

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council		Item ID	62610	Agenda Number	35.
Meeting Date:	1/26/2017			Department:	Transportation
Subject					
Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority for the establishment of a public plaza and a permanent downtown rail station on 4 th Street, between Red River Street and Trinity Street, and to conduct the necessary process to establish two-way traffic on 5 th Street between IH 35 and Brazos Street. (District 9)					
Amount and Source of Funding					
Fiscal Note					
A fiscal note is not required.					
Purchasing Language:					
Prior Council Action:					
For More Information:	Robert Spillar, 512-974-2488, Lee Austin, 512-974-7681, Gilda Powers, 512-974-7092.				
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:					
MBE / WBE:					
Related Items:					
Additional Backup Information					
<p>The Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Capital Metro) operates a commuter rail system commonly known as MetroRail between Leander, Texas and downtown Austin. The existing commuter rail station for MetroRail is located adjacent to the Austin Convention Center on Fourth Street between Neches Street and Trinity Street. This rail station was located, designed, and constructed in 2008 as a temporary solution due to schedule, resources, and public process constraints.</p> <p>The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has recognized the importance of building a permanent downtown rail station and expanding the rail station to increase the frequency of service to downtown Austin, by providing a \$50,000,000 grant to Capital Metro for the design and construction of a permanent rail station and for the purchase of four rail vehicles to expand capacity and increase the frequency of services of the MetroRail.</p> <p>The growing population and increased public transportation needs require a permanent, larger, safer and improved rail station. The rail project is consistent with and supports the findings of the City's recent Mobility Talks Public Engagement initiative, the City's Vision Zero plan, and the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan.</p> <p>The City recognizes that the construction of a permanent rail station serves the interest of the citizen of the City of Austin by increasing access to public transportation, reducing congestion, and increasing public safety.</p> <p>This action asks Council to approve execution of this cooperation agreement to meet the scheduled deadline for completion of the project by the end of 2018. It directs the City Manager to conduct the necessary public effort to restrict access to portions of 4th Street between IH-35 and Trinity Streets. It requires Capital Metro to seek concurrence from Council prior to the start of construction.</p>					

To enhance mobility within the southeast portion of the downtown grid and to facilitate closure of 4th Street for the station, the City Manager is directed to initiate the process for converting 5th Street to two-way traffic between IH-35 and Brazos Street and incorporate input from stakeholders along the route. If that process indicates a positive outcome from conversion, the City Manager is directed to use the authority of the City Traffic Engineer to make the necessary operational changes.