



ENVISIONING GREATER Mobility

SPRING 2017

What Problem Are We Trying To Solve?

Congestion has reduced mobility and the quality of life in Oak Hill and surrounding communities. The intersection of two major state highways, US 290 and SH 71 in Oak Hill, is a gateway to southwest Travis County and serves as a key route between Central Austin and fast-growing suburban and rural communities such as Lakeway, Bee Cave, Dripping Springs and Johnson City. US 290 is one of Texas' most congested highway corridors, and due to a lack of reliable connectivity, US 290 has become an unreliable route for both transit and emergency vehicles.



CONSIDER THESE FACTS:

- Travis County's population has grown from 212,000 in 1960 to just over 1 million in 2010, increasing congestion (US Census Data, 2013)
- 868 crashes occurred on US 290/SH 71 between 2010 and 2014, resulting in five fatalities, 20 incapacitating injuries, plus other injuries and property damage (TxDOT, 2015)
- Drivers wasted more than 454,000 hours per year stuck in traffic on US 290/SH 71 in 2014 (Texas Transportation Institute, 2015)

The Mission

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (Mobility Authority) are working with the City of Austin, Travis County, Capital Metro and other local partners to improve long-term mobility in the region. These organizations will work with the community to develop a solution that effectively addresses congestion, respects the environment, and adds value to the Oak Hill community.

The Process

The project team has initiated a comprehensive study to thoroughly analyze the corridor and determine the best approach for improving mobility. This study will identify a full range of alternatives, incorporate previous analyses, and through extensive analysis and community outreach, identify a recommended solution.

The study began in October 2012, and we anticipate an environmental decision in 2018.

WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO DO?

- Improve mobility and operational efficiency
- Promote long-term congestion management
- Increase multimodal travel options for people and goods
- Improve safety
- Improve emergency response

PROJECT PARTNERS



Concepts for the Oak Hill Parkway have been refined and narrowed using public input, the purpose and need for the project, and detailed traffic analysis. Two build alternatives are advancing through schematic development and evaluation.

BUILD ALTERNATIVE



- Controlled-access highway with frontage roads
- US 290 mainlanes go under SH 71 with direct connections at the intersection of US 290 and SH 71
- Westbound US 290 mainlanes would be north of Williamson Creek over the frontage roads

BUILD ALTERNATIVE



- Controlled-access highway with frontage roads
- US 290 mainlanes go over SH 71 with direct connections at the intersection of US 290 and SH 71
- Both west and eastbound US 290 mainlanes would be north of Williamson Creek and the frontage roads would be along the existing highway

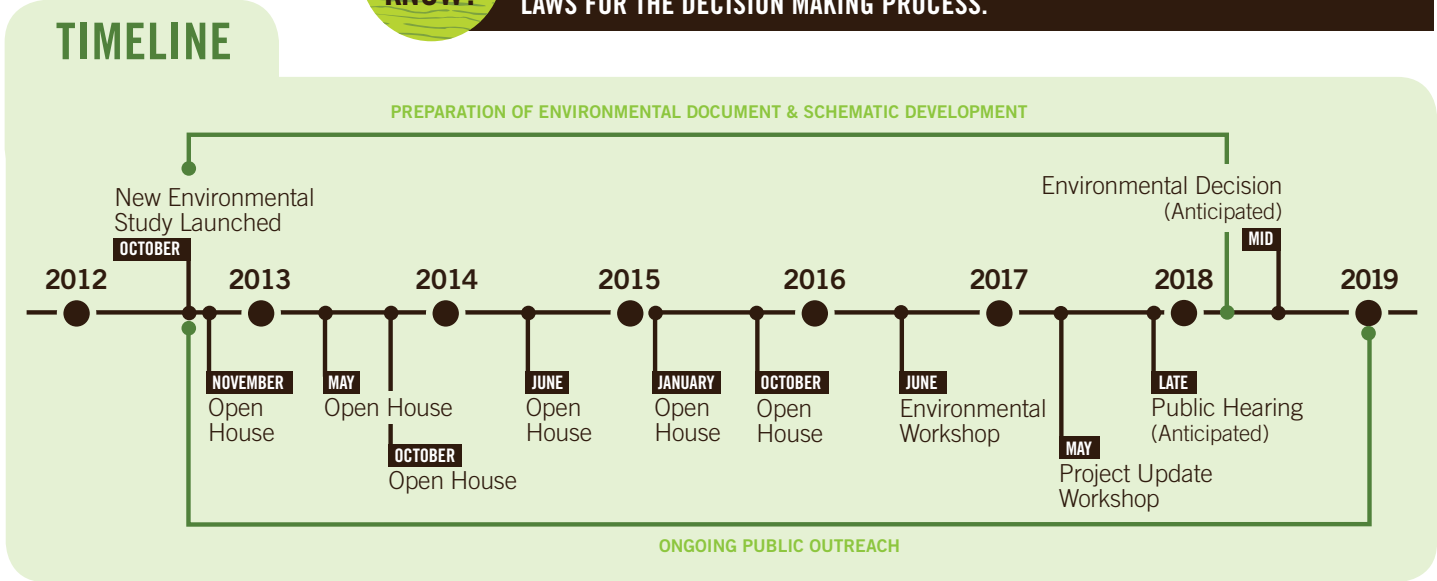
NO BUILD ALTERNATIVE / “DO NOTHING” ALTERNATIVE is also being carried as a baseline for analysis.

