



Recommendation for Action

File #: 23-2169, Agenda Item #: 2.

7/20/2023

Posting Language

Approve a resolution authorizing the negotiation and execution of an Advance Funding Agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation for the required relocation and adjustments of existing Austin Energy electric facilities along US 290 and SH 71 under the Oak Hill Parkway project for a total estimated cost of \$5,527,002.36, plus any cost overruns.

Lead Department

Austin Energy

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Capital Budget of Austin Energy.

For More Information:

Lisa Martin, Acting Deputy General Manager & Chief Operating Officer, 512-322-6457; Elaine Veselka, Acting Vice President Electric System Engineering & Technical Services, 512-322-6667; Amy Everhart, Local Government Issues Director, 512-322-6087

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

June 12, 2023- Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission on an 8-0 vote with Commissioners Bowen and Hopkins absent and one vacancy.

Additional Backup Information:

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is building an upgraded, state-of-the-art roadway consisting of two to three US 290 main lanes for through traffic in each direction, as well as two to three frontage road lanes in each direction, known as TxDOT's Oak Hill Parkway Project (Project). Along SH 71, the flyover ramps will extend past Scenic Brook Drive where the main lanes will transition to a five-lane highway (three lanes northbound, two lanes southbound) with U-turns for local access. Significant bicycle and pedestrian accommodations will be built along the entire corridor, including 14 miles of shared-use path and 1.5 miles of sidewalk. An overpass for the US 290 main lanes over William Cannon Drive will be built, along with new flyovers between US 290 and SH 71. At this location, the US 290 main lanes will be lowered under SH 71 and new landscaping, tree plantings and corridor aesthetics will be part of the construction plan.

Austin Energy's existing pole line and electric facilities are required to be adjusted to accommodate TxDOT's roadway improvements (the "Adjustment"). Utilities are reimbursed for relocation if the infrastructure is on an interstate, toll road, or within land in which the utility has property interest. The Adjustment for the Oak Hill Parkway project is not associated with an interstate or toll road, and it is within TxDOT right-of-way by permit. Thus, AE is responsible for the cost. AE was originally going to complete the Adjustment work; however, due to crew shortages, TxDOT and AE have agreed that the Adjustments will be made by TxDOT's contractor as part of the Project. This agreement provides the mechanism for AE to pay TxDOT for the cost of the Adjustment, and it allows TxDOT to manage the timing of their Project. Austin Energy will ensure that the Adjustment is completed by an AE-approved qualified electrical contractor.

The time for completion of the Adjustment work is dependent upon TxDOT and its contract for construction for the Project.