



## Recommendation for Action

**File #: 22-3703, Agenda Item #: 55.**

**12/8/2022**

### **Posting Language**

Approve a resolution authorizing the negotiation and execution of an agreement with the United States Department of Transportation Build America Bureau to provide technical assistance on potential federal funding strategies that support the implementation of Austin's mobility capital improvement programs.

### **Lead Department:**

Corridor Program Office.

### **Fiscal Note:**

This item has no fiscal impact. No City funding match is required.

### **For More Information:**

Mike Trimble, Corridor Program Office, (512) 974-3442; Kathryn Potenza-Arnold, Corridor Program Office, (512) 974-7967.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

Austin currently ranks second in the nation for fastest growing economies and is anticipated to double its population and travel demand by 2045. Since 2016, the City of Austin and its partner agencies, such as the Texas Department of Transportation, Capital Metro, Austin Transit Partnership, and Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, have committed unprecedented investments into mobility; however, the needs still outweigh the available funding sources. Proactive and enhanced coordination with federal, state, and local partners is necessary to achieve the goals outlined in the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan, Imagine Austin, and Strategic Direction 2023.

The City seeks to enter into a strategic partnership with the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Build America Bureau to provide heightened technical assistance to help facilitate the identification of additional potential financing opportunities for Austin's planned multi-billion, multi-agency mobility investments.

Under an agreement, usually called an Emerging Projects Agreement, the USDOT Build America Bureau will support the City and its partner agencies in exploring alternative financing opportunities, such as USDOT assistance, credit, or grant programs. Projects that could benefit from technical assistance provided through the Emerging Projects Agreement include, but are not limited to, the I-35 Cap and Stitch Program (Our Future 35), Corridor Mobility Program, Vision Zero Program, Project Connect, Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA) 2040 Master Plan, and other City mobility improvement projects of significance.

City departments and partner agencies leading Austin's major mobility capital improvement programs have and will continue to evaluate and pursue federal funding opportunities, such as those provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation, as appropriate for their given initiatives. An Emerging Project Agreement would supplement departmental and agency efforts with technical assistance to further fortify the exploration of federal funding and financing opportunities.

An Emerging Projects Agreement does not obligate the City to provide funding commitments. The primary

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deliverable of this agreement will be recommended financing strategies that leverage federal funding opportunities in support of the large mobility capital improvements programs such as those indicated. Staff will bring any related financing opportunity recommendations and requests to Council for further consideration and approval as warranted.

**Strategic Outcome(s):**

Mobility