YOU ARE SHAPING OAK HILL PARKWAY

We continue in our mission to engage and listen to you. Your participation in meetings, workshops and open houses has made significant improvements to the proposed alternatives. Some of these improvements include:

- Developing alternatives to address traffic congestion in the corridor
- Proposing a design to separate through-traffic from local traffic
- Reducing the proposed elevation at the US 290/SH 71 intersection
- Adding new bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, including a shared use path along the entire corridor
- Depressing the US 290 mainlanes at all crossings west of the US 290/SH 71 intersection
- Extending the improvements past Circle Drive and reducing the proposed project’s footprint in that area
- Realigning the westbound US 290 exit to RM 1826 to improve access to Austin Community College
- Improving access for businesses along SH 71 just north of US 290
- Reducing potential flooding with upstream water detention ponds
- Minimizing impacts to Williamson Creek

DID YOU KNOW? THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT OF 1969 (NEPA) HELPS US DETERMINE THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE AND KEEPS US ACCOUNTABLE TO STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS FOR THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS.



STAY INFORMED AND GET INVOLVED

VISIT WWW.OAKHILLPARKWAY.COM



YOU ARE SHAPING OAK HILL PARKWAY

Community input has a meaningful impact on project design.

Your participation in meetings, workshops and open houses has made significant improvements to the proposed alternatives. Some of these improvements include:

- Developing alternatives that address the traffic congestion in the corridor
- Proposing a design that separates through-traffic from local traffic, providing both mobility and safety enhancements
- Limiting proposed elevation at the US 290/SH 71 intersection to one level instead of two levels above existing ground
- Building new facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians, including sidewalks, a trailhead at William Cannon Drive, and a shared use path along the entire corridor
- Lowering the US 290 mainlanes underneath cross street overpasses at Circle Drive, Scenic Brook Road, RM 1826, and Convict Hill Road for Alternatives A and C, and at the US 290/SH 71 intersection for Alternative A
- Looking to avoid or limit impacts to trees, especially the Grandmother Oak, Grandfather Oak, and the Niece Oaks in the vicinity of William Cannon Drive, and preserving the Beckett Grove Tree (formerly known as the Taco Bell Tree)
- Extending the improvements west of Circle Drive and reducing the proposed project's footprint in that area
- Minimizing impacts to Williamson Creek, including in areas where bridges would be placed over Williamson Creek
- Adding natural treatments at Williamson Creek instead of a concrete culvert to channelize the waters; in fact, we are removing a significant amount of existing concrete out of the creek by building new bridges
- Realigning the US 290 intersection with William Cannon Drive to avoid and save large trees
- Potentially reducing flooding with upstream water detention ponds
- Planning for best management practices like grassy swales, sedimentation/sand filtration basins, and bioretention ponds for water quality
- Realigning the westbound US 290 exit to RM 1826 in order to improve access for students and teachers heading to Austin Community College
- Improving access for businesses along SH 71 just north of US 290
- Improving access to Old Bee Caves Road
- Maintaining current access of streets and neighborhoods to the frontage roads
- Adding Texas Turnaround U-turns to provide local access without sitting through a traffic light
- Adding transit bus pull out locations
- Adding natural landscaping and new trees

Public input also added the following items to the final evaluation criteria:

- The number of Shared Use Path at-grade crossings to minimize conflicts between pedestrians/bicyclists and motorized vehicles
- The length of control of access* to be acquired by TxDOT
- The change in length of access in and out of neighborhoods
- The number of large oak trees taken by the project

*Control of Access is where TxDOT may legally prohibit adjoining property access to or from a roadway to prevent potential conflict points with other travelers, thus improving safety.



OAK HILL
PARKWAY

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) Process Flowchart



The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 16, 2014, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.



COMMUNITY SURVEY

Your feedback is critical to the success of the Oak Hill Parkway Project.
Please complete this short survey so we can better understand your needs.

1. How did you hear about this workshop?

- Email Message Board Signs on US 290 Website update
 Social media Other (please specify) _____

2. How do you prefer to be invited to upcoming meetings? Check all that apply

- Email Snail mail Message Board Signs on US 290
 Flyers Website update Social media
 Other (please specify below)

3. It is important to us that we get the word out about the upcoming release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the public hearing event to Oak Hill neighbors, businesses, and commuters, and we're looking for new ideas of ways to reach out to the public. What are your thoughts? How can we reach more interested people with our meeting notices and invitations?

4. The following are some of the topics that are being studied and will be presented in the Draft EIS and the public hearing. Which one(s) are you most interested in? (check all that apply)

- Water Resources Air Quality Traffic Noise
 Archeological Resources Historic Resources Social and Community Impacts
 Land Use & Parkland Vegetation & Wildlife Threatened & Endangered Species
 Indirect & Cumulative Impacts Hazardous Materials Traffic
 Other _____

5. According to Texas A&M Transportation Institute, US 290 is back on the list regarding the most congested roads in the state! Have you noticed traffic getting worse over the last year?

- Yes, a little Yes, a lot No difference Traffic congestion has gotten better

6. If this project moves forward and is constructed, what are you most looking forward to? (check all that apply)

- Reliable drive times Less time sitting at traffic lights
 Less cut through traffic in my neighborhood No need to bypass the "Y" any longer
 Shared use path along the corridor for bike/pedestrian use Bus pullouts
 Removal of the low water crossing at Old Bee Cave Road Removal of cement from Williamson Creek

7. Which is closer to your opinion?

- We should wait until the legislature approves funding for this road and use the state gas tax to construct this road no matter how long it takes to obtain funding.
 If toll financing ensures that US 290 and SH 71 improvements can be constructed sooner, we should obtain toll financing as long as the frontage roads remain un-tolled.

8. Other comments?

9. We send e-blasts about upcoming project events as well as an e-newsletter with information about how the environmental study is progressing. Later this year, we will be both emailing and mailing an invitation to the public hearing.

If you would like to receive future updates on Oak Hill Parkway, please provide your information below.

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Email Address _____

Mailing Address _____
