



Recommendation for Action

File #: 18-3905, **Agenda Item #:** 55.

2/7/2019

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of interlocal agreements with the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System and Central Health relating to the realignment of portions of Red River Street between East 12th Street and East 32nd Street and the relocation of associated utilities and authorize the execution of rights of entry in support of the project.

Lead Department

Austin Transportation Department

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

Ordinance 20130829-036 approved the vacation of a tract of land in exchange for right-of-way as a realignment of Red River Street between East 15th Street and East Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and authorized execution of an interlocal agreement with the University of Texas related to the realignment.

For More Information:

Robert Spillar, 512-974-2488; Paul Terranova, 512-974-7163; Gilda Powers 512-974-7092.

Additional Backup Information:

The University of Texas - Austin (University) is planning for the development of a new arena to replace the Frank Erwin Center. The proposed new arena location will include a part of the existing Red River Street right-of-way. The University has requested that Red River Street between Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Dean Keeton Street be realigned to the west of the existing roadway to accommodate the development of the arena. The University's target to begin construction is August 2019.

Staff supports the University's request to realign Red River Street. Red River Street is a major thoroughfare from downtown Austin to north of the University and has been the subject of various planning documents. Realignment has been incorporated into the University Campus Master Plan, the UT Austin Medical District Plan, and the draft Austin Strategic Mobility Plan that is now under development. Central Health is in the process of redeveloping its campus between East 12th Street and East 15th Street. The University will be a major tenant of the redeveloped campus. City staff believes that realigning and straightening Red River Street between East 12th Street and East 32nd Street provides for improved transit connectivity. The portion of Red River Street from East 15th Street to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard was completed in connection with construction of the medical school.

The interlocal agreement will establish parameters related to the design and operation of the future right-of-way. Under the proposed interlocal agreement, the City and University will exchange rights-of-way under terms and conditions that are the subject of negotiation. The University will be solely responsible for construction costs, including the cost of

utility relocation, associated with the portions of roadway built by the University between Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Dean Keeton Street. Land required for the new alignment between East 12th Street and East 15th Street and at the intersection of Medical Arts Street and Red River Street is owned by Central Health and the University, respectively, and will need to be transferred to the City. The City and the University have discussed the possibility that the University would also construct those portions of Red River Street, the terms and conditions of which continue to be under discussion. If the City funds any portion of the design or construction of the roadway, the University will credit an amount agreed to by the parties toward the possible purchase of Lions Municipal Golf Course or to other agreed upon projects. To help the University meet its construction target date, the City agrees to provide a dedicated project facilitator to coordinate all City responsibilities for the project. As part of the negotiations, the City and the University will consult with Capital Metro regarding transit and roadway feature enhancements.

The staff also requests that the Council authorize the Manager to execute rights of entry to facilitate the interlocal agreement and early construction planning.

The ordinance transferring City right-of-way and the approval of future financial commitments of the City for the project will require further action by the Council.