



ENVIRONMENTAL WORKSHOP SURVEY SUMMARY

Conducted in conjunction with Environmental Workshop
Held June 23, 2016

During the Environmental Workshop, the study team provided participants with the option to provide additional input through an interactive survey exercises. The Environmental Workshop Survey was also made available online for two weeks after the event, June 23 to July 17, 2016. The online component was extended from a one week to a two week timeframe in order to allow for additional public input since the original response period coincided with the Independence Day holiday. The survey is not a scientific poll. The results only reflect the view of those workshop attendees and online participants that chose to participate.

OVERVIEW

- ❖ **Between June 23 and July 17, 2016, the team received 61 survey responses.** We received 27 handwritten surveys at the Environmental Workshop and 34 additional responses were completed online
- ❖ **Trees and Landscaping**
 - Planting of new trees was the #1 aesthetic budget priority chosen by respondents
 - Tree relocation was the #3 aesthetic budget priority chosen by respondents
 - Landscaping in general was the #4 aesthetic budget priority chosen by respondents
 - Some respondents support preserving the oaks or transplanting the oaks to respect the heritage of the Oak Hill area
 - Some respondents expressed the need to know the number of trees that were candidates for relocation before determining what their aesthetic budget allocation preferences would be
 - Respondents were split on their preference for planting styles between on-center style, grove style and a mixture of both styles, if new trees were to be planted; some expressed the need to know the proposed planting location before discerning which planting style to choose
 - Some respondents showed support for identifying oak tree candidates in the corridor that would be suitable for tree relocation
 - One respondent was supportive of celebrating the large oaks that are being preserved by having the shared use path go around them, or near them, as a focus of the preservation effort
 - A few respondents prefer large oak preservation over relocation when possible to avoid the risks and cost of transplanting
 - Support was strong for a “natural” look through a mix of native Live Oaks, Burr Oaks, Monterrey Oaks and smaller flowering trees
- ❖ **Overall Aesthetics Budget**
 - There did not appear to be a consensus among respondents on the aesthetics budget allocations; some indicated a preference to increase the aesthetics budget at the expense of mobility improvements, while others prioritized the functionality and traffic throughput aspects of the project over aesthetics
 - Support for an aesthetic style that reflects the history of the area was common
 - Respondent(s) suggested historic plaques or signage along proposed bike paths
 - The inclusion of a landmark feature/gateway structure that celebrates Oak Hill was not a priority among respondents
- ❖ **Bicycle and Pedestrian Enhancements**
 - Enhancements to the already planned bicycle and pedestrian facilities was the #2 aesthetic budget priority chosen by respondents
 - Some respondents were opposed to funding bicycle and pedestrian facilities completely
 - A few respondents were opposed to allocating budgetary resources to a trailhead
- ❖ **No-Build (Do Nothing) Alternative:** Multiple comments received expressed that the No Build, or “Do Nothing,” Alternative should not be an option
- ❖ **Other Themes**
 - Support for making road improvements the #1 priority
 - Concern about the size of the footprint
 - Support for minimizing construction elevation
 - Support for a non-elevated design
 - Support for a simple and easy, user-friendly facility
 - Support for protecting Williamson Creek
 - Concern about protecting endangered species
 - Concern about traffic impacts on US 290 due to new and future planned developments in Dripping Springs
 - Support for transit opportunities such as Park and Rides and light rail
 - Opposition to toll financing

SURVEY SUMMARY

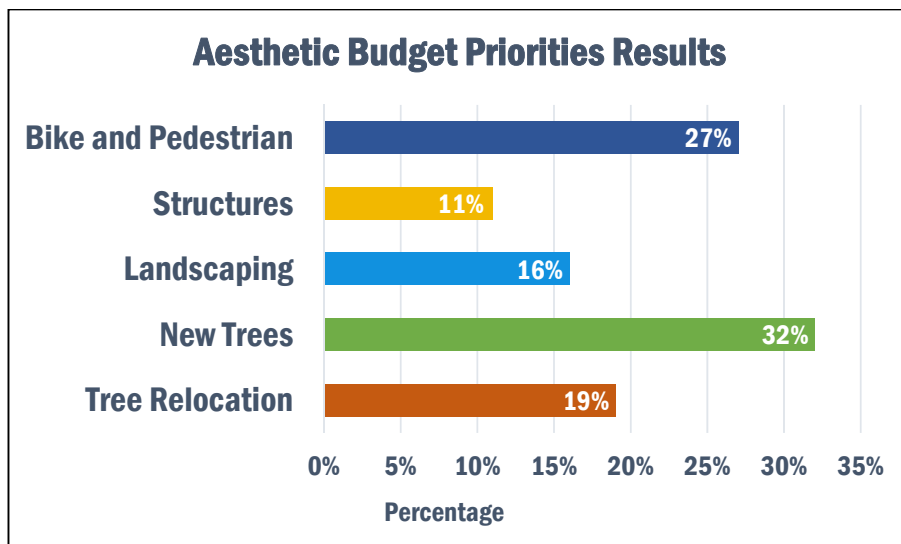
1. AESTHETIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

