



**December 14, 2023**

## Questions and Answers Report



Mayor Kirk Watson

Council Member Natasha Harper-Madison, District 1

Council Member Vanessa Fuentes, District 2

Council Member José Velásquez, District 3

Council Member Josè “Chito” Vela, District 4

Council Member Ryan Alter, District 5

Council Member Mackenzie Kelly, District 6

Council Member Leslie Pool, District 7

Council Member Paige Ellis, District 8

Council Member Zohaib “Zo” Qadri, District 9

Council Member Alison Alter, District 10

*The City Council Questions and Answers Report was derived from a need to provide City Council Members an opportunity to solicit clarifying information from City Departments as it relates to requests for council action. After a City Council Regular Meeting agenda has been published, Council Members will have the opportunity to ask questions of departments via the City Manager's Agenda Office. This process continues until 5:00 p.m. the Tuesday before the Council meeting. The final report is distributed at noon to City Council the Wednesday before the council meeting.*

## QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL

### **Item 10, 60, 61, 62 (Related Items):**

**Item 10:** Approve a resolution declaring the City of Austin's official intent to reimburse itself from proceeds of tax-exempt obligations to be issued for expenditures in the total amount of \$15,445,000.

**Item 60:** Approve a resolution authorizing negotiation and execution of an advance funding agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation for engineering and design study for cap and stitch improvements on the IH-35 Capital Express project for a total estimated cost of \$1,818,334 with the City's share of the costs estimated to be \$166,667 plus any cost overruns.

**Item 61:** Approve a resolution authorizing negotiation and execution of an advance funding agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation for the City to contribute \$15,445,000, for 30% of the design and other associated costs of cap and stitch structures to be integrated into the IH-35 Capital Express Central Project. Related to Item #62.

**Item 62:** Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Transportation and Public Works Capital Budget (Ordinance No. 20230816-008) to increase appropriations by \$15,445,000 for the integration of cap and stitch structures into the design of IH-35 Capital Express Central Project. Related to Item #61.

MAYOR PRO TEM ELLIS' OFFICE

*1) What is the intended source of funding for the \$15.4M for cap & stitch 30% design to be given to TxDOT with these actions? Are previously voter-approved bonds under consideration or only future voter-approved bonds?*

The options for reimbursing the expense for the \$15.4m budget amendment would include (in order of preference):

- Federal grant funds
- Future voter-approved bonds
- Cash from reserve funds or the operating budget of the Transportation and Public Works Department or the General Fund (only recommended if design work proceeds but the project does not get built)
- TIFIA loan (must be backed by voter approved bonds, or certificates of obligation)
- Certificates of obligation (not recommended)

*2) What was the funding source for the previous \$4M, and at what Council meeting was that action taken?*

- FY 23 Austin Transportation Department Operating Budget, \$1.438 million for feasibility studies.

- Grant award, Federal Earmark-Community Benefit, \$1.5 million, December 8, 2022, Ordinance No. 20221208-054
- Grant award, Planning Reconnecting Communities, \$1.12 million, September 21, 2023, Ordinance No. 20230912-098

*3) If the City does not identify enough funding for the construction of caps and stitches, what happens to this \$15.4M?*

The \$15.4 million will be applied to 30% design of cap and stitch structures. Based on City prioritization and phasing decisions, TxDOT will apply any remaining, unused design funds toward future City funding commitments to include the balance of \$19M required by TxDOT by December 2024 to complete the cap and stitch 100 percent design. As the design progresses, those funds are considered expended and non-refundable.

*4) If “staff will commence work in early 2024 to develop for Council consideration a prioritization/phasing strategy for City-funded caps and stitch elements,” and if the Our Future 35 planning effort was “a foundational starting point for commencing robust, community-wide public engagement in 2024,” what is the timeline for Council’s decision-making on cap & stitch prioritization and phasing?*

Staff expects to bring phasing/prioritization options to Council for consideration by March 2024 which coincides with Reconnecting Communities Grant award announcement. The separate, Our Future 35 visioning effort is a community conversation to document Austin residents’ desired goals and outcomes for amenities to inform future design efforts.

