

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	43741	Agenda Number	33.
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Meeting Date:	5/7/2015	Department:	Public Works
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Subject

Authorize additional funding for construction of a previously executed advance funding agreement between the City of Austin and the Texas Department of Transportation for the construction of highway improvements and bicycle and pedestrian bridge over Barton Creek at Mopac, in the amount of \$1,000,000.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Capital Budget of the Public Works Department.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

Purchasing Language:

Prior Council Action:

August 7, 2008 - Council authorizes the negotiation and execution of professional services with HDR ENGINEERING, INC for the design, preliminary engineering and construction phase services for the Mopac Bicycle Bridge project, not to exceed \$600,000
 June 11, 2009 - Council approves the Bicycle Master Plan;
 March 8, 2012 - Council authorizes the negotiation and execution of an amendment to the professional services agreement with HDR ENGINEERING, INC for the design, preliminary engineering, and construction services for the Mopac Bicycle Bridge Project not to exceed \$2,010,965.
 March 7, 2013 - Council authorizes the negotiation and execution of an Advance Funding Agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation for the construction of highway improvements including a bicycle and pedestrian bridge over Barton Creek at Mopac.
 September 25, 2014 - Council approves the Urban Trails Master Plan
 October 16, 2014 - Council authorizes negotiation and execution of an amendment to the professional services agreement with HDR ENGINEERING, INC, for engineering services for the Mopac Bicycle Bridge in the amount of \$191,948, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$2,202,913.
 November 6, 2014 - Council approves Bicycle Master Plan

For More Information: Chad Crager, 512-974-3570; Lucy Bonee, 512-974-7967

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

MBE / WBE:

Related Items:

Additional Backup Information

BRIEF HISTORY OF PROJECT

This project provides bicycle and pedestrian accommodations for users of all ages and abilities along the MoPac corridor over Barton Creek and connects downtown Austin to southwest Austin. It will also allow for increased motor vehicle capacity on the southbound lanes of Mopac between Barton Skyway and Southwest Parkway by

restriping Southbound Mopac to allow three continuous vehicle lanes south of Loop 360, versus the two that exist today. This project is included in the City of Austin Bicycle and Urban Trails Master Plans, and the Strategic Mobility Plan. It also meets goals in Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's (CAMPO's) 2035 Plan and the City's Climate Protection Plan. The length of this project is approximately 1 mile. A project map is attached.

The scope of the project is to construct an Urban Trail from the Mopac frontage roads south of Barton Creek to Loop 360. Construction of this project began in November 2013 and construction will be completed spring 2016.

A separate project is under construction to connect this project to Tuscan Terrace (north of Loop 360) by constructing bridges over Loop 360 for bicycles and pedestrians. Construction of this separate project over Loop 360 began January 2015 and will be completed by December 2015. The Loop 360 project is being funded through a CAMPO grant of \$2,000,000 of which the City provided a match of \$500,000 for a total project amount of \$2,500,000. The low construction bid for the Loop 360 project was \$2,985,697.49 so the City provided an additional \$485,697.49 of funding to TxDOT.

These two projects will provide safe bicycle/pedestrian connections to an existing 8' wide sidewalk along Northbound Mopac that will get Urban Trail users from this project to Zilker Park and downtown. The length of both the Barton Creek and Loop 360 project is approximately 1.4 miles.

The Urban Trails Program has actively engaged neighborhood associations, environmental groups, and other stakeholders in the planning, environmental review, and design process. The project is located within zip codes 78735 and 78746, and is managed by the Public Works Department.

The additional funds requested in this RCA will fund the entire project through completion.

REASON FOR THE AMENDMENT

This project was partially funded by Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Proposition 12 Roadway Funds because the project not only constructs a bicycle and pedestrian bridge, but also restripes Southbound Mopac to allow three continuous vehicle lanes south of Loop 360, versus the two that currently exist today. The 03/07/13 Request for Council Action (RCA) for this project authorized \$4,000,000 of allowable 2012 Bond funding over the \$4,900,000 paid for by TxDOT with Proposition 12 roadway funds. When TxDOT provides a grant match for a project, a certain portion of the grant match is meant for administration costs so there were \$4,440,747 remaining for the construction of the project.

Construction bids for this project were opened on 10/8/13 and the lowest construction bid was \$7,773,016.18, of which the City of Austin funded \$3,332,269.18. Of the original \$4,000,000 authorization from Council, the project has \$667,730.82 amount of authority remaining for change orders during construction.

During construction significant unforeseen conditions were found during the installation of the foundations for the Mopac Bicycle Bridge. Exploratory borings and information from the construction of the existing Mopac Roadway Bridge indicated that rock would be encountered at or near the existing ground surface. During the preparation of the foundation it was found that rock was deeper than anticipated and that the rock found may not be of the same quality as anticipated during initial design. This resulted in a modified bridge foundation design than what the original construction plans reflected.

These modified bridge designs have resulted in a construction change order in the amount of \$983,097.31 or \$315,366.49 over the \$4,000,000 authorized.

The changes in design have resulted in increased cost and delay for the project and this amendment authorizes an additional \$1,000,000 to address this change order and any possible subsequent change orders so that the project will be completed.