



Recommendation for Action

File #: 19-2911, **Agenda Item #:** 57.

12/5/2019

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance waiving right-of-way fees in a total amount not to exceed \$20,500,000 associated with the closure of existing Red River Street from approximately 18th Street to Clyde Littlefield Drive and construction of a new public roadway approximately between 18th Street and East Dean Keeton Street.

Lead Department

Austin Transportation Department

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

Prior Council Action:

Ordinance No. 20130829-036 - On a 7-0 vote, Council approved an interlocal cooperation agreement with the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System.

On January 23, 2014, Item 005, on a 6-0 vote, with Mayor Leffingwell absent, Council approved the negotiation and execution of an interlocal cooperation agreement with the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System for the design and construction of reclaimed water improvements to be installed in the relocated segment of Red River street between Martin Luther King Jr., Boulevard and 15th Street.

Ordinance No. 20140327-013 - On a 7-0 vote, Council approved an amendment to the interlocal cooperation agreement with the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System

On February 7, 2019, Item 55, on an 11-0 vote, Council authorized negotiation and execution of an interlocal cooperation agreement with the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System for the achievement of this project. Staff is returning to Council for approval of fee waivers as per that direction.

For More Information:

Robert Spillar, 512-974-2488; Paul Terranova, 512-974-7163; Gilda Powers, 512-974-7092.

Additional Backup Information:

On February 7, 2019, Council authorized negotiation and execution of an interlocal cooperation agreement with the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System relating to the realignment of Red River Street. The City of Austin and the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System signed the interlocal cooperation agreement on August 30, 2019.

Per the prior direction from Council requiring any right-of-way transaction related to the realignment of Red River be authorized by Council, staff is bringing this request for fee waivers by the University of Texas for consideration. Austin Transportation Department staff is neutral in our recommendation.

The University of Texas is constructing a new multi-use basketball arena on campus, immediately south of the current soccer stadium, replacing the existing Frank Erwin Center. The site of the Frank Erwin Center will be reused as part of the expanding medical campus surrounding the Dell Medical Center. To accomplish the construction of the new arena, the University of Texas has proposed the realignment of Red River Street to its

historic alignment along the Robert Dedman Drive and Medical Arts Street. The proposed new alignment will provide a more direct route for traffic moving to/from the medical center to north of the University of Texas and provide better connections between Downtown Austin, the University, and neighborhoods to the north of the central activity centers of Austin (see map).

Portions of the existing Red River Street, north of Clyde Littlefield, will remain in use as a public street. Staff will work with the University of Texas and the Texas Department of Transportation to facilitate a coordinated connection and intersection with the frontage roads to maximize utility of the new configuration.

The August 30, 2019 interlocal cooperation agreement calls for ownership of existing Red River Street to remain in the City's name until completion of the project, when a right-of-way swap is envisioned. This results in the need for the University of Texas to be subject to right-of-way fees during construction of what otherwise is a State project. In other words, if the swap transaction occurred at the beginning of the project, the State would not be subject to the right-of-way fees because the project would be outside the jurisdiction of the city on state property and under state regulation.

Following the example previously established by Council for the construction of the Red River Street alignment adjacent the Dell Medical School and within the new medical center, Staff proposes a similar approach to waive the costs of right-of-way fees up to a set agreed amount.

With this action staff is returning to Council for approval of fee waivers. Project costs will be borne by the University of Texas. The City shall perform final installation of the traffic signals to ensure proper integration with the City's signal system. The cost to the City shall only be those associated with waived fees and installation cost of the signal equipment.



- ← New/remaining Red River sections
- Red River to be removed sections