

OPERATING BUDGET FISCAL NOTE

CONTACT DEPARTMENT(S):

Transportation and Public Works Department

FUND:

Special Revenue

SUBJECT: Authorize negotiation and execution of a grant agreement with the United States Department of Transportation for \$1,120,000 for the Our Future 35: Connecting Austin Equitably Mobility Study; approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Transportation and Public Works Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20220817-004) to accept grant funds from the United States Department of Transportation Reconnecting Communities Grant Program in the amount of \$1,120,000; and amending the Transportation and Public Works Department Capital Budget (Ordinance No. 20220817-004) to transfer in and appropriate \$1,120,000 in grant funds and to transfer in and appropriate \$280,000 from the Transportation and Public Works Department Operating Budget for the Our Future 35: Connecting Austin Equitably Mobility Study.

CURRENT YEAR IMPACT:

	2022-23 Approved	This Action	2022-23 Amended
Special Revenue Fund			
Reconnecting Communities Pilot Planning Grant			
Grant Period: 10/2023-09/2025	0	1,120,000	1,120,000
Total	0	1,120,000	1,120,000
FTEs	0.00	0.00	0.00

FIVE-YEAR IMPACT:

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Total Revenue	1,120,000	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditures	1,120,000	0	0	0	0
Net Impact	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS / ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: In October 2022, the City sought funding for planning needs associated with the I-35 Cap and Stitch initiative, in the form of the Our Future 35: Connecting Equitably Mobility Study, from the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) program. In February 2023, USDOT notified the City that it had received a Planning Grant award in the amount of \$1,120,000.

The RCP program is part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the most significant federal transportation investment made in decades, that provides discretionary funding for planning and capital construction. Funds for the Fiscal Year 2022 RCP Program planning grants were awarded on a competitive basis for projects that reconnect communities by removing, retrofitting, or mitigating highways or other transportation facilities that create barriers to community connectivity, including mobility, access, or economic development.

Our Future 35 will provide transformational new infrastructure for the City that is of regional and national significance. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is investing \$4.7 billion to lower and reconstruct I-35 through central Austin. Seizing upon this opportunity, the City's Our Future 35 project is a community-centered plan for civic spaces over I-35. The City and its partners will continue to seek support in future discretionary grant applications associated with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Specifically, the Our Future 35: Connecting Austin Equitably Mobility Study will ensure that new infrastructure over I-35 connects seamlessly to surrounding cultural and transportation networks.

This mobility study will uncover strategic actions and recommendations for infrastructure improvements including, but not limited to, the following: Identify how new caps and stitches will tie into surrounding multimodal

transportation networks (including vehicular, transit, bike, pedestrian, and recreational networks) to provide equitable mobility options and unlock access for people in a historically underserved areas to safely access transit, schools, employment centers, and other vital destinations; identify supportive mobility improvements to affordable housing, local businesses, other community benefits and anti-displacement efforts; extend our understanding of transit needs and priorities for serving the new destinations created with caps and stitch amenities; and evaluate the environmental justice and health impacts of proposed transportation investments on residents, including improved air quality, increased shade, easy access to transportation options, and connectivity to healthy food options.

The Our Future 35: Connecting Austin Equitably Mobility Study project limits align with TxDOT's Capital Express Central segment between SH 71 (Ben White Boulevard) and US 290 East.

The General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budgeted to this grant. When the grant funds expire, the department's need for continuing funding will be evaluated and may be denied.