



Recommendation for Action

File #: 23-1801, **Agenda Item #:** 22.

6/1/2023

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of all documents and instruments necessary or desirable for the fee simple acquisition of an approximately 8.562 acre tract of land that begins at Vinson Drive, south of Ben White Boulevard, and ends just west of Highway 183 and is known locally as the Bergstrom Spur, from Union Pacific Railroad Company, for a total amount not to exceed \$2,220,000, including closing costs.

Lead Department

Financial Services Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Capital Budget of the Parks and Recreation Department and the Transportation Public Works Department.

For More Information:

Michael Gates, Financial Services Department, 512-974-5639; Cathy Curtis, Financial Services Department, 512-974-7170; Ann DeSanctis, Transportation Public Works Department, 512-974-3102; Randy Scott, Park and Recreation Department, 512-974-9484.

Additional Backup Information:

This acquisition is for parks and recreation purposes. The Bergstrom Spur is a railroad right-of-way varying in width from 50 to 200 feet lying south of Ben White Boulevard running in an east/west direction. It branches off of the main Union Pacific Railroad near Vinson Drive and extends eastward to U.S. Highway 183. This land is being acquired by the Parks and Recreation Department on behalf of the Urban Trails program as part of the development of the Bergstrom Spur Urban Trail Network. The acquisition of this piece of abandoned rail corridor is a significant step forward in the trail's realization. Once complete, the Bergstrom Spur Trail will provide a paved, Americans with Disabilities Act accessible, bikeway and pedestrian way that is approximately 6.5 miles long and connects Vinson Drive to East Riverside Drive and US-183, along with many other parks, neighborhoods, and destinations. A portion this project's funding will be provided by Proposition C of the 2018 Bond.

An independent, third-party appraisal was procured to establish the fair-market valuation of the proposed acquisition. The appraisal supports the purchase price of \$2,200,000. The amount of the purchase price plus closing costs is not to exceed \$2,220,000.