



City of Austin

MEMO

Neighborhood Housing and Community Development

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Date: April 3, 2013

To: Mayor and Council

From: Elizabeth Spencer, Director 
Neighborhood Housing and Community Development

Subject: Update to Resolution No. 20130117-054
Lamar/Justin Lane Austin Energy Property

Background

On January 17, 2013, the City Council passed a resolution directing staff to evaluate and outline issues associated with redeveloping the Austin Energy (AE) owned property located at 6909 Ryan Drive, also known as the Lamar/Justin Lane site. The resolution directs staff to prepare a report that evaluates development scenarios to include use of the entire site as a park; and use of the tract as a model energy-efficient, affordable, and family-friendly multi-family development and neighborhood pocket park.

Status

As the assigned lead on the Item from Council, the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office (NHCD) is working with the Planning and Development Review Department (PDR) to include regulatory and best practice information related to developments in Transit Oriented Developments (TODs). The Report will also include recommendations related to developing affordable housing within TODs. In partnership with Austin Energy, the Parks and Recreation Department and the Watershed Protection Department, NHCD has begun drafting the report responsive to the resolution. The report will detail:

- Site analysis and review of any environmental findings;
- Community outreach efforts to date;
- Summary of Lamar/Justin Lane TOD Station Area Plan, Zoning Requirements, and site development standards;
- Summary of Watershed Protection's current work to model the effects of locating many, small-scale detention devices (primarily green infrastructure elements like rain gardens, rain barrels, porous pavement) and opportunities for same on this site;
- Austin Energy's current use of the site and potential sites to which those functions could be relocated as well as regulatory constraints;
- Review and summary of best practices and potential development scenarios; and
- Potential Public-Private Partnership and financing options.

Next Steps

An interdepartmental work group has been established to finalize the report and discuss further options to respond to inquiries by the Crestview neighborhood. The deadline to finalize the report for distribution to Mayor and Council is May 1, 2013.

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Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. NHCD staff lead is Gina Copic, Real Estate & Development Manager, at 974-3180; *Regina.Copic@austintexas.gov*

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