



**June 4, 2020**

## Questions and Answers Report



**Mayor Steve Adler**

**Mayor Pro Tem Delia Garza, District 2**

**Council Member Natasha Harper-Madison, District 1**

**Council Member Sabino "Pio" Renteria, District 3**

**Council Member Gregorio Casar, District 4**

**Council Member Ann Kitchen, District 5**

**Council Member Jimmy Flannigan, District 6**

**Council Member Leslie Pool, District 7**

**Council Member Paige Ellis, District 8**

**Council Member Kathie Tovo, District 9**

**Council Member Alison Alter, District 10**

*The City Council Questions and Answers Report was derived from a need to provide City Council Members an opportunity to solicit clarifying information from City Departments as it relates to requests for council action. After a City Council Regular Meeting agenda has been published, Council Members will have the opportunity to ask questions of departments via the City Manager's Agenda Office. This process continues until 5:00 p.m. the Tuesday before the Council meeting. The final report is distributed at noon to City Council the Wednesday before the council meeting.*

## QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL

**Item #9:** Authorize award of a multi-term contract with United Rentals (North America) Inc. D/B/A United Rentals Inc., to provide the rental of portable toilets, for up to five years for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,575,000.

### COUNCIL MEMBER TOVO's OFFICE

1. *As we continue social distancing precautions, it is likely that special events that require portable toilets will decrease this year and possibly next year. Is the contract structured in such a way that the City is only charged based on actual deployment of the portable toilets?*

Yes, the contract is structured so the City is only charged on actual units used and service frequencies of those units.

2. *Does the contract also include handwashing stations, in addition to portable toilets?*

Yes, the contract will include handwashing stations.

3. *According to the City's Basic Needs Map, the City is currently providing portable toilets and handwashing stations at Terrazas Library, Little Walnut Creek Library, Ruiz Branch Library, Mabel Davis District Park, etc. Which Department is currently funding portable toilets for individuals experiencing homelessness as part of our COVID-19 response efforts?*

We reviewed purchases on the current contract and could not locate any purchases that have descriptions with the locations listed. However, the funding for portable toilets at locations listed was provided by the Homelessness Taskforce through Austin Public Health. We were not able to find any specific purchases on the current contract for COVID-19 responses. Many of the homeless needs during the COVID-19 emergency declaration have gone through the Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) office and have not been part of the existing contract.

4. *Was Austin Public Health invited to participate in this multi-department contract?*

Yes, all departments had the opportunity to participate prior to the solicitation being issued. Departments who opted not to participate initially can also be added throughout the contract term if their needs change.

**Item #17:** Authorize award and execution of a construction contract with Rider Construction Group, LLC, for the ADA Sidewalk Rehabilitation Group 2 Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity contract in the amount of \$4,000,000 for an initial one-year term, with two, one-year extension options of \$4,000,000 each, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$12,000,000.

### COUNCIL MEMBER ELLIS' OFFICE

*The RFA states, "projects will be located citywide in all Districts." If the contract is approved, what are the anticipated projects?*

A preliminary list for the first round of potential projects includes:

- Northeast Drive - 290 to Auburndale
- Parkfield - Payton Gin to Mearns Meadows
- Red River and E 41st area - rehab and gaps
- Waller, E 3rd, Holly area
- W 12th, Shoal Creek and West area
- Webberville and Fort Branch
- Guadalupe and E St Johns
- Robert T Martinez Cesar Chavez to E 5th
- Chicon - Cesar Chavez to Manor
- Harvey, Alexander, E 14th area
- MLK - Chestnut to Alexander
- North Loop and 53rd - Airport to Lamar
- Rosewood - 11th to Bedford
- Rundberg - N Lamar to Desau
- Rutland - Parkfield to Lamar
- Manor/Dean Keaton - Red River to Airport
- Shoal Creek Blvd - Lamar to W 12th

These projects were identified based on condition assessments and Sidewalk Plan prioritization. There will likely be several dozen assignments over the full duration of the contract.

*Please note this is an Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract. At any given time there are several active IDIQ sidewalk contracts, as well as Street and Bridge crews working on sidewalk projects. Assignments will be made to this contract based on the next project that is permitted and ready to go when the contract is approved and becomes active. So it's not possible to provide a comprehensive list of assignments for this contract prior to execution.*

*The Sidewalk Program website <https://austintexas.gov/sidewalks> does include an interactive map of "UPCOMING SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION" that includes work being done in the near term under all the different IDIQ sidewalk contracts*

**Item #40:** Approve a resolution adopting the COVID-19 proposed spending framework for the use of all available federal and local funding that leverages and maximizes the benefit of federal COVID-19 relief funding and local funding.

#### COUNCIL MEMBER TOVO's OFFICE

1. *Is the RENT program eligible for residents who rent or rent-to-own their manufactured homes? Would the RENT program cover the rent associated with the lot, as well as the home?*

The RENT program is intended to stabilize tenants in their homes, regardless of the housing typology. Tenants participating in the RENT program may live in multifamily, single-family structures, or mobile home communities (Response provided by NHCD).

