



Project Update Workshop Meeting Documentation Form

Tuesday, May 23, 2017 from 6-8 pm
Oak Hill United Methodist Church – Children’s Center
7815 Hwy. 290 West, Austin, TX 78736

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (Mobility Authority) held a Project Update Workshop at the Oak Hill United Methodist Church Children’s Center on May 23, 2017 from 6 to 8 pm regarding the Oak Hill Parkway Study, at U.S. Highway 290 and State Highway 71 West in Oak Hill. The goal of the workshop was to update the community on the latest information about the environmental study including: the noise analysis process, updated tree surveys, the proposed project’s designs for Alternative A and C, the No Build Alternative, the final evaluation criteria, as well as inform the public about the release of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the upcoming public hearing.

The workshop was advertised multiple ways. An electronic newsletter invitation was released to the public on May 2, 2017 and two reminder email blasts were sent out to the project’s email database on May 16 and May 23, 2017. A color display advertisement was published in the Oak Hill Gazette on May 11, 2017, and a variable message sign was located along US 290 from June 19 to June 23, 2017 displaying the project name, meeting date, meeting time and venue location. Additionally, an article was published regarding the meeting by the Community Impact newspaper on May 10, 2017. Meeting invitations and details were also shared extensively on Twitter, including on the @OakHillParkway, @TxDOTAustin, and @CTXMobility Twitter feeds from mid-May until the day of the meeting. Meeting information was also made available on the project website www.OakHillParkway.com.

Over 90 members of the public attended the Project Update Workshop which was held in an open house style format where members of the public could arrive at their own convenience and browse the information presented on the exhibits and maps at their own pace. Project staff and technical specialists were stationed around the exhibit room and were on hand to answer questions or discuss any concerns the public had for them in an informal setting. Two handouts were provided to the attendees: a project fact sheet and a list of improvements made to the proposed alternatives due to community input received to date in accordance with the NEPA process. Additionally, a community survey form was provided to the attendees to solicit feedback on the project and on their preferred outreach methods.

Display boards exhibited for discussion included:

- Welcome
- Project Location – Or, Where are we studying?
- Project Purpose – Or, What are we trying to do?
- Project Need – Or, What are we trying to solve?
- Timeline
- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) Process Flowchart
- Traffic Demand
- Proposed Elevation
- Project Footprint – Non-tolled versus tolled
- Study and Design Updates
- Environmental Studies
- What is included in a noise study?
- Update: Archaeology and Historical Report
- Update: Biological Report
- Update: Tree Survey Results – Species Distribution
- Update: Tree Survey Results – Summary of Alternatives
- Reporting Back – Interactive Aesthetics Survey
- Reporting Back – Priorities
- What is the No Build Alternative?
- Phase 3 Evaluation Criteria
- What’s Next?

OAK HILL PARKWAY
Project Update Workshop Event Summary
May 23, 2017

Information presented at the workshop is available for download on the “Past Public Events” page of the project website at www.OakHillParkway.com.

Community Input

Below reflects what we heard from the community at the workshop:

- Concerns about traffic continuing to get worse at the intersection of US 290 and SH 71
- Optimism about having reliable travel times and less time waiting at traffic lights if the proposed Oak Hill Parkway project is constructed
- Support for Build Alternative A
- Support for Build Alternative C
- Concern about the tree survey results
- Both concern and support for how proposed changes to neighborhood access would affect them
- Both concern and support for toll financing
- Both concern and support for the proposed roadway’s elevation through the “Y” at Oak Hill.

A community survey was made available from May 23 to June 6, 2017 to attendees of the Project Update Workshop and to the public online for a period after the workshop through the project website www.OakHillParkway.com. A separate Community Survey Summary is available for public review on the project website detailing input received by participants. The survey is not a scientific poll; the results only reflect the view of those who chose to participate, either in person at the workshop, or virtually online. The following is a summary of the community survey results:

- **The best ways to reach out to the public**
Many of the meeting attendees learned about the meeting through the variable message sign on US 290 and the email blasts that were sent out prior to the meeting. These measures seemed to be the most desirable methods to reach out to the public. Additionally, NextDoor website was mentioned many times by the public as a good way to get the word out to the neighboring communities.
- **Interest in the environmental topics covered in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**
Most people wanted to know the impacts of the proposed project to traffic, noise, and vegetation and wildlife in the area. Some were interested in the indirect and cumulative impacts and impacts to water resources. They were least interested in archaeological resources and hazardous materials.
- **US 290 is one of the most congested roads in the state**
Most of the attendees noticed traffic was getting a lot worse on US 290 over the past year. They looked forward to reliable drive times and to spending less time sitting in traffic.
- **Start construction sooner than later**
Many of the attendees expressed their interest in wanting to see a change in the traffic conditions at the “Y” sooner rather than later. They support both Alternatives A and C and did not want to move forward with the No Build Alternative. They expressed that if toll financing would ensure that the US 290 and SH 71 improvements could be constructed sooner, we should obtain toll financing if the frontage roads would remain non-tolled.