



## MEMORANDUM


**TO:** Jeremy Martin  
Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce

**CC:** Citizen Transportation Task Force  
Marc A. Ott, City Manager  
Robert Goode, Assistant City Manager  
Howard Lazarus, Acting Assistant City Manager  
Carlos Lopez, Texas Department of Transportation

**FROM:** Robert Spillar, P.E., Director, Austin Transportation Department

**DATE:** July 9, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Response to proposed projects requested by Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce



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The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce and Citizen Task Force (CTF) with information on how the Austin Transportation Department proposes to address the requested projects identified by the Chamber in their letter to the CTF of July 7, 2010.

The Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce provided to the Austin Transportation Department a list of seventeen projects that they wished to be considered as part of the 2010 Bond Proposal. Many of these projects are ones that City Staff have been working with the Chamber's own Take On Traffic Committee to address. City staff concurs with the Chamber on the importance of these intersections. Many are on the regional transportation network and fall under the jurisdiction of our regional partner TxDOT. As has been demonstrated in the City Manager's proposed bond package, the City of Austin is willing and ready to partner with TxDOT and other agencies to address congestion when it affects Austenites. Staff believes that the responsibility for congestion relief is a shared responsibility between the City of Austin and the corresponding regional partner whose facility is affected. I am copying this memorandum to Carlos Lopez so that he is aware of our intent as well as it relates to TxDOT intersections.

Below is a project by project update on how the City plans to incorporate the identified intersection or project into the on-going Strategic Mobility Plan and/or operational plans of the Austin Transportation Department.

### Chamber Priority 1 Projects

1. **SH 71 and US 290** – Current staff proposed 2010 bond proposal includes \$4 million to partner with TxDOT and CTRMA to design and implement interim solutions at the “Y” (including the US 71 and William Cannon intersections with US 290). These improvements will provide interim relief to the existing congestion at the Y while the City, in partnership with TxDOT and other regional partners, explores long term solutions through the recently funded environmental impact study and preliminary design effort being led by TxDOT. The proposed \$4 million investment in interim improvements at the Y by the City represents a proactive major investment in the Oak Hill area by the City of Austin in partnership with TxDOT.
2. **RM 2222 at Park Crest (TxDOT Intersection)** – ATD operational staff is reviewing proposal. When agreement is reached with TxDOT, funds could be available from the arterial program funds identified in the 2010 Bond. Regional partnerships will be sought to make these improvements.
3. **Dessau Road and Parmer Lane** - ATD operational staff is reviewing proposal. When agreement is reached, funds could be available from arterial program funds.
4. **Parmer Lane and Metric Boulevard (TxDOT Intersection)** - ATD operational staff is reviewing proposal. When agreement is reached with TxDOT, funds could be available from the arterial program funds identified in the 2010 Bond. Regional partnerships will be sought to make these improvements.
5. **Loop 1 at 45<sup>th</sup> Street (TxDOT Intersection)** - ATD operational staff is reviewing proposal. When agreement is reached with TxDOT and CTRMA as part of the MoPac Improvement Project, funds could be available from the arterial program funds identified in the 2010 Bond. Regional partnerships will be sought to make these improvements.
6. **Interstate 35 and 51<sup>st</sup> Street (TxDOT Intersection)** – The proposed staff revisions to the 2010 bond proposal includes \$2.3 million to address west to south movement onto Interstate 35 and northbound frontage road movement to Cameron Road. These improvements have already been reviewed with TxDOT and there is interest on the part of both agencies to partner to design and construct these ramps. The ramps would improve intersection operations on 51<sup>st</sup> Street.
7. **US 183 Corridor Study (TxDOT Intersections)** – Current staff proposed 2010 bond proposal includes \$250,000 for signal improvements to partner with TxDOT and CTRMA to accelerate efforts. Signal improvements would be for interim congestion relief projects in anticipation of a major regional investment by CTRMA in this corridor, anticipated as early as 2015.

### Chamber Priority 2 Projects

8. **Loop 360 and RM 2222 (TxDOT Intersections)** – TxDOT is launching a project to evaluate intersections on Loop 360 for “super street” type improvements. The City will partner with and actively support TxDOT in evaluating and implementing opportunities to make improvements throughout the Loop 360 interchange.
9. **RM 620 and RM 2222 (TxDOT Intersections)** – Current staff proposed 2010 bond proposal includes \$400,000 for design and implementation of improvements to the intersection. The City will seek partnerships with TxDOT to extend these improvements.
10. **North Lamar Boulevard, including intersections with Parmer and Braker (TxDOT Highway)** – Current staff proposed 2010 bond proposal includes funds to

re-design North Lamar as part of an ADA related project. To achieve the ADA improvements, a new cross-section with intersection layouts will be developed. This will provide a basis for future discussion with TxDOT for conversion of North Lamar Boulevard to a City of Austin Arterial and potential partnership for upgrading the facility.

11. **Brodie Lane and Slaughter Lane** – ATD operational staff is reviewing, and if found feasible, implement from operational funds or alternative funding sources could be possible.
12. **Burnet Road Corridor Study, US 183 to MOPAC** (TxDOT Highway) – City will look at the entire corridor and develop methodology to convert from a rural cross-section to an urban cross-section. If TxDOT is not able or willing to change the roadway, the City may have to decide to propose a conversion to a City of Austin arterial to achieve the desired outcome. The City of Austin will seek a partnership with TxDOT to implement this project.
13. **Interstate 35 and 38<sup>th</sup> ½ Street** (TxDOT Freeway) - ATD operational staff is reviewing, and if found feasible and TxDOT approves, implement from operational funds or alternative funding sources could be possible. Additionally, as part of the revised proposal from staff for the 2010 bond proposal, \$1 million is identified for traffic engineering for IH 35 from Ben White to US 290.
14. **RM 2222 Corridor Study, Loop 360 to RM 620** (TxDOT Highway) – No current plans are currently underway for this roadway. City of Austin has included monies at the intersection of RM 2222 at RM 620 to evaluate and implement improvements. City staff will work with TxDOT to seek a partnership to address these issues. Operational staff will review signal operations along the corridor.

#### **Chamber Priority 3 Projects**

15. **Lamar Boulevard and Barton Springs Road** – ATD operational staff is reviewing, and if found feasible, implementation from operational funds or alternative funding sources will be applied.
16. **Manchaca Road and Slaughter Lane** – ATD operational staff is reviewing, and if found feasible, implementation from operational funds or alternative funding sources will be applied.
17. **Westgate Boulevard and William Cannon Drive** - ATD operational staff is reviewing, and if found feasible, implementation from operational funds or alternative funding sources will be applied.