



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-2708, **Agenda Item #:** 42.

8/27/2020

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with Travis County for the development and construction of Northern Walnut Creek Trail Phase 3, from the existing Southern Walnut Creek Trail at Northeast District Park to the end of Northern Walnut Creek Trail Phase 2 at IH-35.

Lead Department:

Public Works Department

Fiscal Note:

No fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

September 25, 2014 - Council passed Ordinance No. 20140925-143 adopting the Urban Trails Plan as a component of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan.

March 28, 2019 - Council passed Resolution No. 20190328-040, which called for efforts to accelerate timetables for planned bicycle, scooter, transit, sidewalks, and tier one urban trail infrastructure projects approved in the 2016 and 2018 City of Austin bond propositions and those funded by other means.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

The Walnut Creek Trail system, once complete, will be 19 miles long and connect Govalle Neighborhood Park in East Austin to Balcones District Park in North Austin, along with many other parks, neighborhoods, and landmarks along Walnut Creek. This trail system is also proposed to connect to Red Line Trail and Shoal Creek Trail creating a 30-mile trail loop around the City. Northern Walnut Creek Trail Phase 3 will begin at the existing Southern Walnut Creek Trail at Northeast District Park, west of Johnny Morris Road, and extend north along the abandoned Missouri-Kansas rail corridor to Sprinkle Road/Cameron Road. It will then continue west along Sprinkle Road to Walnut Creek where it will follow the creek until it reaches the end of the Northern Walnut Creek Phase 2 project at IH-35. The total proposed trail length for Phase 3 is approximately eight miles.

A Preliminary Engineering Report for Northern Walnut Creek Trail was funded through the 2016 Mobility Bond. To leverage the 2016 Mobility Bond Funding, the Urban Trails team approached Travis County to pursue a partnership for the development of Walnut Creek Trail. Travis County approved a bond in 2017 which included \$660,000 to be used for design and real estate acquisition.

This interlocal agreement will allow the City of Austin to steward Travis County funds to design,

permit and construct the Northern Walnut Creek Trail outside of the City of Austin jurisdiction and within Travis County and will allow for continued design and construction by the City to occur when additional funding becomes available through future Travis County or City of Austin bonds or grant opportunities. The agreement will specify the obligations and responsibilities of each entity.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Mobility.