



COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT MOBILITY COMMITTEE

Date: June 3, 2015

Agenda Item #: 9

Staff briefing and discussion on recommendations for dedication of the balance of the Capital Metro Quarter Cent Fund to pay for infrastructure improvements to improve mobility.

Sponsors/Department: Austin Transportation Department

Summary of Discussion: Staff provided an overview of the Quarter-Cent Fund, the history of when and why it was established, and what the fund can be used for according to the interlocal agreement that was last modified in 2010. \$21.8 M of the original fund remains available and may be redirected to existing infrastructure needs. Staff outlined the following options:

1. Split funding amongst current or future Corridor Improvement Programs (Corridor Studies) (\$385 estimated need for four completed corridor programs)
2. Fund various deferred projects for roadways, railroad crossing or trail improvements across the city (\$100M estimated need).
3. Improve traffic signal system (\$50M + estimated need)
4. Add new traffic signals or pedestrian beacons (\$10M estimated need)
5. Improve access to existing transit facilities
6. Fund high priority Access Austin projects
7. Disperse remaining fund equitably per Council Districts

Committee members supported the notion that money should be divided evenly between all 10 Districts, and staff explained that the just over \$2M per district would not cover large transportation projects in each district, but could be used for projects such as sidewalk extensions, roadway improvements like signal lights, implementation of segments of corridor improvements and other relatively lower cost projects.

Public Comments:

- Christopher Stanton, Chair - Bicycle Advisory Council: Outlined BAC recommended projects proposed for funding using the remaining Quarter Cent Funds.
- Eliot McFadden, Executive Director of Austin B-Cycle proposed funding B-Cycle system expansion and maintenance.
- Gerard Kinney, Pedestrian Advisory Council member: Recommends that the funds be used for pedestrian safety improvements such as pedestrian hybrid beacons and sidewalk gaps.
- Dick Kellerman, Transportation Chair of the Austin Sierra Club: Recommends that the funds be set aside for future use to support transit system

- Malcolm Yeatts, Chair - East Riverside/Oltorf Combined Neighborhood Planning Area Contact Team: Recommends that the funds be used for the Country Club Creek Trail

Direction: N/A

Recommendation: On a 3-0 vote, the Committee voted to move this item to the full City Council for approval of a resolution that would include the following points. The committee members will draft the resolution:

- Remaining Quarter-Cent Funds should be dispersed equitably across all districts.
- Parameters for which the money can be used should be established, including but not limited to the purposes of:
 - Improved access to transit
 - Improved access to schools
 - New traffic signals
 - Existing infrastructure needs
 - Transportation safety
 - Traffic calming
 - Other transportation/mobility needs as outlined in the Quarter-Cent Fund interlocal agreement with CapMetro
- Council Offices should work together with the City's Transportation and Public Works Departments to identify each District's needs/potential projects to use funds on.
- Include projects presented during the public comment to Mobility Committee on June 3 as examples of projects that should be included in evaluation by each district.