

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE June 7, 2019

TO Honorable Members of the Mobility Solutions Infrastructure and Sustainability Committee

SUBJECT **TxDOT Multiple Use Agreement Amendment**

On February 25, 2019, the Mobility Solutions, Infrastructure and Sustainability (MSIS) Committee was briefed on a possible amendment to the Multiple Use Agreement (MUA) between TxDOT and the City of Dallas. This agreement constitutes permitting the construction, maintenance and operation of a combination of parking lots and public parks within the highway right-of-way of IH-45 and IH-345 between Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Good Latimer Expressway.

TxDOT requested to remove the land surrounded by Taylor Street, Canton Street, Henry Street, and Good Latimer Expressway from the MUA to allow for a private use. This request created community and business concerns regarding pedestrian safety, walkability, limited parking and traffic flow. Additionally, during the MSIS Committee briefing, two Councilmembers expressed concerns about the air quality at the site.

To address the pedestrian safety, walkability and parking issues, Department of Transportation staff added 185 Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights to the area to increase walkability and address safety concerns and is also in the process of adding a total of 250 LED streetlights to improve safety around the neighborhood.

Staff is also proposing to utilize the vacant land known as Lot E to build a parking lot address community and business concerns. Lot E is connected to Henry Street, Taylor Street, and Canton Street and is currently being used as a TxDOT storage area for salt, sand, poles, etc. Staff plans for the construction to be complete within the next two years.

Staff also completed a traffic study based on the community's concerns and is currently piloting a rideshare program to improve traffic flow for the community as one of the enhancements. Staff will continue to work with the community to further enhance traffic flow throughout the area.

To address the air quality concerns, City staff from the Department of Transportation and the Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability contacted the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to obtain a recent Air Quality Report of the Dallas area from their nearest test site. According to the EPA, the proposed land under the highway is

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expected to meet all national standards to protect human health and welfare according to the applicable National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Staff continues to work on the logistic and legal aspects of the MUA amendment and has engaged the City Attorney's Office to ensure no future agreement terms will be violated for either party. Staff will continue to work with TxDOT and their legal team for final resolution to the MUA amendment, which will come before the City Council for their approval in the near future.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.



Majed A. Al-Ghafry, P.E.
Assistant City Manager

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney (Interim)
Billerae Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager

Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager and Chief Resilience Officer
Michael Mendoza, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Laila Aleqresh, Chief Innovation Officer
Directors and Assistant Directors