



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Elaine Hart, Interim City Manager
Robert Goode, Assistant City Manager
Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager

FROM: Robert Spillar, P.E., Director, Austin Transportation Department
Jackie A. Sargent, General Manager, Austin Energy
Brian Manley, Interim Chief of Police, Austin Police Department

DATE: August 15, 2017

SUBJECT: Update on Council Resolution 20170518-043 regarding West Campus Lighting Study (CIUR 1899)

On May 18, 2017, City Council passed a resolution instructing the City Manager to conduct an extensive lighting inventory study in the West Campus area with a focus on pedestrian safety, resulting in recommendations for effective lighting strategies for both public and private properties in that area. This memo serves as the study update, due to Council by August 15.

The Austin Transportation Department (ATD), Austin Police Department (APD) and Austin Energy (AE) will collaborate to deliver a final report to Council in spring 2018, incorporating the lighting study with a public engagement process, a pedestrian crash analysis and a crime analysis of the West Campus area. These combined efforts will provide a better understanding of how pedestrian lighting may improve existing conditions related to crime and traffic safety.

ATD will serve as the lead agency on the public engagement effort, pedestrian crash analysis and final report compilation. The public engagement effort will include a community survey of West Campus residents and business owners, an interactive, online comment map, and community stakeholder meetings with UT campus safety stakeholders and West Campus residents and businesses. The pedestrian safety analysis will include a review of crash records over the last five years (2012-2016), including the location of crashes, types of crashes, demographic analysis and trends over time. These efforts will complement the West Campus/Guadalupe corridor study, which will be concluded shortly.

AE has identified a consultant, currently under contract to perform the lighting study. The scope of the lighting study scope will include an asset inventory and gap analysis to identify where pedestrian lighting is needed, including the optimal type, wattage and height of light placements.

APD will conduct a crime analysis to include reported crimes in the study area in the last five years (2012-2016), categorized by several factors that include demographics, type, location and time of day.

NEXT STEPS

ATD, with assistance from AE, is currently completing the scope of services for the lighting study. Once the scope is complete, the consultant will commence work. The study is expected to take approximately six (6) months to complete.

The public engagement process, which includes the community survey and development of the online comment tool, is expected to begin this fall, following completion of the pedestrian safety and crime analysis.

Staff will present recommendations, including anticipated costs, to Council in spring 2018.

Should you have any questions, please contact Joel Meyer, Pedestrian Coordinator, at (512) 974 – 7189 or joel.meyer@austintexas.gov.