



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-3497, **Agenda Item #:** 40.

12/3/2020

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance waiving right-of-way fees in an amount not to exceed \$3,300,000 related to the realignment of Red River Street between 12th and 15th Streets by Travis County Healthcare District doing business as Central Health.

Lead Department

Austin Transportation Department

Fiscal Note

Approval of this item will result in \$3,300,000 in unrealized revenue to the Austin Transportation Department, to be waived over multiple fiscal years. A fiscal note is attached.

Prior Council Action:

June 20, 2019: Council authorized negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with Travis County Healthcare District doing business as Central Health to construct and realign Red River Street to its historic alignment between 12th and 15th Streets and transition existing Red River Street to a plaza/pedestrian-oriented amenity. The revised and amended statement of terms was approved on consent on an 11-0 vote.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

Central Health will fund and construct a new alignment of Red River Street between 12th and 15th Streets as part of the Health District's project to redevelop its campus correcting a significant circuitous network connection to conform to the preferred grid alignment as contemplated by the adapted Austin Strategic Mobility Plan.

The existing Red River alignment between 12th and 15th Street will be reconstructed as a public plaza in the future, limiting vehicle access for authorized purposes only, once the entire new Red River Street is open and complete and transferred to the City. Development activities by Central Health and other area projects, are anticipated to achieve the realignment of Red River Street and the decommissioning and conversion of the existing Red River Street into the future pedestrian plaza. Construction at the intersections of the new alignment with 12th and 15th Streets will necessitate construction in the rights-of-way of these two east-west streets, thus generating temporary use of right-of-way expenses. However, this construction is being done solely for the benefit of the City, allowing for expanded wastewater and drainage connections as well as new signalization and a preferred more efficient alignment of this important street. Staff believe these connections, being constructed on behalf of the City, should be exempted from right-of-way usage fees. Likewise, construction necessary to close the existing Red River alignment should be exempted from such fees because the purpose of the construction will be to stabilize the existing street for pedestrian use, closing it to through traffic anyway. This construction, at the intersections and within the existing Red River right-of-way, represents a project with public purpose.

This item proposes a waiver of right-of-way usage fees anticipated to be incurred by the project from

December 2020 through December 2021 for construction under the approved plans, in an amount not to exceed \$3,300,000. This request does not include waiver of fees assessed that cover the costs of providing City services, to include application, review, and inspection. All cost-of-service fees will be collected.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Mobility; Government that Works for All; Economic Opportunity and Affordability