



MEMORANDUM

TO: Urban Transportation Commission
FROM: Robert Spillar, P.E. Director, Austin Transportation Department
DATE: November 3, 2015
SUBJECT: Resolution No. 20150618-093 – Capital Metropolitan Transit Authority (CMTA) ¼ Cent Funds

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to communicate the staff recommendation (Attachment 1) as requested in the above referenced resolution related to the CMTA ¼-Cent funds.

Summary

The Interlocal Agreement between the City and CMTA specified that any improvements proposed for CMTA ¼-Cent funding enhance regional mobility; support public transit; provide leverage for federal or private funds; add to an existing program; or expedite a critical mobility project. Resolution 20150618-093 also directed that ¼-Cent funds be used in these types of improvements, as well as those that address the following purposes: transportation safety, improved access to schools, new traffic signals, existing infrastructure needs, traffic calming, and improved access to transit. The initial ¼-Cent Funding was approximately \$139.5 million dollars, of which \$21.8 million remains to be programmed.

Analysis

Staff from the Austin Transportation Department (ATD) and Public Works Department (PWD) developed a General Comprehensive Mobility Project Development process that can be adapted per the parameters of funding sources. Based on the direction given to staff in the Interlocal Agreement and Council Resolution, specific planning filters and prioritization factors were developed for the ¼-Cent Funding source to narrow the mobility needs assessment to specific project candidates (see Attachment 2: Quarter Cent Mobility Project Development Process).

The filtering and prioritization factors included mobility infrastructure needs within the overlap of school and transit stop service areas (0.25 mile), as well as needs within completed Corridor Mobility Preliminary Engineering Reports. Quantitative prioritization factors included improvements recommended within adopted Small Area Plans (Neighborhood Plans, etc.); improvements within a center or corridor identified by the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan; high traffic crash areas; whether improvements serve a critical arterial; and improvements on a MetroRapid Bus Service Route. Staff also considered specific requests made by Capital Metro.

In August and September of 2015, ATD and PWD staff met with the Mayor, Council Members, and their respective staff members to discuss the process, solicit feedback about the process, and inquire about Citywide and/or Council District-specific priorities. During this process the Council Member Top Priorities category was established based on eligible project candidates that did not fall within the filtering parameters. Other Council Member priorities were identified in the System Improvements and Grouped Mobility Projects Around Schools and Transit categories and are noted in the Council Member Priority column in Attachment 4. Projects that have a 'Yes' in the Council Member Priority column in the Staff Recommendation indicate that the prioritization process used aligns with what Council Members hear as priorities in their district. Projects that Council Members identified as priorities but did not make it into the staff recommendation are likely potential alternative projects to the staff recommendation.

Next Steps

As noted in the Attachment 2: Quarter Cent Mobility Project Development Process, approved projects for ¼-Cent funding will be coordinated with other planned work by the City, state-franchised utilities, and private development to maximize dig-once coordination opportunities. A change control process will be established in the case where approved projects by City Council have constructability conflicts and/or underruns, receive grant funding, and/or can be incorporated by another project.

The process and staff recommendation will be presented to the Urban Transportation Committee on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 and to the Mobility Committee on Monday, November 16, 2015 (Attachment 3: Quarter Cent Funding Overview and Staff Recommendation Presentation).

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Quarter Cent Funding Staff Recommendation

Attachment 2: Quarter Cent Mobility Project Development Process

Attachment 3: Quarter Cent Funding Overview and Staff Recommendation Presentation

Attachment 4: Staff Recommendation by District

CC:

Robert Goode, Assistant City Manager

Howard Lazarus, Public Works Department Director

Robert Hinojosa, Public Works Department Assistant Director

Rob Spillar, Austin Transportation Department Director

Gordon Derr, Austin Transportation Department Assistant Director