

**AGENDA**



**Recommendation for Council Action**

Austin City Council	Item ID	63806	Agenda Number	34.
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Meeting Date:	1/26/2016	Department:	Transportation
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**Subject**

Approve an ordinance authorizing negotiation and execution of an advance funding agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for the installation of pedestrian safety devices citywide; authorizing the acceptance of \$1,983,750 in grant funds from TxDOT; amending the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Austin Transportation Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20160914-001) to appropriate \$1,983,750 in grant funds from TxDOT; and amending the Austin Transportation Department Capital Budget (Ordinance No. 20160914-002) to transfer in and appropriate \$1,983,750 from the Austin Transportation Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund for the installation of pedestrian safety devices.

**Amount and Source of Funding**

Local match funding in the amount of \$145,400 is available from the 2012 Bond Capital Improvement Projects Fund; funds in the amount of \$33,863 are available from the 1/4 Cent Capital Improvement Projects Funds; and funds in the amount of \$316,676 are available from the 2010 Bond Capital Improvement Projects Funds for a total local match of \$495,938.

**Fiscal Note**

The fiscal notes are attached.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	Resolution No. 20150618-071
For More Information:	Robert Spillar, 512-974-2488, Jim Dale, 512-974-4070, Gilda Powers, 512-974-7092
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

**Additional Backup Information**

On June 18, 2015, the Austin City Council voted unanimously for [Resolution No. 20150618-071](#) which authorized the City Manager to submit up to four projects for Transportation Alternative Program funding to be administered by the Texas Department of Transportation. Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) is a type of federal transportation funding that funds only bicycle and pedestrian improvements and the *Pedestrian Safety Citywide* project was one such project that was selected for TAP funding. This project proposes to address pedestrian safety citywide by installing three types of pedestrian safety devices at locations throughout the City of Austin: Pedestrian Countdown Timers, Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons and Accessible Pedestrian Signals. This request for Council action is to negotiate and execute an Advanced Funding Agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for the installation of pedestrian safety devices citywide, including countdown timers, Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons (PHBs) and Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APSs); and to accept the funds from TxDOT to study, design and construct these devices. These devices provide the pedestrian safety enhancements outlined below.

### **Countdown Timers**

Countdown timers provide a visual and audible countdown indication useful to all pedestrians. Pedestrian Countdown signal heads have a crash reduction factor of 25, meaning one would expect a 25% reduction in pedestrian crashes after installing these devices. This funding would support upgrading nearly all signals throughout the city with countdown timers.

### **Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons:**

A Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon, or PHB, is a pedestrian-activated warning device. The PHB provides a positive stop control in areas without the high pedestrian traffic volumes to warrant a traffic signal. The sites selected for further study are located on major arterials; including Airport Boulevard, Oltorf Street, Manchaca Road, and South Congress Avenue. As a part of this grant, these locations will be studied in accordance with the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices to ensure a PHB is appropriate for each location.

### **Accessible Pedestrian Signals/Countdown Timers:**

Accessible Pedestrian Signals, or APSs, are audible indications of when the walk signal is and is not on to cross a particular street. These devices are particularly helpful to the visually impaired.

### **Project Update:**

This item was moved from the December 15, 2016, Council agenda to the January 26, 2017, Council agenda. This additional time allowed ATD to shift emphasis to a citywide deployment of pedestrian countdown timers to an estimated 600 intersections citywide (minimum of 500) to achieve a true systemic safety effect. The original scope called for the installation of 15 Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons (PHBs), 11 Accessible Pedestrian Signals and an undetermined amount of countdown timers. However in the time since the TAP funds were awarded, the City has established a new bond funded corridor program that affects the locations of many of the proposed PHB's. At this time, it would not be prudent to install the PHB's until the full design for these corridors is known. The project will now focus on the installation of pedestrian countdown timers throughout the city, at a minimum of 500 intersections, a total of six locations will be studied for feasibility of a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons, and a minimum of 12 locations will be studied for Accessible Pedestrian Signals. A minimum of 2 PHB's will advance for installation with TAP funding. The other PHB locations may be funded with other sources such as bond funding or quarter cent funding.