

AGENDA



Thursday, April 29, 2010

**Contract and Land Management
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 24**

Subject: Authorize execution of a construction contract with CHASCO CONSTRUCTORS, LTD., LLP, Round Rock, TX, for the IH-35 Makeover Re-Bid in the amount of \$2,027,880, plus a \$101,395 contingency, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$2,129,275.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Capital Budget of the Planning and Development Review Department.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Burton Jones 974-7278; Erica Leak 974-2856; Susan Garnett 974-7064; April Thedford 974-7141

Purchasing Language: Lowest bid of four (4) bids received.

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9A of the City Code (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) through the achievements of Good Faith Efforts with 61.90% MBE and 2.10% WBE subcontractor participation. Related to Item #31.

The City of Austin manages two surface parking lots owned by the Texas Department of Transportation, between E. 6th and E. 8th Streets under the elevated section of Interstate Highway 35 (IH-35). In that section, IH-35 is located where a broad boulevard called Eastside Drive used to be. The median area of Eastside Drive connected the residential areas east of the boulevard with downtown Austin. In the postwar era, IH-35 was constructed in place of Eastside Drive in a series of elevated and buried sections which separated the eastside of Austin from downtown.

In 2004, a diverse group of citizens, businesses, and neighborhood leaders formed a coalition to help transform this neglected area into a public asset - a safe, clean and attractive gateway reconnecting downtown to East Austin. This coalition, called the I-35 Makeover Coalition, has provided private sector support to promote a project that includes improved lighting, landscaping, and public artwork.

The I-35 Makeover Coalition has obtained a grant of \$250,000 from Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB) to help fund the landscape portion of the IH-35 Makeover Project, which will be let separately by TxDOT following completion of the City of Austin construction project on the site. In addition, a March 2005 Austin City Council resolution explicitly supported using parking revenue from IH-35 parking lots for the IH-35 Makeover Project. Based on this direction, city staff developed a plan to fund the proposed cost from revenue generated by the parking lots.

In March of 2007, City Council passed a resolution setting aside \$1.5 million to be provided by the future issuance of non-tax supported certificates of obligation and \$600,000 from parking lot revenues to be used for the IH-35 Makeover Project.

The project will improve pedestrian circulation, upgrade and update the parking lot to current City standards and improve drainage. The installation of specialty lighting fixtures will enhance the safety,

comfort, and aesthetics of the area. Overall, this project will reconnect the eastside neighborhoods to downtown Austin and support the recent growth and renovation of the surrounding area.

Due to the potential for hidden and underground conditions, a 5% contingency in funding has been included to allow for the expeditious processing of any change orders. The contract allows 207 calendar days for substantial completion of this project. This project is located within zip code 78701.