**Item 39:** Approve an ordinance accepting Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance grant funds from the Texas Department of Emergency Management and amending the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20230816-008) to appropriate funding in the amount of \$12,478,487 for COVID-19 expenses.

COUNCIL MEMBER VELA’S OFFICE

*1) Can you clarify if this FEMA reimbursement was already budgeted in the different departments’ FY24 budgets?*

The General Fund Reserves fiscal year 2024 budget included a revenue budget of \$19,245,644 for federal grant receipts.

*2) What department/fund is the Nondepartmental Revenue/Expenses of \$4,458,632.97 going to?*

General Fund Reserves

**Item 47:** Approve an ordinance amending Exhibit A to the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 City Fee and Fine Ordinance (Ordinance No. 20230816-007) to amend parkland dedication fees to comply with House Bill 1526 (88th Regular Session).

COUNCIL MEMBER ALISON ALTER’S OFFICE

1) Please provide Attachment 1 referenced in the posted ordinance.  
See [attachment](#).

**Item 53:** Authorize negotiation and execution of Amendment No. 3 to the interlocal agreement with Travis County for job readiness training and summer employment for youth ages 14 to 21, to add one-time funding in an estimated amount of \$435,108 to be paid to the City, for a revised total agreement amount not to exceed \$2,933,318.

COUNCIL MEMBER FUENTES' OFFICE

1) What schools participate in this program?

The program is not school based. Students who live in or attend school in Austin/Travis County are eligible to participate in the Summer Youth Employment Program

2) What is the wage rate per hour paid to participants?

Students are paid \$13 per hour.

3) Please describe recruitment efforts. How many students have participated in this program for the last five years?

Per the Interlocal Agreement, the County is responsible for recruitment efforts. Travis County staff implement the following strategies to recruit for the Summer Youth Employment Program.

- Direct engagement with students through in-school presentations to offer detailed insights into the program and an opportunity to highlight the numerous benefits.
- Partnerships with Austin ISD, Manor ISD, Pflugerville ISD, and Del Valle ISD to disseminate promotional materials through flyers, brochures, and videos on the school's social media channels to reach students and their families.
- Participating in community events on both weekdays and weekends to engage with families and students who may not be accessible through traditional school-based activities.

The table below indicates the number of students who participated in the program for the last five years.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Number of Summer Youth Employment Participants</b>	658	440	638	448	633

**Item 59:** Authorize negotiation and execution of Amendment No. 3 to the agreement with Austin Area Urban League to operate the Southbridge Bridge Shelter program, to add three months to the term ending on January 1, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$1,334,967, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$5,432,310.

COUNCIL MEMBER VELA'S OFFICE

1) Can you clarify if the \$1.3M is only for 3 months? If so, what will happen at the end of the three months?

That is correct. The three-month extension is necessary to ensure services continue while a vendor is identified from the most recent solicitation. The City anticipates awarding a new contract to start on or before April 1, 2024, based on the results of the request for proposal released in October of 2023. A changes and corrections document will be added [to the December 14, 2023 Council webpage](#) showing a correction to the Southbridge Shelter end date as December 31, 2023.

**Item 79:** Conduct a public hearing and approve the recommended alternative in the Preliminary Engineering Report to replace the Barton Springs Road Bridge over Barton Creek.  
COUNCIL MEMBER KELLY'S OFFICE

1) Please provide all maintenance records of the bridge.

The Barton Springs Road Bridge has been regularly inspected and maintained over the past century.

Transportation and Public Works Department (TPW) has digital maintenance records starting in the 1990s. These records are presented below, but do not include all the maintenance that was performed before 1990. The maintenance is regularly done by in-house crews and major planned maintenance projects have been completed by contractors.

