

Memorandum of Understanding Austin to Manor Rail with Trail Project

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by and between the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) and the City of Austin Public Works Department (PWD), for construction of a multi-use trail through Walter E. Long Park.

Purpose

This MOU outlines the understanding between PARD and PWD regarding the placement of a multi-use trail on the Walter E. Long property. PARD operates the Walter E. Long property for recreational purposes. The proposed multi-use trail will be compatible with the purposes of the Walter E. Long Park and will be constructed by PWD. The general location of the Trail will be as shown on Exhibit A.

Description of Project

The Austin to Manor Trail is planned to be an off-street concrete path constructed in Travis County, City of Austin, and Capital Metropolitan Transit Authority's (CMTA) right-of-way. The trail will be approximately 5.4 miles in length and will provide connection to the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department's Southern Walnut Creek Trail at the Walnut Creek Sports Complex, Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park, Texas State Highway 130 and the City of Manor. Funding will be from a variety of sources including Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) funds and City Transportation bond funds. The remainder of the trail will be constructed as funds become available. CMTA's long range plans call for this rail line to become part of a commuter rail system that will incorporate the bike and pedestrian trail.

The trail will be located in Walter E. Long Park for a length of approximately 0.9 miles. It will generally follow the path of an abandoned railroad spur and will run roughly parallel to Decker Lane (see Exhibit A).

PWD Responsibilities

PWD will provide overall project management for the design and construction of the proposed Austin to Manor Rail with Trail Project, including the section to be located on the Walter E. Long property. Preliminary engineering of the trail across the park property indicates that the trail will have minimal impact on the park property, enhancing access to the park and will not trigger a Title 26.

The alignment of the trail was designed to minimize the impacts to trees and other natural features of the park while still meeting all ADA and AASHTO design guidelines. Use of the previously abandoned railroad spur will provide an aesthetic alignment with natural grades and views of the lake.

The trail will be designed in accordance with all applicable design criteria and the entrances and exits to the Walter E. Long property will be designed to prevent vehicles other than bicycles from entering the park property. The trail will be a nominal 10-foot wide concrete path with 2-foot shoulders. It will generally consist of a minimum of 5-inches of concrete pavement on 8-inches of lime stabilized sub-grade. Lands disturbed by construction activities will be restored in accordance with standard city specifications.

PWD will be responsible for funding all aspects of the project including the design, and construction of the trail and any trail surface and structural maintenance associated with the Trail.

PARD Responsibilities

PARD has reviewed the preliminary engineering report regarding construction of the trail on the Walter E. Long Property, and agrees that the trail will have negligible negative impacts on the park and agrees that the trail is compatible with the recreational uses of the park property. PARD will provide a staff member to oversee the construction activities as related to the park property. This staff member will only be responsible to represent PARD and to provide input to the PWD Project Manager on behalf of PARD.

PARD will be responsible for vegetation control, drainage and maintenance of existing culverts, litter abatement, and trash pick-up on parkland.

Beneficial Aspects of the Trail

Construction of the Trail is recognized as a park use and is compatible with other recreational uses of Walther E. Long Park. Because of the beneficial aspects of the trail, a Chapter 26 hearing is not required. PARD staff is supportive of the trail construction and perceives it as a beneficial use of the parkland for the enjoyment of the citizens, park patrons and trail users. PARD also appreciates the efforts and cooperation of the PWD for performing the design and construction of these betterments on parkland.

AGREEMENT

Agreed, this the day of August, 2012, and will remain in effect until such time as either party desires to cancel the agreement by submitting written notification to the other stating of such desired action after a ninety (90) days period from the date received by the second party.

Howard Lazarus, P.E.
Department Director,
Public Works Department

Date

Sara L. Hensley, CPRP
Department Director,
Parks and Recreation Department

Date

DRAFT