Lane / Manchaca Road, will be delivered in partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and more information will be provided via a separate update.

### **Project Information**

All four projects, of the five selected as the highest-ranked locations where safety can be improved with engineering solutions, have advanced to a 90 percent design stage and are pending receipt of TxDOT permits. The proposed overall safety improvements will provide safe refuge to pedestrians, reduce dangerous driving behaviors, provide safer mobility options and improve safety and operations for all modes of transportation. Additional project-specific improvements are outlined below.

1. **Lamar Boulevard / Parmer Lane:** The proposed improvements include reconstructing existing right-turn channelized islands at the northwest and southeast corners of the intersection to facilitate “smart” right turns; adding intersection striping and continental crosswalks; constructing a new signal on Lamar Boulevard at the Walmart driveway; and constructing a new Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB) at John B. Connally High School. The new signal is under construction and is expected to be operational by mid-July 2016. The new PHB is currently operational.
2. **Lamar Boulevard / Rundberg Lane:** The proposed improvements include constructing raised medians on Lamar Boulevard, between Rundberg Lane and Rutland Drive; adding striping, lane reassignments and continental crosswalks; re-constructing corner pedestrian ramps; converting an existing PHB on Rundberg Lane (across from Walnut Creek Library) to a full signal; and constructing a new PHB on Rutland Drive. The signal

conversion and new PHB are already under construction and are expected to be operational in August 2016.

3. **183 Service Road / Cameron Road:** The proposed improvements include constructing a new right-turn channelized island at the northeast corner of the intersection for pedestrian refuge; revising an existing raised median; adding striping and continental crosswalks; and constructing an Advance Warning Flasher on the eastbound approach of 183 Service Road to alert motorists of the signal ahead. The Advance Warning Flasher is awaiting permits from TxDOT and will be ready for construction later in summer 2016.
4. **IH 35 Service Road / Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard:** The proposed improvements include revising the southbound lane assignment to add a southbound through lane; reconstructing the eastbound to southbound right-turn island; constructing raised crosswalks at the southwest and northeast corners; adding striping and continental crosswalks; revising the signal phasing on eastbound and westbound Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard; and providing exclusive left-turn-protected phasing for pedestrians and left-turning vehicles in order to remove conflicts between the left-turning vehicles and the through vehicles and pedestrians. The signal phasing revisions were completed in February 2016.

### **Funding Information**

The total estimated cost for delivering the four projects, including project management, engineering, design and construction, is approximately \$1,873,000. Funding in the amount of \$1,300,000 is available from the Council-allocated funds in the Fiscal Year 2015-16 City Budget. The balance of \$573,000 is available from the Fiscal Year 2015-16 ATD Operating Budget. All improvements at the four intersections are being fully funded by the City of Austin.

Total estimated costs for the four intersections are as follows:

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|---|-----------|
| • Lamar Boulevard / Parmer Lane                         | \$711,654 |
| • Lamar Boulevard / Rundberg Lane                       | \$705,501 |
| • 183 Service Road / Cameron Road                       | \$306,195 |
| • IH 35 Service Road / Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard | \$149,517 |

### **Public Involvement**

In July 2016, ATD will initiate public engagement with abutting residents and business owners impacted by the four intersection projects. A combination of mailings, door-to-door campaigns and social media outreach will be utilized to disseminate information regarding these projects. Prior to initiating actual construction activities, ATD will conduct a more targeted outreach using on-site dynamic message signs, construction detour and business access signs, news releases and social media messages.

### **Next Steps**

ATD will move forward with advancing the design of these four projects to a 100 percent stage and securing the necessary TxDOT permits to initiate construction work. In order to fast-track the delivery of these projects, a contractor from an existing City of Austin IDIQ (Indefinite Deliverable, Indefinite Quantity) Contract has been tasked to build the improvements. ATD expects to initiate construction in August or September 2016.