

# ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

**CASE NUMBER:** C14H-2018-0014

**HLC DATE:**

December 18, 2017

February 26, 2018

**PC DATE:**

**APPLICANT:** Historic Landmark Commission

**HISTORIC NAME:** West Sixth Street Bridge over Shoal Creek

**WATERSHED:** Shoal Creek

**ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE:** Bridge over Shoal Creek in the 800 block of West Sixth Street.

**ZONING FROM:** P to P-H

**SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends the proposed zoning change from public (P) district to public – Historic Landmark (P-H) combining district zoning.

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION:**

Architecture, historical associations, community value.

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION:** December 18, 2017: Initiated historic zoning. Vote: 7-0 (Papavasiliou, Brown, and Hibbs absent).

**PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:**

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The bridge is listed as a Priority 1 for research in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984).

**CITY COUNCIL DATE:**

**ACTION:**

**ORDINANCE READINGS:** 1<sup>ST</sup> 2<sup>ND</sup> 3<sup>RD</sup>

**ORDINANCE NUMBER:**

**CASE MANAGER:** Steve Sadowsky

**PHONE:** 974-6454

**NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION:** Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association

**BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:**

**Architecture:**

The bridge over Shoal Creek on West Sixth Street is a three-span masonry arch structure constructed of rusticated limestone blocks on stone footings. It has a low stone parapet on the south side and a concrete curb and steel guardrail on the north side. The bridge is approximately 80 feet wide and approximately 90 feet long. The bridge deck has an asphalt surface. There are concrete sidewalks on both sides of the bridge.

**Historical Associations:**

The bridge was constructed in 1887 to replace the first bridge in Austin, a ca. 1872 iron bowstring truss bridge built by prominent landowner James H. Raymond to connect his property west of Shoal Creek to the center of town. The iron bridge apparently became obsolete, and the city contracted to replace it with the current masonry arch bridge in 1887. The width of the bridge matched the width of the street as laid out in Edwin Waller's 1839 plan

of Austin, and was spacious enough to accommodate wagons traveling in both directions as well as providing tracks for mule-drawn street cars. The bridge was crucial to the development of the areas to the west as residential districts, and its width allowed for the necessary vehicular traffic.

**Community Value:**

The Shoal Creek bridge occupies a prominent and unique location in the city; the Shoal Creek Trail passes under the bridge, providing a very high degree of exposure to the historic character of the structure.

**PARCEL NO.:** N/A

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** N/A

**ESTIMATED ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT:** N/A

**APPRAISED VALUE:** N/A

**PRESENT USE:** Bridge

**CONDITION:** Excellent

**PRESENT OWNER:** City of Austin

**DATE BUILT:** ca. 1887

**ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS:** The north parapet has been replaced with a concrete curb; numerous repairs to the bridge over the years, but none have compromised its integrity of design, materials, or feeling.

**ORIGINAL OWNER(S):** City of Austin (1887)

**OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS:** Individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places (2014).