



Recommendation for Action

File #: 23-2952, **Agenda Item #:** 4.

10/19/2023

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an Advance Funding Agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation for City requested water and wastewater capacity improvements associated with the Interstate Highway 35 Capital Express Central (Lady Bird Lake Section) Roadway Project in the amount of \$11,631,654.57 plus a 10% contingency of \$1,163,165.46, for a total amount not to exceed \$12,794,820.03.

Lead Department

Capital Delivery Services Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Capital Budget of Austin Water.

For More Information:

Adewale Odufuye, 512-974-7119; Aldo Ranzani 512-972-1122.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

October 11, 2023 - To be reviewed by the Water and Wastewater Commission.

Additional Backup Information:

The Texas Department of Transportation ("TxDOT") IH-35 Capital Express Central Roadway Project includes the relocation of existing water and wastewater lines along IH-35 from Holly Street to SH 71/Ben White Boulevard. In accordance with the regulations for federally funded projects, TxDOT is responsible for providing 100% of the engineering and construction costs as well as reimbursing the City for inspection and administrative cost of relocating approximately 24,100 linear feet ("LF") of water lines and 10,700 LF of wastewater lines and appurtenances within the IH-35 right-of-way.

In addition to the relocation project, City staff have been working with TxDOT to identify opportunities to improve the City's water and wastewater system during construction of the IH-35 project. The requested upgrades and additions are considered "betterments" and will be constructed by TxDOT as part of the project and funded by Austin Water Department. Building the City requested improvements in conjunction with TxDOT's construction will reduce impacts to the public and reduce costs compared to a stand-alone City project. These City requested improvements will enable Austin Water to better serve the growing Austin metropolitan area and will enhance the system's resiliency. Of the entire 24,100 LF of water lines and 10,700 LF of wastewater lines, the betterment portion consists of constructing about 19,800 LF of water lines, and approximately 3,200 LF of wastewater lines and construction of new appurtenances including service lines, manholes, gate valves, wet connections, and air release valves within the project limits.

Using Advanced Funding Agreements to fund City requested improvements is common. The City has executed at least six Advanced Funding Agreements with TxDOT in the last 2-3 years, including the IH-35 North and South projects, Oak Hill Parkway, and Loop 360.

The construction of the roadway improvement of IH-35 from Holly Street to SH 71/Ben White Boulevard is

tentatively scheduled to start within six to eight months after the TxDOT letting process starts. The letting process is tentatively scheduled for March 2024. The water and wastewater line relocations and construction are scheduled to be done first as part of the roadway improvement construction. All dates are dependent upon TxDOT design and construction contracts.