

**AGENDA**



**Recommendation for Council Action**

Austin City Council	<b>Item ID</b>	29387	<b>Agenda Number</b>	67.
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<b>Meeting Date:</b>	12/12/2013	<b>Department:</b>	Transportation
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**Subject**

Approve a resolution endorsing the City Manager's Phase 1 recommendation for Project Connect, a regional, long-range, high-capacity transit system plan, to further evaluate and analyze the East Riverside and Highland Sub-Corridors or alternative sub-corridors as the Central Corridor priority, and directing the City Manager to present a possible Locally Preferred Alternative as part of Phase 2 of the Project effort for Council consideration.

**Amount and Source of Funding**

**Fiscal Note**

A fiscal note is not required.

**Purchasing Language:**

**Prior Council Action:**

April 25, 2013, authorization to execute an interlocal agreement between the City, Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and Lone Star Rail District for coordinated planning and development of high-capacity transit projects for Central Texas, including Urban Rail/Central Corridor. August 29, 2013, approved a resolution supporting the Project Connect High-Capacity Transit System Plan.

**For More Information:**

Robert Spillar, 512-974-2488; Scott Gross, 512-974-5621; Allison Dietzel, 512-974-7098; Gilda Powers, 512-974-7092.

**Boards and Commission Action:**

To be reviewed by the Central Corridor Advisory Group on December 6, 2013. Reviewed by the Downtown Commission on November 20, 2013. Will be reviewed by the Urban Transportation Commission and Planning Commission on December 10, 2013.

**MBE / WBE:**

**Related Items:**

**Additional Backup Information**

Project Connect is both a partnership between Central Texas transportation agencies – Capital Metro, City of Austin, and Lone Star Rail – and a regional, long-range, high-capacity transit system plan for Central Texas. Working with the CAMPO Transit Working Group (TWG), the partnership developed a vision for regional transit that connects 25 centers throughout four counties and 13 cities. The Project Connect system planning process also prioritized regional corridors for next step studies, with the Central and North Corridors identified as the highest regional priorities.

The Project Connect: Central Corridor High-Capacity Study is an open and transparent decision-making process with two-phases. Phase 1 began in June 2013 and concludes in December 2013. The focus of Phase 1 has been to select a

priority sub-corridor, amongst the 10 identified during the study within the Central Corridor. A wide variety of criteria were used to evaluate the sub-corridors including congestion, ridership, affordable housing, growth centers and physical constraints.

The study process has included significant public outreach and input from the community and the Central Corridor Advisory Group. Additionally, a high degree of transparency and interactivity has been pursued, with data, methodologies and resource documents, and a user-friendly online evaluation matrix all published online during the study. The project team has also made considerable efforts to be available to the advisory group and to the public.

The East Riverside and Highland sub-corridors emerged as the top prospects for the region's next investment in high-capacity transit, as outlined by the Project Connect: Central Corridor staff recommendation to the Central Corridor Advisory Group on November 15th.

Phase 2 will begin in January 2014. This phase will focus on selecting a possible draft Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) – determining mode, alignment, type of service, along with costs, funding, and governance.

This project is sponsored by the Austin Transportation Department and managed by the Public Works Department.