



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and Council

**FROM:** Robert D. Goode, Assistant City Manager

**DATE:** November 26, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Resolution No. 20130829-075 – Guadalupe Street Resolution

**CC:** Marc A. Ott, City Manager  
Howard S. Lazarus, Public Works Director  
Robert Spillar, Austin Transportation Director

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This memorandum is provided in response to Council Resolution No. 20130829-075, directing the City Manager as follows:

1. Explore funding options to update the 2004 design of Guadalupe Street from 21<sup>st</sup> Street to 24<sup>th</sup> Street
2. Prepare a timeline for updating the 2004 plans
3. Explore the possibility of extending the improvements south to Martin Luther King Boulevard and north to 29<sup>th</sup> Street
4. Identify potential funding sources for the construction project
5. Prepare a timeline for the construction project

**RESPONSE:** The cost and schedule to update the plans would vary widely depending on the scope of the update. The 2004 plans do not recognize the current existing conditions on Guadalupe, as there have been recent improvements to better accommodate cyclists, pedestrians and MetroRapid busses. Other key conditions have changed since the 2004 plans were developed, including substantial growth and redevelopment in the UNO/West Campus area, a new UT-Austin Campus Master Plan, the Downtown Austin Plan, an updated Bicycle Master Plan and the possibility of Urban Rail being routed through this corridor. The 2004 plans also do not reflect the current state of the practice of transportation engineering. Because they are almost a decade old, the assumptions and design principles on which the plans were based are no longer be valid.

Therefore, prior to proceeding with an update to the 2004 plans, staff recommends that the assumptions, goals and design principles for the project be revisited with the many affected stakeholders including The University of Texas, University Area Partners, Capital Metro, and nearby neighborhoods. City staff will lead this effort with support from Capital Metro staff and a consulting team. Staff is in the process of advertising a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), scheduled to post the week of December 2<sup>nd</sup>. We have secured verbal commitments from Capital Metro to participate in the project (Capital Metro already has funding for modeling of various scenarios to better handle transit within this corridor). Likewise, staff has made contact with the University of Texas and they too are interested in participation. This effort is estimated to take between six months and a year and could be accomplished as a preliminary design using the balance of the uncommitted 2012 Bond Funds set aside for design of new transportation projects. Design beyond the conceptual phase would require additional funding (perhaps from the next bond program).

As the vision develops for this important corridor, we will certainly keep Council informed and seek direction as to the next steps. We will be bringing a consultant contract for your consideration as soon as the RFQ process is completed.