



# WELCOME!

**OPEN HOUSE No. 6 – October 29, 2015**

**Welcome to the sixth open house for the Oak Hill Parkway project! Your input is appreciated and will help us refine long-term mobility improvements for US 290 and SH 71 West in Oak Hill.**

At today's meeting, you will have an opportunity to review and comment on the following:

- An updated look at Alternatives A and C designs, including artistic renderings of key intersections
- The draft matrix for the phase three of the alternatives evaluation process
- An update on designs and ideas for Context Sensitive Solutions
- Recent Water Quality Workshop information, including off-site water detention

Staff members from the Texas Department of Transportation, Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority, and other mobility partners are here to listen to you and answer your questions about the Oak Hill Parkway.

We welcome your comments, which may be provided verbally or in writing. To submit verbal comments, please see the transcriber present at this meeting. A form is included in this packet to submit written comments. You may leave your comments with us, mail them to the address indicated on the form, or fax them to 512-832-7157.

You may also submit your comments at the virtual open house, available Oct. 29 through Nov. 9, 2015 on the project website, [www.OakHillParkway.com](http://www.OakHillParkway.com).

Your comments must be received by Nov. 9, 2015 to be included in the official record of this open house.

**Thank you for your interest and participation in the Oak Hill Parkway project.**

## **STAY ENGAGED AND GET INVOLVED**

- Visit the project website: [www.OakHillParkway.com](http://www.OakHillParkway.com)
- Call the project team: (512) 996-9778
- Participate in meetings throughout the environmental study process
- Invite the project team to meet with your group

## **PROJECT PARTNERS**



# 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 William Cannon Drive to avoid 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



# ENVISIONING GREATER Mobility

FALL 2015

## 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 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 2010-2014, 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 2016.

## 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

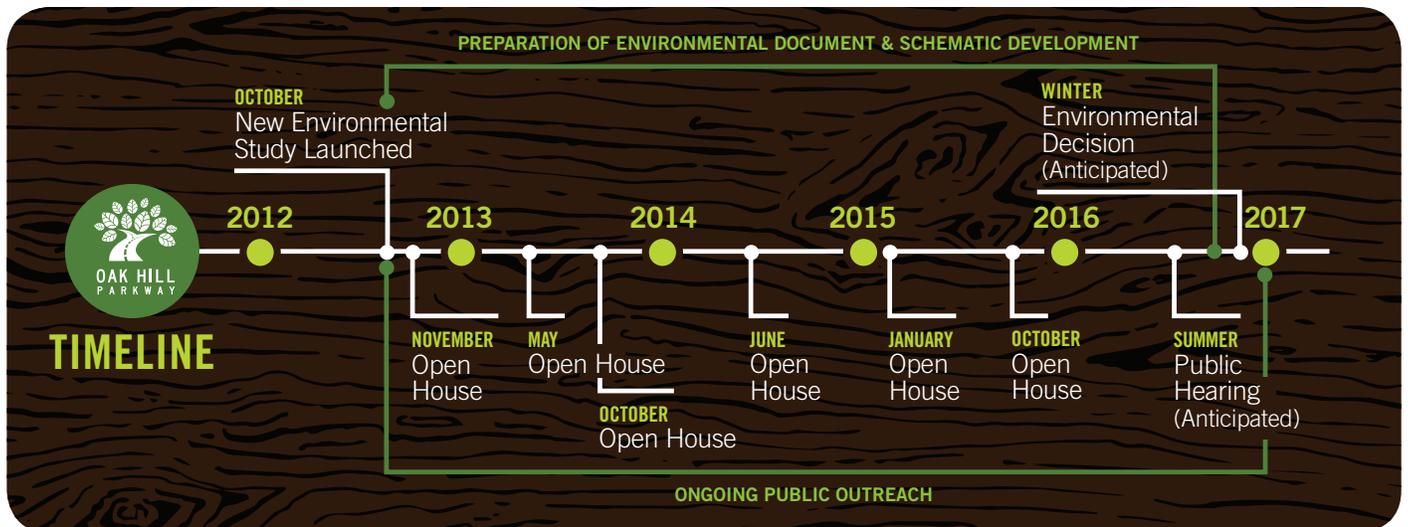
**NO BUILD ALTERNATIVE / “DO NOTHING” ALTERNATIVE** is also being carried as a baseline for analysis.

**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 facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians, 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 HIGHEST PROPOSED BRIDGE STRUCTURE ON THE PROJECT IS SHORTER THAN THE AUSTIN PIZZA GARDEN ON US 290 NEAR PATTON RANCH ROAD.



**STAY INFORMED AND GET INVOLVED**

VISIT [WWW.OAKHILLPARKWAY.COM](http://WWW.OAKHILLPARKWAY.COM)



# COMMUNITY SURVEY

OPEN HOUSE No. 6 - October 29, 2015

**Your feedback is critical to the success of the Oak Hill Parkway Project. Please complete this short survey, so we can learn what is important to you as mobility improvements in the area are considered.**

Community input has a meaningful impact on project design. With help from community stakeholders, the Oak Hill Parkway team has incorporated several improvements into the proposed project.

