

OPERATING BUDGET FISCAL NOTE

DATE OF COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:
CONTACT DEPARTMENT(S):
FUND:

4/22/21
Austin Transportation
Mobility

SUBJECT: Approve an ordinance waiving \$29,000 in fees for the installation of lamppost banners along Congress Avenue Bridge and Congress Avenue from Riverside Drive to 11th Street.

CURRENT YEAR IMPACT:

Fees Waived:

\$29,000	Lamppost Banner Installation Fees (Austin Transportation)
\$29,000	Total Fees Waived

ANALYSIS / ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: In mid-December 2020, the Downtown Austin Alliance (DAA) contacted the City of Austin Transportation Department (ATD) to explore a potential partnership on a project in the form of a City Council-approved Street Banner fee waiver. ATD manages the Street Banner Program for the City, including the administration, permitting, installation, and removal of lamppost and over-the-street banners for approved and paying customers. The intent of the project is to honor and celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Governor Ann Richards' inauguration and install the banners the month of March, which is Women's History Month.

Resolution No. 20210127-055, approved on an 11/0 vote, directed the City Manager to create an interdepartmental team to identify immediate interventions which could create positive change and help reactivate Downtown, to provide \$30,000 in funding, and to waive \$6,000 fees for banner installation. This initial resolution did not capture the entire fee waiver for the complete installation of lamppost banners along Congress Avenue, hence the accompanying Resolution 20210304-066 waiving the additional \$23,000.

Resolution 20210304-066, approved on consent, directed the City Manager to draft an ordinance waiving up to \$23,000 in additional fees for the installation of 46 lampposts along Congress Avenue from Riverside to 11th Street by the Downtown Austin Alliance Foundation in March 2021.

The waiver of these fees results in unrealized revenue for the Austin Transportation Department. Although budgeted revenue for fees is based upon historical data and not necessarily upon specific events, the waiver of these fees reduces potential revenues that could be realized.