



Recommendation for Action

File #: 23-1843, **Agenda Item #:** 39.

5/18/2023

Posting Language

Approve a resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) 2023 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program to fund projects to fill in small- to medium-sized sidewalk, bikeway, and shared-used path gaps, remove Americans with Disability Act barriers, and make Safe Routes to School improvements on and near TxDOT right-of-way.

Lead Department

Transportation and Public Works Department.

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

Ordinance No. 20141106-118 adopting the 2014 Bicycle Master Plan as a component of the Austin Metropolitan Area Transportation Plan (AMATP) and the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan was approved on a 6-0 vote with Council Member Spelman absent.

Ordinance No. 20160616-072 adopting an updated Sidewalk Master Plan / ADA Transition Plan was approved on a 9-0 vote with Council Member Zimmerman abstaining and Council Member Gallo off the dais.

Ordinance No. 20190411-033 amending the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan by adopting the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP) was approved as amended on an 11-0 vote.

Ordinance No. 20220609-052 amending the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (Ordinance No. 20190411-033) and amending the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan was approved as amended on a 10-0 vote with Council Member Renteria abstaining.

For More Information:

Richard Mendoza, Interim Director, 512-974-2488; Pirouz Moin, Assistant Director, 512-974-8769; Gilda Powers, Administrative Manager, 512-974-7092.

Additional Backup Information:

The Transportation and Public Works Department (TPW) intends to submit a grant application to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for the 2023 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Program Call for Projects, which was established to provide grants to eligible public sector agencies focused on active transportation network enhancements. TxDOT administers TA funds for locally sponsored bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure projects in communities across the state.

TPW seeks \$25,000,000 in TA grant funding for a package of projects to fill in small to medium sized sidewalk, bikeway, and shared used path gaps, remove Americans with Disability Act (ADA) barriers, and make Safe Routes to School improvements on and near TxDOT right-of-way. Project selection is based on priority areas in the City of Austin's Sidewalk, Bike, and ADA Transition Plan, the Safe Routes to School Infrastructure

Report, and focus on improving access and safety along TxDOT right-of-way.

If successful and the funds are awarded, the City will be required to contribute 20 percent (\$5,000,000) in matching funds. In that event, staff will return to Council in 2023 to seek authorization to accept state funds and to contribute the matching City funds. Matching funds are available from the 2018 Mobility Bond and the 2020 Safety and Active Transportation Bond.

The proposed safety and accessibility improvements in TxDOT right-of-way is planned as the third City of Austin application for TA funds administered by TxDOT for FY23.