

Agenda Item Summary Sheet

City of Rollingwood

Meeting Date: May 19, 2021

Submitted by: Council Member Pattillo

Agenda Item: Discussion and Possible Action regarding uses of Zilker Park that impact the City of Rollingwood, including but not limited to, the high volumes of traffic cutting through the City of Rollingwood as vehicles enter and exit Zilker Park

Description:

In February 2021, the City of Rollingwood initiated discussion with the City of Austin regarding the increased volumes of traffic cutting through the residential area of Rollingwood when leaving Zilker Park on the weekends. One of the reasons for this increase in traffic volume is the City of Austin allowing 1000s of cars to park on a large grass field of Zilker Park on Stratford Drive and not managing this parking area. Larger groups have started to gather in the space for longer periods of time. Between 4 pm and 7 pm on weekends, as cars leave this parking area in mass, many are turning right out of the parking lot and following a path directed by mapping apps to cut through Rollingwood via Riley/Rollingwood Drive to reach the Mopac frontage road. The City of Rollingwood requested that Austin Transportation look at management options for this parking lot. The City of Austin offered that the City of Rollingwood would have input on the times/locations of the traffic study being conducted as part of the Zilker Vision planning process and additional discussion about policies regarding Zilker park use that increase congestion in the City of Rollingwood.

In addition to the increased traffic, and ongoing problem is the high speed of traffic turning at Riley/Paige and Stratford. The February 2021 discussion centered around a request for striping at the intersection; the City of Austin offered that they would also evaluate additional options for traffic dampening.

In response to the February 2021 discussion, the City of Austin reached out to the neighbors who live in the City of Austin at the intersection of Paige and Stratford with several options. In a call including Austin Transportation and the City of Rollingwood on April 28, 2021, the City of Austin discussed these options. One solution would include applying for a grant, to use a combination of public and private dollars, to install a median at the intersection, however, given some of the factors used in scoring this grant program, the project may be less competitive. Another solution would include narrowing the intersection footprint using bumpers. The City of Austin inquired whether the City of Rollingwood would be willing to contribute to the cost of any of the solutions.

Action requested: Official request by the City of Rollingwood to Mayor Adler and City Manager Cronk for a series of meetings between the City of Austin and City of Rollingwood to integrate input from the City of Rollingwood regarding current uses of Zilker Park and the Zilker Vision planning process with regards to addressing traffic, public safety, and other issues that impact the City of Rollingwood.

Fiscal Impacts: n/a