Please indicate how important each of the following improvements are to you. (Select one):

	Important	Unsure	Not Important	N/A
1. Looking to design a roadway that separates through-traffic from local traffic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Limiting proposed elevation at the US 290/SH 71 intersection to one level instead of two levels above existing ground	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Building new facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians, including sidewalks, a trailhead at William Cannon Drive, and a shared use path along the entire corridor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. 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)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Extending the improvements west of Circle Drive and reducing the proposed project's footprint in that area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Potentially reducing flooding with upstream water detention ponds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. Maintaining current access of streets and neighborhoods to the frontage roads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. Adding Texas Turnaround U-turns to provide local access without sitting through a traffic light	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. Minimizing impacts to Williamson Creek	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10. Proposing natural landscaping along the corridor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Mobility improvement 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. The refined concepts, now called "alternatives," are advancing through schematic development and detailed environmental analysis.

#### **Build Alternative A**

- 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 C**

- 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 (Do Nothing) Alternative**

- Proposed improvements would not be constructed; assumes all other projects in the CAMPO Plan would be constructed. It also includes the interim intersection improvements that were constructed by the city of Austin and TxDOT.
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11. What do you like about these alternatives?

12. What suggestions do you have for improving these alternatives?

13. How can we improve access for neighborhoods and businesses?

At the open house, you can review the full draft matrix for phase three of the alternatives evaluation process. Below are the topline basic performance measures we will be looking at as we evaluate Build Alternatives A and C as well as the No Build Alternative:

**MOBILITY**

- improve mobility and operational efficiency

**CULTURAL RESOURCES IMPACTS**

- cultural resources

**COST & HUMAN IMPACTS**

- potential property impacts
- potential impacts to hazardous materials sites
- potential noise impacts
- potential air quality impacts
- community impacts
- aesthetics and visual impacts
- preliminary project cost

**NATURAL RESOURCE IMPACTS**

- potential water resources impacts
- potential threatened / endangered species impacts
- vegetation impacts
- potential for induced growth

14. Please indicate how much you agree with the following statement. (Select one):

	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	N/A
These performance measures are appropriate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. What suggestions do you have for other evaluation criteria?

Throughout the Oak Hill Parkway project planning process, the project team is incorporating a comprehensive approach to design development known as Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS). The project team’s intent by using this approach is to create a safe, efficient and environmentally-responsible transportation corridor that is appropriate for its setting and speaks to the needs and values of the surrounding community.

16. After reviewing our exhibits on the status of the CSS process, are we heading in the right direction?

17. Do you have any other ideas for trailhead locations?

18. Before the public hearing, we'd like to hold additional public workshops on specific elements of the project. What topics interest you? (Select all that apply)

- Context Sensitive Solutions
- Bicycle / Pedestrian Improvements and Opportunities
- Environmental
- Trees
- Project Financing
- Other

If "Other," please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

19. Where do you live? (Select one)

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oak Hill Area    | <input type="checkbox"/> West Austin      | <input type="checkbox"/> West Travis County   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Southwest Austin | <input type="checkbox"/> South Austin     | <input type="checkbox"/> South Central Austin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hays County      | <input type="checkbox"/> Dripping Springs | <input type="checkbox"/> Wimberley            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buda             | <input type="checkbox"/> Kyle             | <input type="checkbox"/> Westlake             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Austin   | <input type="checkbox"/> East Austin      | <input type="checkbox"/> North Austin         |

If "Other," please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

20. Where do you work? (Select one)

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oak Hill Area    | <input type="checkbox"/> West Austin      | <input type="checkbox"/> West Travis County   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Southwest Austin | <input type="checkbox"/> South Austin     | <input type="checkbox"/> South Central Austin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hays County      | <input type="checkbox"/> Dripping Springs | <input type="checkbox"/> Wimberley            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buda             | <input type="checkbox"/> Kyle             | <input type="checkbox"/> Westlake             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Austin   | <input type="checkbox"/> East Austin      | <input type="checkbox"/> North Austin         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other            |   |   |

If "Other," please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

21. How did you hear about this open house? (Select all that apply)

- Postcard / Direct Mail
- Newspaper: \_\_\_\_\_
- Email from the Oak Hill Parkway Study Team
- Oak Hill Parkway Environmental Study Website
- TxDOT.gov Hearings and Meetings Website
- Twitter
- Roadway signage
- Friend/Neighbor/Relative/Co-worker
- Just passing by
- Neighborhood or Organization: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_



**COMMENT FORM**

**OAK HILL PARKWAY  
PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE MEETING**  
Oct. 29, 2015  
Covington Middle School Cafeteria  
3700 Convict Hill Rd.  
Austin, Texas 78749  
US 290/SH 71 West  
From MoPac (State Loop 1) to RM 1826

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

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Written comments may also be mailed to TxDOT Austin District Environmental Coordinator, Texas Department of Transportation, P.O. Drawer 15426, Austin, Texas, 78761-5426, or faxed to 512-832-7157. Comments received by website ([www.oakhillparkway.com](http://www.oakhillparkway.com)), mail or fax must be received by **Monday, Nov. 9, 2015**.

This form may be used to provide written comments on this project. Any questions placed on this form will not be considered an open records request and will not be treated as such. If you have an open records request it must be submitted under a separate letter.

(Texas Transportation Code, §201.811(a)(5)): Check each of the following boxes that may apply to you:

- I am employed by TxDOT
- I do business with TxDOT
- I could benefit monetarily from the project or other item about which I am commenting on

