



Recommendation for Action

File #: 19-2765, **Agenda Item #:** 63.

11/14/2019

Posting Language

Conduct a public hearing to gather feedback about the State required non-radioactive hazardous materials route designation study and its draft recommended route through Austin and approve a resolution approving the recommended route.

Lead Department

Austin Transportation Department

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

Resolution No. 20131212-075 - directing City Manager to launch the formal process to designate Hazardous Materials routes in Austin was approved on consent on a 7-0 vote.

Resolution No. 20130620-055 - directing City Manager to assess the public health risk from the transport of hazardous materials through Austin was approved on consent on a 7-0 vote.

For More Information:

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Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

September 26, 2016, presentation to the Public Safety Commission - no action taken

October 5, 2016, presentation to the Council Mobility Committee - no action taken

January 29, 2019, presentation to the Travis County Commissioners' Court - no action taken

April 8, 2019, presentation to the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board (CAMPO) - no action taken

Additional Backup Information:

Due to the size of its population, the City of Austin is required by Texas law to designate a Non-Radioactive Hazardous Materials (NRHM) route for transportation of non-radioactive, hazardous cargo through Austin. The City is responsible for designating the route within Austin city limits, as well as Austin's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). Examples of the types of materials being transported include basic household chemicals, gasoline, paint products, automotive and machinery products, etc. and this effort is focused on establishing through-routes for NRHM cargo trucks passing through Austin rather than trucks making stops at destinations within Austin.

The Austin Transportation Department initiated a study to determine the recommended route. The purpose of this study is to identify an NRHM route that will achieve the following goals without unduly burdening commerce:

- Minimize potential for vehicular incidents involving NRHM

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- Minimize consequences to the community should an NRHM incident occur
 - Maximize public safety in relation to NRHM transport

The public involvement and outreach process have included two stand-alone open houses, two presentations to local emergency planning committees, other presentations (CAMPO Technical Advisory Council-TAC, CAMPO Transportation Policy Board, Travis County Commissioners' Court, Council Mobility Committee, Public Safety Commission), as well as extensive public outreach through the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan public events.

This public hearing will gather feedback about the draft recommended route designation. After addressing public feedback during the same council meeting as the public hearing, staff will recommend Council move to endorse a recommended route and submit the route recommendations to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for review and approval. TxDOT's review process will include a separate public comment period and hearing. During this time, City staff will develop an ordinance to enforce the NRHM route designation. Once TxDOT approves the route designation, staff will deploy signage and begin enforcing the route.

The draft recommended route designation crosses through Council districts 1, 2, 3, 5, and 8.

Backup documentation is included with this RCA: Draft recommended route designation map and process documentation presentation (from CAMPO Transportation Policy Board on April 8, 2019).