

RESOLUTION NO. 20190808-075

WHEREAS, the Shoal Creek Trail is a 3.9-mile trail that follows Shoal Creek from 38th Street to Lady Bird Lake; and

WHEREAS, the Shoal Creek Trail serves as a critical path for multimodal commuters, recreational cyclists, pedestrians, and runners; and

WHEREAS, the Shoal Creek Conservancy worked with City staff, subject matter experts, and stakeholders to create the “Shoal Creek Trail: Vision to Action Plan” (the “Plan”); and

WHEREAS, the Plan outlines major project improvements, most notably the extension of the Shoal Creek Trail by nearly 9 miles to the north; and

WHEREAS, the Plan calls for connecting the Shoal Creek Trail to the Walnut Creek Trail, ultimately forming a 30-mile continuous loop of urban trails traversing the City from Lady Bird Lake to Walnut Creek Metropolitan Park; and

WHEREAS, throughout 2018, the Shoal Creek Conservancy and the Public Works Department presented the Plan to the Parks and Recreation Board, the Historic Landmark Commission, the Pedestrian Advisory Council, the Urban Transportation Commission, the Bicycle Advisory Council, the Downtown Commission, the Planning Commission, and to Council; and

WHEREAS, the Plan identifies several geographic focus areas; and

WHEREAS, one such focus area, the Cypress and Shoal Creek Project, begins where Shoal Creek flows into Lady Bird Lake and continues northward to West 5th Street; and

WHEREAS, the Cypress and Shoal Creek Project aims “to create a series of inviting public spaces and improve pedestrian and cyclist safety and connectivity in the rapidly transforming area of west Downtown Austin, located south of West 6th Street between Nueces and Seaholm Drive”; and

WHEREAS, a key feature in this focus area is the historic, wooden railroad trestle bridge spanning Shoal Creek just south of the new bicycle/pedestrian bridge; and

WHEREAS, with support from the Austin Parks Foundation and Spring Condominiums, the Shoal Creek Conservancy commissioned a structural and reuse evaluation study of the railroad trestle bridge, which was constructed in 1876 and then reconstructed in 1925; and

WHEREAS, the study concluded that the railroad trestle bridge could be rehabilitated and repurposed as a public space; and

WHEREAS, the goals for the Cypress and Shoal Creek Project focus area include:

- Preserve and repurpose the railroad trestle bridge.
- Construct the new, main trail to pass under the existing West 3rd Street bridges.

- Interpret the history of the Waterloo Settlement and its relationship with the railroad and Austin's communities of color.
- Improve or replace the contemporary 3rd Street bicycle/pedestrian bridge to provide a better, wider paved surface and possibly connect to the railroad trestle bridge to form a public plaza that joins the Lance Armstrong Bikeway and the Shoal Creek Trail.
- Ensure that the Trail can safely accommodate all ages and abilities.
- Improve bicycle and pedestrian safety along West Avenue, including the bridge that runs along West Avenue over Shoal Creek, just north of the Independent Condominiums at the 3rd Street and West Avenue intersection.
- Re-vegetate the creekscape with native, riparian trees, and grasses.
- Program nature tours and volunteer work days to learn about and maintain the Creek Corridor.
- Reconnect the improved Central Library reach of the Shoal Creek Trail from its current endpoint between 2nd and 3rd Streets to the new Trail improvements between West Avenue and West 5th Street; and

WHEREAS, the implementation strategies articulated in the Plan for this focus area call for:

- Integrating the Cypress Street Public Plazas concept into the improvements fronting the Independent Condominiums and 3rd + Shoal residential projects within the 3rd Street right-of-way.
- Managing public parking, public space programming, and security within the entire Seaholm/Lower Shoal Creek District.
- Extending the existing Seaholm Tax Increment Financing District term and purpose, extending its geographic area eastward to Nueces Street, and using this funding to implement projects such as:
 - the restoration and reuse of the railroad trestle bridge;
 - construction of the main Trail passing under the railroad trestle bridge;
 - the removal of the switchback ramp; and
 - the creation of the public plaza between West Avenue and Shoal Creek.

WHEREAS, the City has previously expressed interest in several individual goals and elements of the Cypress and Shoal Creek Project focus area, such as the creation of a Public Plaza Program (Resolution No. 20181018-037), addressing shifting modes of transportation by incentivizing transit use (Resolution No. 20181213-044), and accelerating the timetables for planned bicycle, scooter, transit, and tier one urban trail infrastructure projects (Resolution No. 20190328-040); and

WHEREAS, as the City moves forward in achieving robust sustainability goals and multimodal and transit independence, completing the Cypress and Shoal Creek

Project will provide enhanced connectivity, cohesion, and conviviality in a dense and dynamic portion of Downtown; and

WHEREAS, while private support will help fund this Project, advancing these goals and implementation strategies for this Project will require cross-collaboration between many City Departments; and; **NOW, THEREFORE:**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

City Council directs the City Manager to review the Cypress and Shoal Creek Project and make a recommendation relative to the overall prioritized needs of the City. The City Manager is instructed to work in partnership with the Shoal Creek Conservancy and the Downtown Austin Alliance, and to streamline City processes, wherever applicable. The City Manager is directed to include an update on the progress of the Seaholm Intake Facility restoration project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

City Council directs the City Manager to conduct a feasibility and financial analysis of the Cypress and Shoal Project, Seaholm Intake Facility, as well as other appropriate projects within and proximate to the Seaholm TIF District. In conducting this analysis, the City Manager is directed to consider multiple options for the funding of projects, including but not limited to, philanthropic funding, parks and mobility bonds, parkland dedication funds, hotel occupancy tax heritage tourism and preservation funding, as well as the extension of the Seaholm Tax Increment Financing District's

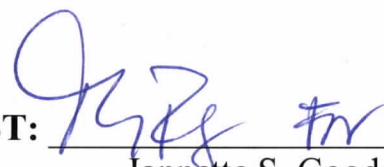
term, purpose, and geographic area eastward to Nueces Street and south to include the Seaholm Intake Facility located on parkland to help partially fund the Cypress and Shoal Creek Project improvements consistent with financial policies regarding Tax Increment Financing as adopted or amended by City Council..

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

City Council directs the City Manager to provide Council no later than the end of this fiscal year: (1) a detailed update, in memorandum format, of the progress of the Cypress and Shoal Creek and other identified projects, and (2) an update, in memorandum format, of the progress of the feasibility and financial analysis conducted in response to this resolution, as well as other private and public funding sources available to the Cypress and Shoal Project as well as other appropriate projects within and proximate to the District.

ADOPTED: August 8, 2019

ATTEST:



Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk