

## **RESOLUTION NO.**

**WHEREAS**, the Downtown Austin Plan establishes a set of values for downtown, including authenticity, history, safety, diversity, density, economic vitality, and enhancing the experience of pedestrians in downtown; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Streets Master Plan establishes objectives including streets for people, a sense of place, an equitable balance of sidewalks and streets, and occupation of the wider sidewalk zone with an array of well-designed, functional objects such as street trees, canopies, lights, benches, waste receptacles, and other amenities; and

**WHEREAS**, several major facilities and public amenities are situated along West Avenue, including the historic Seaholm building, the new Central Library site, and Shoal Creek, making West Avenue a future destination and gateway for the western edge of Downtown from Seaholm to Duncan Park; and

**WHEREAS**, with the upcoming extension of West Avenue, and the high level of redevelopment along the avenue, travel through the corridor will greatly increase in the near future and West Avenue should be therefore be improved and enhanced to provide the greatest possible mobility, pedestrian experience, and sense of place to contribute to an attractive and vibrant urban core; and

**WHEREAS**, the existence of overhead telecommunication and electric utilities impedes the ability to enhance the streetscape; and

**WHEREAS**, the process of creating and implementing a corridor plan that includes burial of utility lines, enhancement of the streetscape, and

construction of a sidewalk will involve input from a variety of city departments and divisions, including Street and Bridge, Public Works, Stormwater Management, Austin Energy, Communications, Chilled Water, Austin Water Utility, and Urban Design; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

The City Manager is directed to explore a capital improvement project for West Avenue between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Street that includes burial of utilities, enhancement of the streetscape, and construction of a connected sidewalk.

The City Manager is further directed to work with stakeholders and report back to Council on the Austin Energy customers that would be impacted by the utility relocation and a statement about the impact to each, cost estimates for the work, funding options, and alternatives to constructing a switchgear on a 20'x20' pad on developable land within the corridor in connection with burial of the electric utility lines.

The City Manager shall bring this recommendation to City Council by August 7, 2014.

**ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2014    **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Jannette S. Goodall  
City Clerk