The 2017 report from our consultant, referenced in a recent email to Council, noted that:

- *"If joint leakage is permitted to continue, deterioration will advance into other structural components below the joint and arch ribs".*
- *"repair of the longitudinal beam alone to limit water intrusion may not be sufficient to extend the life of the bridge significantly. A preferred method to limit water intrusion would be to **replace the deck entirely and eliminate longitudinal and transverse joints all together.** In addition, since the spandrel columns exhibit low compressive strength and several exhibit spalling and/or delamination, **any bridge rehabilitation desiring increased lifespan would involve stripping the structure down to the arch ribs and rebuilding the spandrel columns, floorbeams, and deck.**"*

This alternative, as described in the 2017 report, was included in the recent preliminary engineering report as a "structural rehabilitation" option. Based on this 2017 report, minor rehabilitation efforts were not going to *"...be sufficient to extend the life of the bridge significantly"*. The 2014 mill and overlay provided as much protection as possible without removal and replacement of the bridge deck.

The 2004 Bridge Maintenance Contract for Barton Springs Road Bridge (listed below) was the last major rehabilitation performed on the bridge. All maintenance items are called for, along with specification, description, and quantity. The list below also provides a brief explanation of these repair items:

#### 2004 Bridge Maintenance Contract

1. Penetrating Concrete Surface Treatment – Class I
2. Concrete Repair - Class I
3. Concrete Repair - Class II
4. Concrete Repair - Class III
5. Epoxy Crack Injection - Class I
6. Epoxy Crack Injection - Class II
7. Header Type Expansion Joints - Retrofit Header
8. Asphaltic Plug Expansion Joints
9. Silicone Joint Seal
10. Clean and Paint Bridge Railings

#### Notes on the 2004 Bridge Maintenance

- 1) Penetrating sealant is a concrete waterproofing agent that is sprayed over exposed concrete. This agent prevents intrusion of water, and pollutants into the concrete, preventing future damage and rusting of rebars that would cause concrete spalling and delamination.
- 2, 3, 4) - These are repairs of spalled and damaged concrete – Class I is for shallow concrete damage and delamination - these repairs would clean the reinforcement and patch up the concrete section back to original depth. Class II is for medium depth concrete damage and delamination - these repairs would clean the reinforcement and patch up the concrete section back to original depth. Class III is for deep concrete damage and delamination – these repairs would clean the reinforcement and patch up the concrete section back to original depth.
- 5 and 6) – Crack injection is used to repair concrete cracks and stop the elongation and widening of the crack. This would also stop the penetration of water and pollutants into the concrete.
- 7, 8, 9) – These are repair items for removal of old and damaged bridge joints and replacement of those joints. These repairs were completed across the whole bridge deck. The bridge joints would stop the water penetration as well as solid debris falling in and causing damage to the concrete deck or bridge components below.

#### 2013 and 2014:

Railing repairs

#### January 2014:

Full width Mill and Overlay.

The bridge asphalt is milled, and a new asphalt overlay is applied. This asphalt layer not only provides a smooth surface for vehicular traffic but covers the entire bridge concrete deck preventing water intrusion into and the structure below. The overlay asphalt is another layer over the bridge joints, sealing the surface and preventing water and debris intrusion into the bridge structure below.

#### July 2023

Full width Mill and Overlay

The bridge asphalt is milled, and a new asphalt overlay is applied. This asphalt layer not only provides a smooth surface for vehicular traffic but covers the entire bridge concrete deck preventing water intrusion into and the structure below. The overlay asphalt is another layer over the bridge joints, sealing the surface and preventing water and debris intrusion into the bridge structure below.

