

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 340,000 hours per year stuck in traffic. Congestion has reduced mobility and the quality of life in Oak Hill and surrounding communities.

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.

NEED: WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO SOLVE?

- Traffic congestion related to population growth – Travis County has grown from 212,000 in 1960 to just over 1 million in 2010 (US Census Data, 2013)
- Crashes on US 290/SH 71 West – 304 crashes occurred between 2009-2011, resulting in one fatality, nine incapacitating injuries, other injuries and property damage (TxDOT, 2013)
- Lost time – Drivers waste more than 340,000 hours per year stuck in traffic (Texas Transportation Institute, 2011)
- Lack of reliable connectivity
- Unreliable route for transit and emergency vehicles

PURPOSE: 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



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OAK HILL
PARKWAY

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. 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 encourages feedback and fresh ideas from the community.

INNOVATIVE APPROACH

The project team will implement a number of innovative concepts as part of the study, including a Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) process designed to identify community values and incorporate them into the project design. 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 has incorporated some of the design elements from the Green Mobility Challenge into the mobility concepts and will consider incorporating a number of the sustainable elements in the alternatives that move forward for further evaluation as we begin the CSS process. For more information about the Green Mobility Challenge, visit GreenMobilityChallenge.com.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The first Open House Meeting was held in November 2012 to introduce the environmental process and need for public input. Since then, three additional Open Houses, concurrent Virtual Open Houses, and several public workshops covering topics including the environment, alternative design concepts, project financing and bicycle/pedestrian improvements have been held. In addition, the project team has met with dozens of stakeholders to answer questions and gather input. Public outreach is a critical component of the Oak Hill Parkway project and will continue throughout the remainder of the study.

STAY INFORMED AND GET INVOLVED

There are several ways to learn more about the project and get involved:

- Visit us online at OakHillParkway.com
- Contact us by phone at 512-996-9778
- Attend Open Houses, Virtual Open Houses, workshops and other public meetings that will be held throughout the study
- Submit your comments and questions
- Invite the project team to meet with your neighborhood or organization

INTERIM INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

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.



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