



# City Council Agenda Item Report

## January 15, 2013

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**SUBJECT: Staff Report on the City of Buda Monument Signs Project.**

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### 1. BACKGROUND/HISTORY

The City of Buda previously selected three locations for a Monument Sign. The locations selected were north of the Main Street exit on IH-35, Main Street median at Falcon Bank and the Cabela's Drive median at Crestview RV.

The City contracted RVI to prepare the plans and schematics for the signs. The plans for the three locations have been submitted to TxDOT for approval.

The area proposed to locate the sign near the Main Street exist is within City of Austin's ETJ. Staff submitted for a sign permit and received word from the City of Austin that such sign is deemed as an off-premise sign and is prohibited within the City of Austin's Land Development Code. Furthermore, we were advised that a variance could be considered but the chances were slim. Moreover, the City of Austin questioned why the location for the sign being that this area will be annexed subsequently it would be awkward to have a City of Buda sign within the city limits of Austin.

At the November 27<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting, City Council provided direction to staff to explore alternatives routes to seek clearance from the City of Austin.

### 2. FINDINGS/CURRENT ACTIVITY

Mr. Williams contacted Mark Ott, Austin City Manager, regarding possible alternatives. Mr. Ott assigned the issue to Rob Spillar, Director of Transportation for the City of Austin. Mr. Williams subsequently assigned the issue to Chance Sparks, Buda Director of Planning to coordinate with Mr. Spillar.

Spillar is going to claim the City of Buda gateway monument sign to be a traffic sign (specifically a wayfinding sign) and therefore within the jurisdiction of the City Traffic Engineer (Spillar) rather than their Planning department. His staff is drafting a Request for Council Action directing Spillar to negotiate and

execute an interlocal agreement with the City of Buda to allow the sign. Staff expects this agreement would be nearly identical to the TxDOT interlocal agreement that we will eventually execute, except that the City of Austin will have the ability to seek performance of the requirements of the agreement.

This agreement must be taken through Austin City Council before he can execute any kind of agreement with a neighboring jurisdiction. It will take them some time to get it through their City Council due to legal assistance & scheduling, but it should be approved in late January or early February.

This is probably the best possible outcome—we do not have to attempt to defend a variance, and their planning department is able to save face & avoid bending rules by simply having the sign placed in a different department's authority.

The agreement will be brought to the Buda City Council once it is drafted and scheduled for Austin City Council.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPACT**

City Council earmarked \$50,000 (\$15,000 General Fund and \$35,000 HOT funds) for construction of gateway signage. Mark as indicated the proposed construction cost estimates:

- Southbound IH-35 frontage road to Main St. - \$15,000
- Median of newly completed Main St. and I 35 interchange - \$5,000-\$7,500
- Median at Cabela's Drive and Overpass Rd - \$5,000-\$7,500

The MBGF estimated cost is \$30 per LF for a total estimated cost of \$3,750.

### **4. ACTION OPTIONS/RECOMMENDATION**

This is an update staff report requiring no action.