# ATTACHMENT 1- FY 2023-2024 Fee Schedule Amendment

<b>Parks and Recreation - General Fund</b>	<b>Fee</b>	<b>Note</b>
Cemetery Maintenance Surcharge	20%	
<i>This fee will be added to the cost of each space sold at a City of Austin cemetery, and will be used toward care and maintenance of the five cemeteries operated by the City.</i>		
Evergreen		
All Sections, Full Burial Space	\$2,125.00	
Infant Spaces/Cremation Spaces	\$950.00	
Linear Sales	\$475.00	
Liner Handling Fee	\$85.00	
<b>License/Use Permits</b>		
Office Space License Fee	\$500.00 - \$700.00	
<b>Parkland Dedication Fees, as established by the Parkland Dedication (PLD) Ordinance</b>		
<i>Park Planning &amp; Design: Low Density (LD), Medium Density (MD), High Density (HD), Hotel/Motel Density (HMD)</i>		
<i>aAs approved by Council on November 30, 2023. <del>Sept 19, 2022</del></i>		
<b>PLD Fees for applications submitted before January 1, 2024:</b>		
Commercial - Development Fee		
Hotel/Motel - \$0.0848 per sq ft	\$0.0848	per sq ft
Industrial - \$0.0442 per sq ft	\$0.0442	per sq ft
Office - \$0.1368 per sq ft	\$0.1368	per sq ft
Retail - \$0.1188 per sq ft	\$0.1188	per sq ft
Commercial - Fee in Lieu of Land		
Hotel/Motel - \$0.6366 per sq ft	\$0.6366	per sq ft
Industrial - \$0.3323 per sq ft	\$0.3323	per sq ft
Office - \$1.0271 per sq ft	\$1.0271	per sq ft
Retail - \$0.8919 per sq ft	\$0.8919	per sq ft
Residential - Fee in Lieu of Land		
HD - 1.7 PPH X \$1,884.34 = \$3,203.38 per unit	\$3,203.38	
HMD - 1.0608 PPR X \$1,884.34 = \$1,998.91 per room	\$1,998.91	
LD - 2.8 PPH X \$1,884.34 = \$5,276.16 per unit	\$5,276.16	
MD - 2.2 PPH X \$1,884.34 = \$4,145.56 per unit	\$4,145.56	



# ATTACHMENT 1- FY 2023-2024 Fee Schedule Amendment

<b>Parks and Recreation - General Fund</b>	<b>Fee</b>	<b>Note</b>
<b>Residential - Park Development Fee</b>		
HD - 1.7 PPH X \$351.85 = \$598.15 per unit	\$598.15	
HMD - 1.0608 PPR X \$351.85 = \$373.24 per room	\$373.24	
LD - 2.8 PPH X \$351.85 = \$985.18 per unit	\$985.18	
MD - 2.2 PPH X \$351.85 = \$774.07 per unit	\$774.07	
<b>Residential - Total Fee in Lieu of Land and Park Development</b>		
HD - \$3,203.38 + \$598.15 = \$3,801.53 per unit	\$3,801.53	
HMD - \$1,998.91 + \$373.24 = \$2,372.15 per room	\$2,372.15	
LD - \$5,276.16 + \$985.18 = \$6,261.34 per unit	\$6,261.34	
MD - \$4,145.56 + \$774.07 = \$4,919.63 per unit	\$4,919.63	
<b>PLD Fees for applications submitted on or after January 1, 2024:</b>		
<b>Single-Family Residential Fee In-Lieu of Parkland Dedication:</b>		
LD - 2.8 PPH X \$1,884.34 = \$5,276.16 per unit	\$5,276.16	
MD - 2.2 PPH X \$1,884.34 = \$4,145.56 per unit	\$4,145.56	
HD - 1.7 PPH X \$1,884.34 = \$3,203.38 per unit	\$3,203.38	
<b>Single-Family Residential Parkland Development Fees:</b>		
LD - 2.8 PPH X \$351.85 = \$985.18 per unit	\$985.18	
MD - 2.2 PPH X \$351.85 = \$774.07 per unit	\$774.07	
HD - 1.7 PPH X \$351.85 = \$598.15 per unit	\$598.15	
<b>Single-Family Residential Total Fee in Lieu of Land and Park Development:</b>		
LD - \$5,276.16 + \$985.18 = \$6,261.34 per unit	\$6,261.34	
MD - \$4,145.56 + \$774.07 = \$4,919.63 per unit	\$4,919.63	
HD - \$3,203.38 + \$598.15 = \$3,801.53 per unit	\$3,801.53	
<b>Multi-family Parkland Dedication Fee:</b>		
Central Business District = \$2,203.88 per unit	\$2,203.88	
Urban = \$5,821.97 per unit	\$5,821.97	
Suburban = \$6,815.53 per unit	\$6,815.53	
<b>Hotel / Motel Parkland Dedication Fee:</b>		
Central Business District = \$1,763.10 per unit	\$1,763.10	
Urban = \$4,657.58 per unit	\$4,657.58	
Suburban = \$5,452.42 per unit	\$5,452.42	