2. *At what point will staff decide if households that reside long-term in hotels / motels will be eligible in this second round of RENT?*

Staff has determined that residents of long-term (extended stay) hotels/motels may be eligible for the RENT program. Staff is currently exploring the acceptable form(s) of documentation that will be required in order to evidence the living arrangement and to authorize payment to the lodging establishment (Response provided by NHCD).

3. *In regard to the Rental Assistance Program under the Economic Support Category, please provide more information about the portion of the program that allocates \$2 million to “landlords that enter into long-term leases with tenants that deliver community benefits.” Is this available to both commercial and residential landlords? Is the “community benefit” a long-term lease? What is the length of the term? What other stipulations are required for the landlord to be eligible for participation?*

Economic Development Department program targets commercial landlords. Grants to landlords up to \$40,000 that agree to enter into long-term leases of at least one-year with tenants that deliver community benefits, i.e. preservation of community assets in vulnerable communities. City Council has directed staff across several resolutions to support and preserve spaces for the creative sector, locally-owned small businesses, and retailers that provide healthy food in underserved areas.

Here is a summary of the information you requested re: the Austin Economic Injury Bridge Loan Program:

1. Number of inquiries: 1,117
2. Number of applications sent to borrowers: 683
3. Number of completed applications received: 125
4. Number of applications approved: 52 (totaling \$1,739,150)
5. Number of applications denied: 58
6. Number of applications under review: 15
7. Reason for the loan denials:
  1. Failure to meet federal cash flow requirements (1.2X based on monthly rent)
  2. Poor credit score

Also, here's some general info on small businesses in Austin:

1. 41,000 small businesses employ 155,000 Austinites
2. 17 employees on average
3. Median years in business 6-10 years
4. Landing a City loan or grant translates to a commitment for 12 months to retain employees, which prevents unemployment and helps Austinites recover from the financial crisis caused by the health crisis (Response provided by EDD).



### Council Question and Answer

Related To	Item #9	Meeting Date	June 4, 2020
Additional Answer Information			

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#### **QUESTION/ANSWER:** Council Member Tovo's Office

- As we continue social distancing precautions, it is likely that special events that require portable toilets will decrease this year and possibly next year. Is the contract structured in such a way that the City is only charged based on actual deployment of the portable toilets?*

Yes, the contract is structured so the City is only charged on actual units used and service frequencies of those units.
- Does the contract also include handwashing stations, in addition to portable toilets?*

Yes, the contract will include handwashing stations.
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- Was Austin Public Health invited to participate in this multi-department contract?*

Yes, all departments had the opportunity to participate prior to the solicitation being issued. Departments who opted not to participate initially can also be added throughout the contract term if their needs change.



### Council Question and Answer

Related To	Item #17	Meeting Date	June 4, 2020
Additional Answer Information			

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**QUESTION/ANSWER:** Council Member Ellis' Office

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## Council Question and Answer

Related To

Item #40

Meeting Date

June 4, 2020

### Additional Answer Information

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#### QUESTION/ANSWER: Council Member Tovo's Office

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### Council Question and Answer

**Related To**

Item #47

**Meeting Date**

June 11, 2020

### Additional Answer Information

Authorize award and execution of a construction contract with Austin Materials, LLC, for the Miscellaneous Streets Maintenance Overlay Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity contract, in the amount of \$6,000,000 for an initial one-year term, with three, one-year extension options of \$6,000,000 each, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$24,000,000. [Note: This contract will be awarded in compliance with City Code Chapter 2-9A (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) by meeting the goals with 9.18% MBE and 0.65% WBE participation.]

#### **QUESTION/ANSWER:** Council Member Ellis' Office

*The RFA states, "Projects will be located Citywide, in all Districts." If the contract is approved, what are the anticipated projects?*

This is an Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity contract for annual street preventive maintenance overlays, which will be active for four (4) years. The list of candidate streets for the FY 2020 Service Plan are provided below. The project listing for future years is not available at this time- hence the department has chosen the IDIQ contract mechanism.

#### FY2020 Contract Overlay Project List

- BRAKER LN W to RESEARCH BLVD SVC RD NB – 4.05 miles
- 1ST ST S and DITTMAR RD to SLAUGHTER LN W – 4.39 miles
- CROMWELL CIR to WICKERSHAM LN – 2.11 miles
- MOHLE DR and JEFFERSON ST to OAKMONT BLVD – 0.36 miles
- SOUTHWEST PKWY to TECOMA CIR – 17.43 miles
- MANOR RD and AIRPORT BLVD to SPRINGDALE RD – 12.57 miles
- 1ST ST S and BEN WHITE SVC RD EB W to STASSNEY LN W – 5.78 miles