



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-1253, **Agenda Item #:** 32.

3/4/2021

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Management Services Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) to accept and appropriate \$400,000 from the Austin Transit Partnership and increase the number of authorized positions by four in support of the creation and establishment of the City's Project Connect Office, related to support and coordination of Project Connect. Related to Item #31.

Lead Department

Project Connect Office

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$400,000 is available from the Austin Transit Partnership. A City funding match is not required. A fiscal note is attached.

Prior Council Action:

December 12, 2020: The City Council approved resolution 20201218-002 (with complimentary action from the Capital Metro Board) creating the Austin Transit Partnership Local Government Corporation.

August 12, 2020: The Austin City Council and Capital Metro Board authorized an interlocal agreement with for the creation of a joint local government corporation to implement Project Connect.

July 27, 2020: The Austin City Council approved a resolution directing an initial investment in the Project Connect System Plan in accordance with the sequencing plan, and directed the City Manager regarding the City's Tax Rate.

June 19, 2020: The Austin City Council approved a resolution supporting the Project Connect System Plan and Locally Preferred Alternatives for the Orange, Blue, Gold, Green and MetroRapid Lines, and directed the City Manager to amend the ASMP to include the Project Connect System Plan and Locally Preferred Alternatives.

August 8, 2019: City Council adopted Resolution No. 20190808-081 directing the City Manager to "analyze and report on options for the City of Austin and other related or interested public or private entities to leverage resources to support the creation, operation, and maintenance of a high-capacity transit system".

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

In November 2020 voters approved City of Austin Proposition A, committing to an investment in the Project Connect High Capacity Transit system. The City Manager's Office created the Project Connect Office to coordinate the City's participation in the delivery of Project Connect in accordance with the sequencing plan approved by the City Council and Capital Metro Board. The work of the office will include coordination and

relevant approvals of technical processes such as permitting, utility coordination, design, equity, real estate, environmental, etc.

The Project Connect Office requires funds from the Austin Transit Partnership (ATP) to create the office and carryout responsibilities. This funding would provide for four full-time equivalent employees in Fiscal Year 2020 -2021.

As the Project Connect program progresses into design and construction, staffing needs will be assessed and may evolve. Council authorization will authorize funding to support the staffing needs of the Project Connect Office's critical functions.

The General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budgeted to this grant. When the grant funds expire, the Management Services Department's need for continuing funding will be evaluated and may be denied.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Mobility.