



## OAK HILL PARKWAY WORKGROUP SUMMARY

September 30, 2013 from 6 - 8 pm

Covington Middle School

3700 Convict Hill Road, Austin, TX 78749

Approximately 62 members of the general public attended a workgroup meeting to preview new concepts that will be shared at the next open house on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The new concepts included Transportation System Management, Transportation Demand Management, and Concept F, which was developed at the request of some community stakeholders. A new braided ramp option that could be applied to some of the concepts to provide better access to ACC was also shared. The project team also revealed some minor revisions for better access to neighborhoods to some of the original concepts that were presented earlier in the study process.

The purpose of the meeting was to preview the concepts and obtain initial public reactions. All stakeholders that have been invited to or have attended previous workgroup meetings, and that have provided us with an email address, were invited to attend this workgroup meeting. Everything presented at the workgroup meeting will also be share at the Open House on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at Covington Middle School from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Using feedback we gather at the workgroup meeting, as well as feedback we receive at our next Open House and online through our virtual Open House, the project team will begin using the evaluation criteria to explore which concepts should be further developed as alternatives.

Lynda Rife introduced the project team members. She explained that each person has a survey sheet with three questions about the each of the new concepts that will be presented. *What do you like about each concept? What don't you like about each concept? And What suggestions do you have for improving each concept.* Attendees were also told that if they want their comments to be submitted as part of the official environmental document, they also needed to complete a public comment form. However, the project team would be using comments provided on either form to inform their work going forward.

The project team explained that the project was kicked off in November 2012. We are approximately one year into a three year process. So far, we have held two open houses and four workshops on topics including the environment, alternative design concepts and bike/pedestrian improvements. We have also met with several stakeholders who may be impacted by the initial concepts. What attendees will see tonight has been derived from the input we have received from the community since our last public open house was held in May.

The project team provided a brief overview of the project, the schedule and environmental process.

The goal of the Oak Hill Parkway Environmental Study is to determine a solution to the mobility problems on US 290 from Joe Tanner through 1826 and SH 71 from Silvermine Drive through the Y in Oak Hill.

The purpose of the project (what we are trying to do) is:

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

The need for the project (what we are trying to solve) is:

- Traffic congestion related to population growth – Travis Co. has grown from 212,000 in 1960 to just over 1 million in 2010.
- Crashes on US 290/ SH 71 West – 304 between 2009-2011, resulting in one fatality, nine incapacitating injuries, other injuries and property damage
- Lost time – Drivers waste more than 340,000 hours per year stuck in traffic



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- Lack of connectivity
- Unreliable route for transit and emergency vehicles

Wade Strong then went over the new mobility concepts being studied and the public was invited to ask questions. Attendees were encouraged to write down any comments that they wanted to be sure would be reviewed by the project team.

Transportation System Management (TSM) includes a collection of low cost strategies to enhance safety, reduce congestion and improve traffic flow. They include traffic signal synchronization, incident management, bus pullouts and intersection improvements. TSM would not increase the overall capacity of US 290 & SH 71.

Transportation Demand Management (TDM) includes strategies to manage or decrease the demand for auto-related travel. They include alternatives to single-occupant vehicles (e.g., transit, carpool, vanpool, bicycle), and incentives/disincentives to modify driving behaviors (e.g., congestion pricing, HOV lanes, alternative work environments). TDM would not increase the overall capacity of US 290 & SH 71.

Concept F was developed at the request of and in close collaboration with some community stakeholders. Their goal was to create a more “parkway-like” facility, with no continuous frontage roads. Instead, local access would be provided through connected arterials.

Option 2 was developed after visiting with ACC representatives. It would provide good access for the ACC west driveway from westbound US 290. It could be applied to Concepts A, B, C and F. It would move the westbound US 290 exit ramp further east and would be braided either over or under the entrance ramp from SH 71.

Questions from the public were fielded throughout Wade’s presentation of the new concepts.

After reviewing all the concepts, Lynda led attendees through a “live poll” exercise, where they were asked to rate each concept on a 1-5 scale. Attendees were also asked if they felt the Oak Hill Parkway project team was headed in the right direction. 76% of respondents answered that they strongly agreed or agreed with that statement. See document titled OHP Workshop Live Poll Results\_20130930.pdf for the responses to all poll questions.

Attendees were reminded that an Open House would be held on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at Covington Middle School from 6-8 pm. The project team will be showing everything you saw here tonight, including the new concept F, the new option 2 (braided ramp providing better access to ACC), Transportation System Management Concept, Transportation Demand Management Concept, option 1 (extending project limit past Circle Drive), and updates to original concepts. The draft evaluation criteria will also be presented.

We will also conduct a Virtual Open House that will include the same materials and information that will be available at our Open House on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Attendees were asked to please turn in their live poll clickers and their completed surveys before they leave. Official comment forms can be turned in tonight or at the Open House next week. Or they can be e-mailed or mailed in.

Large print outs of each of the concepts were available for viewing around the perimeter of the room and project team members stayed after the meeting to answer questions.