



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

CC: Marc A. Ott, City Manager
Robert Goode, P.E., Assistant City Manager
Sue Edwards, Assistant City Manager

FROM: Robert Spillar, P.E., Director, Austin Transportation Department
Victoria Li, P.E., Director, Watershed Protection
Gregory Guernsey, A.I.C.P., Director, Planning and Development Review

DATE: August 29, 2012

SUBJECT: CAMPO Community Meetings: CAMPO 2035 Plan Amendments, SH 45 SW Deletion Request

Background

The City of Austin has submitted a request to the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) to amend the CAMPO 2035 Mobility Plan. Per City Council directive, the City has requested that the project known as State Highway 45 Southwest, South Loop 1 to IH 35, be deleted from the Plan. Removal of this project will bring the 2035 Mobility Plan into alignment with the City's new comprehensive plan, *Imagine Austin*, which was adopted unanimously by the City Council on June 14, 2012.

The sponsors of the State Highway 45 Southwest (SH 45 SW) project are the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT), Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority, and Hays County. The City of Austin is not a sponsor of the project as it lies outside our municipal boundaries. TXDOT, in coordination with the other two sponsors, will be initiating preparation of a federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). City Manager Marc Ott has requested that Austin be given "Participating Agency" status in the environmental review process to assure that potential impacts to significant environmental resources (e.g., the Barton Springs Zone of the Edwards Aquifer), as well as regional mobility issues, are fully evaluated and considered. The role as a "Participating Agency" is strictly technical in nature and does not contradict the official City of Austin position on this roadway.

Additional perspective on the proposed SH 45 SW project is provided in the document, "*Transportation and Environmental Challenges Associated with the Proposed State Highway 45 Southwest*", which can be accessed at ftp://ftp.ci.austin.tx.us/GIS-Data/planning/compplan/council-backup-6apr12/9_Hwy45Challenges20110809final.pdf. A memorandum from Austin Transportation Department Director Rob Spillar to the Mayor and City Council and City Manager is attached.

CAMPO Public Input Meetings

The Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) will hold a series of public input meetings for the entire, current cycle of 2035 Plan and all requested amendments to the 2013 – 2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The public comment period will open on August 31st and extend through September 27th.

In response to a request from CAMPO, staff members of the Planning & Development Review, Watershed Protection, and Austin Transportation departments will be present at the public meetings. Staff attending on behalf of the City may be called up to present factual information or to respond to questions. It is the intent of City staff to speak with one voice representing the City's position with respect to SH 45 SW

The public meetings are scheduled as follows:

- Thursday, September 13th, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.- Del Valle Opportunity Center Cafeteria, 5301B Ross Road, Del Valle, Texas
- Monday, September 17th, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.- Baranoff Elementary Cafeteria, 12009 Buckingham Gate Road, Austin, Texas
- Tuesday, September 18th, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.- Elm Grove Elementary Cafeteria, 801 FM 1626, Buda, Texas
- Wednesday, September 19th, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.- Kiker Elementary Cafeteria, 5913 La Crosse Ave., Austin, Texas

CAMPO Board Public Hearing

Prior to the Community Meetings the CAMPO Board will conduct a public hearing on the Regional Mobility Plan and TIP amendments on September 10th, UT Lady Bird Johnson Auditorium, 2405 Dedman Drive, Austin, Texas, at 6:00 p.m. It is anticipated that the CAMPO Board will consider and vote upon the City's plan amendment request at its scheduled meeting on October 8, 2012 meeting.

If you have additional questions related to the requested amendment to the CAMPO 2035 Mobility Plan, or about the proposed SH 45 SW project, please do not hesitate to contact any of us.

xc: Maureen McCoy – Executive Director, CAMPO
Bubba Needham – Assistant Director, CAMPO
Gregory Guernsey, Director; Garner Stoll, Assistant Director, Planning and Development Review
Victoria Li, Director, Mike Personett, Assistant Director, Watershed Protection
W. Gordon Derr - Assistant Director, TAC Member
Teri McManus - Principal Planner, TAC Member
Annick Beaudet – Program Consultant-Planning, TAC Member
Pharr Andrews – Environmental Program Coordinator, TAC Member
Council Executive Assistants

Attachment 1



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

CC: Marc A. Ott, City Manager
Robert D. Goode, P.E., Assistant City Manager

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

DATE: July 24, 2012

SUBJECT: State Highway 45 SW - Request to Delete Project from CAMPO 2035 Mobility Plan

On June 14, 2012, the City Council unanimously adopted *Imagine Austin*, the City's comprehensive growth plan for 2040. Adoption of *Imagine Austin* included specific direction to City staff to apply for amendment of the Capital Area Metropolitan Area Planning Organization (CAMPO) 2035 Mobility Plan seeking removal of the project known as State Highway 45 SW. Per the Council's direction, ATD staff is submitting a request to CAMPO for reconsideration of the SH 45 SW project inclusion in the regional transportation Plan. This submission will occur as part of the regularly scheduled call for plan revisions in early August of this year. CAMPO Staff have the responsibility of passing this request onto the Policy Committee of the Metropolitan Planning Organization. CAMPO Staff may pass the request with or without a recommendation on its outcome. Given the anticipated schedule, it can be assumed that a public vote by the CAMPO Policy Committee might occur in late October or early November 2012.

The sponsors of the State Highway 45 SW (SH 45 SW) project are the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT), Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority, and Hays County. The City of Austin is not a sponsor for the project as it lies just outside our municipal boundaries. TXDOT, in coordination with the other two sponsors, has initiated a federal environmental impact statement to evaluate the impacts of the currently proposed SH 45 SW. The City of Austin's Watershed Protection and Austin Transportation Departments plan to be jointly involved in the Environmental Impact study process to assure that the impacts to the significant environmental issues and surrounding mobility network are adequately and appropriately captured in the analysis. This role as a "Participating Agency" is strictly technical to assure the adequacy and competency of the studies and does not contradict the official City of Austin position on this roadway.

Please let me know if you would like further information related to the CAMPO SH 45 SW deletion request.

cc: Gordon Derr - Assistant Director, TAC Member
Teri McManus - Principal Planner, TAC Member

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that enhances the environment and economic strength of the region.*

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