

ENVISIONING GREATER MOBILITY



THE PROBLEM

The intersection of 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 with drivers wasting more than a half-million hours per year stuck in traffic. The traffic congestion has reduced mobility and the quality of life in Oak Hill and surrounding communities reliant on the thoroughfare.

This problem has been investigated before. Current efforts are being implemented to improve five US 290 intersections (Joe Tanner, William Cannon, SH 71, Convict Hill and RM 1826). These proposed intersection improvements will help reduce traffic delays for the next few years. However, more work is needed to address the mobility needs twenty years into the future. Oak Hill and the region need a long-term solution.



THE MISSION

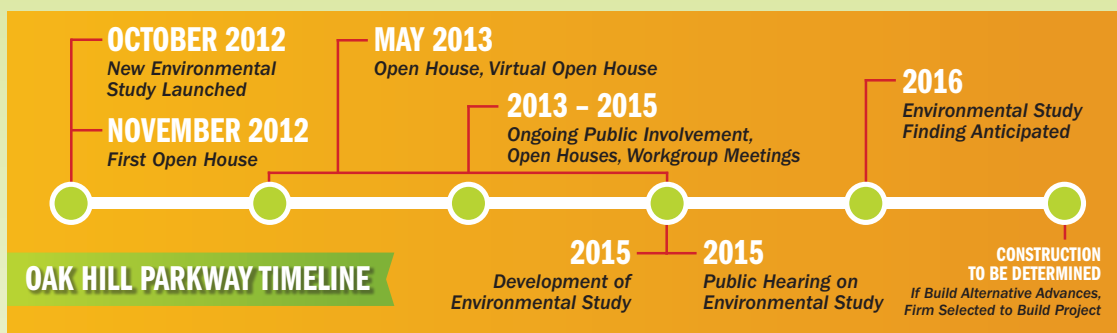
The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (Mobility Authority) are working with the City of Austin, Travis County, Capital Metro and other local partners to improve long-term mobility in the region. These organizations will work with the community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

THE PROCESS

The project team has initiated a comprehensive environmental 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. Local and regional connectivity will be a key consideration. Throughout the process, the community will be consulted on a wide range of elements, such as bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, public transit, aesthetics, noise mitigation, environmental sustainability, neighborhood access and roadway design. While recognizing the input from previous efforts, the process will encourage feedback and fresh ideas from the community.

INNOVATIVE APPROACH

The project team will implement a number of innovative concepts as part of the environmental study, including a context sensitive solutions program designed to identify community values and incorporate them into the project design. As part of that effort, in July 2011, the Mobility Authority, in partnership with TxDOT, hosted the Green Mobility Challenge, a sustainable design competition that challenged Texas' most creative landscape architects, planners and engineers to propose better ways of constructing, operating and maintaining future transportation projects, including the intersection of US 290 and SH 71. The project team will consider incorporating a number of ideas in the project. For more information about the Green Mobility Challenge, visit GreenMobilityChallenge.com.



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