Here is the survey that was provided to participants:

The Oak Hill Parkway project team would like the aesthetic budget for the project to reflect community priorities. Participants were informed that elements such as lighting, signage, painting, shared use path, and sidewalks were not included in the exercise. Those standard elements would be constructed if the Oak Hill Parkway project is implemented. Input provided will be considered as aesthetic guidelines are developed in the final design phase. Financing and other considerations will determine project enhancements.

There are five aesthetic elements listed below. On a scale of 1 to 100, please tell us what percentage of the remaining aesthetic budget you would like to see allocated for each of the following items. The details below are intended to provide a general idea for what each item might cost. Please check your math to make sure your five numbers add up to 100.

TREE RELOCATION	_____%
• Relocate large oak trees - \$150,000 each including watering/utility adjustments	
NEW TREES	_____%
• Plant a 45 gallon shade tree (e.g. Live Oak) - \$1,000 per tree	
• Plant an 45 gallon ornamental tree (e.g. Texas Redbud) - \$500 per tree	
LANDSCAPING	_____%
• Plant wildflowers - \$2,500 per acre	
• Plant native grasses - \$5,000 per acre	
STRUCTURES	_____%
• Landmark feature/gateway structure that celebrates Oak Hill - \$500,000	
• Enhanced walls (e.g. Oak leaf inlays) - \$200,000	
BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN	_____%
• Enhanced bicycle and pedestrian facilities (signage, lighting, benches, trash bins, bike racks, bike repair stations) - \$250,000	
• Trailhead at William Cannon - \$2 million	
TOTAL	100%



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RESPONDENT COMMENTS:

- ❖ Spend less on the road
- ❖ Make the aesthetics budget larger
- ❖ Really want designed to have a much smaller footprint. Maybe eliminate some of frontage roads.
- ❖ Plaques along bike paths on history of Oak Hill
- ❖ Budget determined by # of trees to relocate
- ❖ Wants to see map of trees who could be relocated
- ❖ Depends on location
- ❖ Combination of groves and on center
- ❖ Groves and mixture
- ❖ No to Trailhead at William Cannon
- ❖ No need for a trailhead
- ❖ Plant trees larger than 45 gal., like 100 gallon size
- ❖ There are 3 new major housing development going into Dripping Springs- Arrow Head, The Headwaters and Caltera. Please consider impact to Hwy 290 when there developments come online!
- ❖ We should have 100% of whatever it takes to repair the nature & beauty of what you're destroying. We should, at the very least, have every category fully repaired, no matter the cost. The Joe Tanner trees should not even be considered; they should be transplanted above & beyond any other "enhancements" to the destruction of our community.
- ❖ Want groves instead of Walls
- ❖ What about endangered species?
- ❖ Don't introduce trees not already in Oak Hill
- ❖ What about protecting Williamson Creek?
- ❖ Can we reduce the footprint further?
- ❖ Minimize construction elevation
- ❖ Are Ash Juniper native?
- ❖ No Landmark feature/gateway structure that celebrates Oak Hill - \$500,000
- ❖ Info. signs along trail
- ❖ No Toll!
- ❖ I think it's important that the aesthetic style reflect the history of the area and not turn into a replica of faceless suburbs. It should feel like authentic old Austin, not perfectly symmetrical (read: non-natural) orchestration of trees, structures, and other details. It should feel organic in its layout.
- ❖ I care much more about functionality and traffic throughput than any of this. Just push the most cars you can through for the money.
- ❖ #1 priority should be getting the road improvements done.
- ❖ The bicycle and pedestrian improvements are of little use if the land regulations and zoning are not modified to encourage compact, mixed-use development (including maximum parking requirements). The sidewalks are bicycle paths can be as nice as possible but they will go unused if the surrounding urban environment does not encourage walking or biking.
- ❖ This is a ridiculous exercise because I disagree with the overall plan as do the VAST majority of my neighbors. Why not install tolls outside of Dripping and Lake Travis?
- ❖ Keep it simple and easy – no fancy useless structures, needs to be user friendly, easy to upkeep and water wise.
- ❖ The area is known as Oak Hill, the focus should be on preserving the Oaks or replanting Oaks.
- ❖ No build CAN NOT be an option !!!!

