



MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert Goode, P.E.
Assistant City Manager

FROM: Howard Lazarus, P.E., Director
Public Works
Robert Spillar, P.E., Director
Austin Transportation Department

SUBJECT: Top Transportation Projects for CAMPO's list of possible projects for transportation stimulus funding

DATE: February 12, 2009

This memorandum identifies the City's top transportation projects moving forward as part of CAMPO's economic stimulus master list, in response to a recent request from the MPO. Please be aware that CAMPO informed us that only those projects that are already in CAMPO's 2030 Long Range Plan and in the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) are eligible to stay on the list. As a result of those two criteria identified by CAMPO, our Council-approved list of 23 transportation projects is now narrowed to five key projects. (See the attached highlighted list for the five.) Staff will combine two of the eligible five projects (Vehicle Detection Stations and Computer Technology Project) into one top priority project, so we will submit four projects in total. We believe the Computer Technology Project cannot stand alone in this competitive environment.

Our recommended projects are:

- 20 Signals (various locations throughout the city): \$2,400,000
- Asphalt Overlay Project Citywide: \$1,500,000
- Purchase and install vehicle detection stations using toll-tag registration tags, thereby creating a real-time congestion information system accessible by Austin citizens: \$6,000,000 (This project will include components of the Computer Technology Project necessary to successfully deploy the detection system.)
- Purchase and install variable message signs on major highways and arterials to manage special events in Central Austin and provide improved driver

information: \$5,000,000 (This project will include components of the Computer Technology Project necessary to successfully deploy the variable message signs .)

CAMPO requests that we submit our top projects by February 20, 2009. The surviving projects on the list will be discussed by the CAMPO Board at a tentatively scheduled meeting on February 27, 2009. Public Works and Transportation Departments' staff are now working on the required package to accompany the City's recommended projects. Meanwhile, we ask that City Manager be apprised of this most recent development and the resulting reduction to four viable transportation projects.

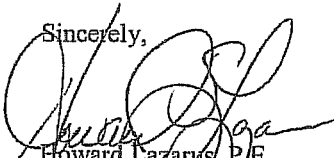
We would like to stress that the City did not create the latest criteria being employed to narrow the range of projects. We continue to abide by the project list and priorities established by Council on January 16, 2009. All jurisdictions in the metropolitan area share the same position: we continue responding to a "moving target" as more and more information about the stimulus bill develops and tighter criteria are handed down for narrowing the range of potential projects. It is also important to be aware that the MPO has informed us that the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) cannot be amended so there is not a way to qualify additional projects at this time.

We believe the City is fortunate to still have projects on the list. The same is not true of some of our fellow jurisdictions. We also believe that the survivors are excellent, competitive projects that cut across all geographical areas and income brackets for the City, they will benefit both Austin citizens and regional mobility should any receive funding, all can be implemented swiftly, and they all create jobs. For both the 20 Signals Project and the Asphalt Overlay Project, the City's requirements are in excess of the funding currently available. The receipt of federal dollars will allow the Public Works and Transportation Departments to accelerate backlogged work, increasing the amount of work "on the street" and creating additional contract and job opportunities. The other two projects, while in the CAMPO Long Range Plan and the TIP, are not currently funded and cannot be implemented without stimulus funding.

If we can answer questions, please let us know.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Howard Lazarus, P.E.
Director, Public Works



Robert Spillar, P.E.
Director, Austin Transportation
Department

cc: Sam Angoori, P.E.

Prioritized City of Austin Transportation Projects List

- E. 7th St. Corridor Project (Pleasant Valley to Northwestern Ave) to include street reconstruction and drainage and utility upgrades, streetscape amenities (sidewalk, landscaping, lighting), and ADA improvements. \$8,120,000
- Bicycle Infrastructure Improvements (a package of ready-to-install bicycle lanes, shared-used bicycle and pedestrian paths, and minor infrastructure improvements to remove barriers on bicycle routes). \$2,600,000
- Bicycle, Shared Path, Connected Trails and Sidewalk Project. \$2,500,000
- Burnet Road Sidewalk Project: sidewalk to be installed on both sides of Burnet Rd between Koenig/Allendale and US Hwy 183, providing an ADA-accessible route along an arterial. \$10,000,000
- ADA Title II Handicap Facility-Compliant Upgrades. \$5,000,000
- Sidewalk along Wm. Cannon Drive, IH 35 to Pleasant Valley Rd. \$3,000,000
- Boardwalk along Lady Bird Lake: The project will close a 1.3-mile gap in a heavily-used pedestrian and bicycle trail system, improving safety and providing additional access to the Pflugger Bridge, major bike and pedestrian facility in downtown Austin. \$18,000,000
- Brazos Street Utilities and Road Reconstruction Project (from Cesar Chavez to E. 11th St). \$9,700,000
- Wells Branch Roadway Project. \$2,000,000
- S. First St. Sidewalk Project: sidewalk on both sides of S. First from Slaughter Ln. to Wm. Cannon, providing an ADA-accessible route along an arterial. \$5,000,000
- Brodie Ln. Sidewalk Project: sidewalk on both sides of Brodie Ln from Travis County line to Slaughter Ln. \$1,500,000
- Westgate Blvd Roadway Project, Cameron Rd. to Cohoba Drive. \$2,000,000
- Intersection/Safety Improvement Projects (various Austin locations). \$1,500,000
- Purchase and Install Transit Fare and Parking Mgmt Kiosks: solar powered, cell phone-based travel fare machines to be installed on-street along proposed Austin Urban Rail Corridor and at MetroRail stations, to dispense transit tickets and manage station parking. \$5,000,000
- Austin Safe Routes to School Supplemental Funding. \$3,000,000
- Austin Urban Rail Project: purchase vehicles and maintenance equipment necessary to jumpstart high capacity rail investment in Central Austin. \$60,000,000
- Trail Enhancements at Lady Bird Lake (to include, for example, trail resurfacing, 5 restroom replacements, retaining wall replacement, 25 water fountain replacements, 2 park shelter replacements, etc.). \$7,000,000
- Davis/Deer Ln Roadway Improvements. \$1,000,000
- Purchase and install Computer technology necessary to allow web access to existing 200+ arterial traffic cameras and other traffic information devices, resulting in improved driver information and system efficiency. \$800,000
- 20 signals at various Austin locations. \$2,400,000
- Purchase and install variable message signs on major highways and arterials to manage special events in Central Austin and provide improved driver information. \$5,000,000
- Purchase and install vehicle detection stations using toll-tag registration tags, creating a real-time congestion information system accessible by Austin citizens. \$6,000,000
- Asphalt Overlay Projects Citywide. \$1,500,000