

CIP

FISCAL NOTE

DATE OF COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

5/4/2017

CONTACT DEPARTMENT(S):

Austin Transportation Department

SUBJECT: Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Austin Transportation Department Operating Budget (Ordinance No. 20160914-001) in an amount not to exceed \$500,000; amending the Austin Transportation Department Capital Budget (Ordinance 20160914-002) to transfer in and appropriate up to \$500,000 from the Austin Transportation Department Operating Budget for the two-way conversion of East 5th Street to two lanes eastbound and one lane westbound from Brazos Street to IH 35 to reduce congestion and improve mobility in the downtown area; and authorizing the City Manager to initiate the conversion process and if warranted, to use the authority granted to the City Traffic Engineer to make the appropriate operational changes. (District 9)

CURRENT YEAR IMPACT:

Department:	Austin Transportation Department
Project Name:	2 way conversion of E. 5th Street
Funding Source:	Mobility Fund
Fund/Dept/Unit:	8400-2507-NEW
Current Appropriation:	0
Unencumbered Balance:	0
Amount of This Action:	500,000
Remaining Balance:	500,000

Total Amount Funded by CIP: 500,000

ANALYSIS / ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: In order to alleviate existing congestion and improve mobility in the downtown area, Austin Transportation Department (ATD) staff would like to convert East 5th Street between Brazos and IH 35 from one way eastbound to two eastbound lanes and one westbound lane. Doing so will greatly alleviate existing congestion issues that result from the routine closure of East 6th Street and provide alternate access into the downtown area from IH 35.

As the downtown core develops with more hotels and residences requiring access beyond standard business hours, this issue has become more important. In addition, the conversion of East 5th Street will provide additional access if the proposed Capital Metro Downtown Station results in the closure of East 4th Street. ATD staff has extensively modeled the proposed conversion using existing and future traffic volumes and have shown that the two way configuration provides superior access and reduced travel times.