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- ❖ Since the new roadway will require the removal of several trees, but also save some of the other larger oaks, maybe it would be a good idea to celebrate the big oaks that we are saving, and have the hike and bike trails go around them, or near them, as a focus of the preservation effort.
- ❖ This is not a bike or pedestrian route, don't waste the funding trying to make it something it is not.
- ❖ **ABSOLUTELY OPPOSED TO THIS BEING A TOLL ROAD!!!!** Regarding relocating large oak trees. They should be saved as is and where is if at all possible. Too expensive and risky to try moving them. Your form does not accept a zero amount, however, relocation of trees and structures are both intended to be zero percent.

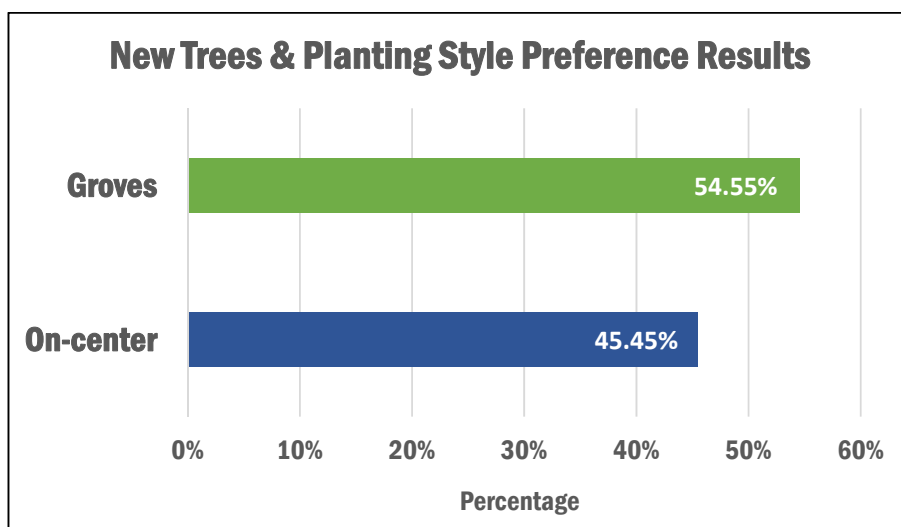
2. NEW TREES & PLANTING SYTLE PREFERENCE:

If we were to plant new trees, what planting style would you prefer?

A. On-center



B. Groves



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RESPONDENT COMMENTS:

- ❖ Keep it streamlined and natural.
- ❖ BUILD IT NOW!! STOP STUDYING EVERYTHING FOR YEARS.
- ❖ The more trees the merrier.
- ❖ See above. You are and have been circumventing the people's will. Why no create a new park and rides on the periphery of the city on 71 and 290 and use light rail to transport people to the city?
- ❖ Both are just to 'look nice' and aren't by residents. If you must plant trees on the sides like that, the on-center ones should at least be pretty (ornamental). The groves type are (to me) pretty much a waste of money and resources.
- ❖ No build NOT AN OPTION !!!!
- ❖ I think the mixture of native Live Oaks, Burr Oaks, Monterrey Oaks, as well as some of the flowering smaller trees has the best "natural" look that we are desiring.
- ❖ On center requires costly maintenance to protect the investment
- ❖ Please go with the non-elevated design!
- ❖ The Monterrey Oak is a fast grower, good shade, hardy, not susceptible to oak wilt, green most of the time, thus an excellent alternative to the traditional Texas live oak. Re: "celebrating Oak Hill" – Oak Hill has nothing to celebrate. This is a CROSS ROADS to get to multiple destinations well away from Austin, all of which are far more interesting than Oak Hill, which has little history or personality worth celebrating. So why spend any money attempting to create a totally meaningless, false and transitory persona for Oak Hill?