



COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT MOBILITY COMMITTEE

Date: September 28, 2023

Agenda Item #: 3

Agenda Item: *I-35 Capital Express Central Update.*

Vote

3-0 [Committee members present are Mayor Pro Tem Paige Ellis (chair) Council Member Zohaib "Zo" Qadri (Vice-chair), Council Member Vanessa Fuentes, with Council Member Natasha Harper-Madison absent and Council Member Mackenzie Kelly off the dais].

Original Sponsors/Department: *Mayor Pro Tem Paige Ellis, and Council Member Zohaib "Zo" Qadri*

Summary of Discussion

Heather Ashley Nguyen, Texas Department of Transportation, presented an I-35 Capital Express Central Update. Mayor Pro Tem Ellis introduced a resolution with the following:

- The City Council finds the projected increase in greenhouse gas emissions from the proposed TxDOT I-35 Capital Express Central project to be unacceptable and out-of-step when the Central Texas region is pulling together to reduce those emissions and protect our future;
- The City Council asks TxDOT and the CAMPO Transportation Policy Board (TPB) to delay funding for the construction of I-35 Central until after the completion of the CAMPO Regional Mobile Emission Reduction and the Austin MSA Climate Plan;
- The City Council asks TxDOT to request that any and all CAMPO actions taken regarding the I-35 Central project comply with CAMPO's process for public hearing and vote by the CAMPO TPB, and be fully transparent and held at public CAMPO TPB meetings;
- The City Council asks TxDOT to meet as soon as possible with the City of Austin Office of Sustainability and any other interested Austin MSA Climate Plan partners to collaborate on GHG reduction strategies for the I-35 Central project; and
- The City Council asks CAMPO, TxDOT, the Texas Transportation Commission, the State Legislature, and Governor Abbott to prioritize GHG reduction in all transportation funding and planning.

Direction

The Committee recommends sending this item to the full Council.

Recommendation:

On a 3-0 vote, on a motion from Mayor Pro Tem Ellis, second from Council Member Fuentes, with Council Member Harper-Madison absent and Council Member Kelly off the dais, the Committee recommended sending this item to the full Council.