

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	29764	Agenda Number	18.
Meeting Date:	1/30/2014		Department:	Transportation
Subject				
<p>Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement between the City and The University of Texas to utilize the Sustainable Communities Scenario Software Suite to analyze the Project Connect: Central Corridor high-capacity transit project, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$85,090.</p>				
Amount and Source of Funding				
<p>Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Capital Budget of the Austin Transportation Department.</p>				
Fiscal Note				
<p>A fiscal note is attached.</p>				
Purchasing Language:				
Prior Council Action:	August 19, 2010, Item 8; May 12, 2011, Item 148; August 25, 2011, Item 9.			
For More Information:	Robert Spillar, 512-974-2488; Scott Gross, 512-609-1607; Allison Dietzel, 512-609-1604; Gilda Powers, 512-974-7092.			
Boards and Commission Action:				
MBE / WBE:				
Related Items:				

Additional Backup Information

In 2010, the City of Austin joined a Central Texas consortium to apply for a Regional Sustainability Planning Grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. The awarded funds were used to develop an analytical network of tools and models to help the region better plan and manage sustainable growth, and better measure the effect of its development and infrastructure investments. The GIS-based platform was called the Sustainable Communities Scenario Software Suite. The following year, the Capital Area Texas Sustainability (CATS) Consortium selected a demonstration site to apply the analytic tool. City Staff recommended and Council approved the proposed Urban Rail investment for examination of development potential and sustainability metrics. The results were presented to Council on August 29, 2013 by the Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office who managed the case study.

Council requested that the analytic tool be applied to the Project Connect: Central Corridor Study. The analytic tool provided a source of economic development data that informed the Phase 1 Central Corridor study recommendation. Renamed Envision Tomorrow Plus, the tool will be further tailored to sub-corridor development conditions for Phase 2 to analyze how transportation, land use, economic development, and housing related issues together illustrate the impact of investment decisions. The resulting data will inform the Project Connect team's analysis of the next proposed high-capacity transit alignments within the Central Corridor leading to a Locally Preferred Alternative.

Under the agreement, the UT Center for Sustainable Development will provide the following scope of services, but not limited to, for the two recommended sub-corridors, core and overall project scenario: scenario painting and mapping; run applications and reports; assist at project team and public workshops; meeting attendance; prepare visualization of scenario outcomes in CityEngine (optional); and presentation and interpretation of final scenarios.

The agreement will be in effect for 12 months from last signature date unless otherwise amended.

This project is managed by the Public Works Department.