




MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

CC: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Brie Franco, Government Relations Officer
Annick Beudet, AICP, Assistant Director, Austin Transportation Department

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

DATE: May 3, 2019

SUBJECT: CAMPO Transportation Policy Board (TPB) Meeting Briefing: May 6, 2019, 6:00PM

City staff are providing information and/or recommendations on the following items:

- **Action Item 7:** Discussion and Approval of CAMPO Appointment to Capital Metro Board
 - **Action Item 8:** Discussion and Action on Mobility35 Capital Express, RM 620 & Anderson Mill, and 183A Frontage Roads Projects
 - ❖ **Information Item 9:** Status Update on Capital Metro's Project Connect
 - ❖ **Information Item 10:** Presentation of Draft 2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
 - ❖ **Information Item 11:** Presentation of Luling Transportation Study
 - ❖ **Information Item 12:** Discussion on Transportation Development Credit (TDC) Applications for FY 2018 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5310 Funding
- **Action Item 7: Discussion and Approval of CAMPO Appointment to Capital Metro Board**

CAMPO appoints three seats to the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority's Board of Directors. CAMPO will request approval of the reappointment of Council Member Ann Kitchen to the board as CAMPO's elected official appointee. This term will expire on June 1, 2022. Council Member Kitchen was first appointed on April 5, 2016, reappointed on May 6, 2016, and has completed a full term.

Item was not required to be presented to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends that TPB members confirm an appointment to the Capital Metro Board of Directors. Currently, CAMPO appointees to the Capital Metro Board of Directors are Wade Cooper (business), Council Member Ann Kitchen (elected official), and Terry Mitchell (financial).

- ❖ **Action Item 8: Discussion and Action on Mobility35 Capital Express, RM 620 & Anderson Mill, and 183A Frontage Roads Projects**

TxDOT Austin District and CAMPO staff are recommending that the Transportation Policy Board consider and adopt a [resolution](#) conditionally committing \$400 million of Category 2 and Category 7 funding toward the construction of IH 35 from SH 45N to SH 45 SE. TxDOT Austin District and CAMPO staff are also recommending two other projects – \$75 million towards frontage roads along 183A in Cedar Park, and \$25 million to construct a grade-separated intersection at RM 620 and Anderson Mill – for a total of \$500 million.

The resolution is intended to reaffirm that IH 35 is the top priority in the CAMPO region by committing additional funding. With the resolution committing funds, CAMPO is asking the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) to consider funding the balance of the costs required to construct the IH 35 improvements. Construction costs for the IH 35 project are currently estimated at \$5.6 billion with total project costs including engineering, right-of-way acquisition and utility relocations throughout Travis County possibly reaching near \$8 billion.

In order to conditionally commit Category 2 and 7 funding that would otherwise be allocated over the next ten years in the region, it is likely that CAMPO will forego the next two rounds of Call for TIP Projects.

Item was not presented to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

Staff Recommendation: Staff supports committing funds to improve IH 35, RM 620, and the 183A frontage roads and recommends approval of the resolution with the following change:

“NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CAMPO Transportation Policy Board hereby votes to commit the allocation of \$500 million in Category 2 and 7 funding to the Texas Department of Transportation to construct congestion relief projects and deployed in the following manner: \$400 million to construct ~~non-tolled~~ managed lanes on IH 35, \$75 million to construct frontage roads on US 183-A from RM 1431 to Avery Ranch Boulevard, and \$25 million to construct a grade separation at the intersection of RM 620 and Anderson Mill Road; and...”

At the April 22, 2019 TAC meeting the committee unanimously approved striking the reference to “non-tolled HOV” or “diamond lanes” in favor of referring to them only as “managed lanes” in the Transportation Demand Management Plan. This amendment was accepted by the TxDOT Austin District representative. At the April 10, 2019 Regional Arterials Steering Committee meeting CAMPO presented scenarios where the use of non-tolled HOV or diamond lanes were used and discussion was held among the attendees (Williamson County, Travis County, City of Round Rock, and City of Austin) regarding the use of HOV lanes over other managed lane strategies. The consensus recommendation was to use the generalized term “Managed Lanes”.

The specific type of managed lane should be evaluated as part of the project development process. Staff does not recommend using the term “non-tolled” in the resolution as it predetermines the solution, however staff agrees a managed lane solution is necessary on IH 35 in order to guarantee a reliable, congestion-free alternative for public transit and carpools/vanpools.

❖ ***Information Item 9: Status Update on Capital Metro’s Project Connect***

Capital Metro will provide an update on Project Connect, the authority's high-capacity transit plan for the region. This presentation is in response to TPB member requests for information on the ongoing efforts of the Project Connect program.

Item was presented as information to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at its April 22, 2019 meeting.

Staff Recommendation: This item is for information only.

❖ **Information Item 10: Presentation of Draft 2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

The UPWP is the federally-required document that identifies work tasks to be completed in the CAMPO region. In addition to tasks that CAMPO carries out, which are outlined in the backup, transportation studies in the region are also included. See pages 45-47 of the meeting [backup](#) for the full list of studies being led by other entities that are included in Task 4.4.

Item was presented as information to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at its April 22, 2019 meeting. TAC members were notified and had the chance to provide information to CAMPO for the development of the FY 2020 and 2021 UPWP.

Staff Recommendation: This item is for information only. The Bergstrom Spur feasibility study, awarded funding in the last Call for Projects, has been included in the UPWP under Task 5.0 – Special Studies. Locally-funded studies led by the City of Austin include the Corridor Mobility Development Program and the associated preliminary engineering reports as well as the Austin Core Transportation Plan to update the 2002 Downtown Access and Mobility Plan.

❖ **Information Item 11: Presentation of Luling Transportation Study**

CAMPO will present the Luling Transportation Study. The study includes near-term recommendations for intersection improvements and increased pedestrian connectivity as well as long-term recommendations for the development of a new connector including a rail overpass for improved travel efficiency.

Item was presented as information to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at its April 22, 2019 meeting.

Staff Recommendation: This item is for information only.

❖ **Information Item 12: Discussion on Transportation Development Credit (TDC) Applications for FY 2018 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) §5310 Funding Awards**

The TPB previously awarded \$842,252 in available FTA 5310 funding to local sponsors for FY 2018. CAMPO received two applications for the use of TDCs as the local match from sponsors Drive a Senior Network and the Mary Lee Foundation. Details of the 5310 award information are found on page 98 of the [backup](#). Future TPB action on this item would award 223,024 in TDCs to the sponsors should the applications meet eligibility requirements, which is currently being reviewed by CAMPO staff.

Item was presented as information to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at its March 25, 2019 meeting.

Staff Recommendation: This item is for information only. Staff recommends the TDC policy be revisited and clarified for appropriate uses.

The final agenda and background materials are posted on the CAMPO website and can be accessed at campotexas.org/resource-category/meeting-agendas/.

If your office has additional questions or would like an individual briefing prior to the meeting, please contact Annick Beaudet at (512) 974-7959.