

Notes from Oak Hill Envisioning Mobility Workshop Meeting
Wednesday, August 29, 2012
6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Austin Community College - Pinnacle Campus

Meeting Summary:

The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority and the Texas Department of Transportation hosted a facilitated workshop attended by 37 members of the public to gain a better understanding of the Oak Hill community's values, and vision for future development and mobility. The meeting was facilitated by independent facilitators, Juli Fellows, PhD., Mary Thompson and Diane Miller.

Steve Pustelnyk kicked off the meeting with an introduction. He stated that the purpose of the meeting was to develop a community-branded name and identity for the environmental study scheduled to begin in mid-November and a long-range mobility plan for the Y at Oak Hill, as well as provide an opportunity for the Mobility Authority and TxDOT to hear ideas and concerns directly from citizens.

Juli laid out the guidelines for the evening's discussion and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Attendees were then divided into small groups to discuss what they considered to be Oak Hill's defining characteristics.

Next, attendees were divided into three larger groups to discuss their visions for the 'Y' in the next ten years or so. Individuals within each group shared their ideas, listened to each other, and identified common themes. Each group then brainstormed a list of names for the study and selected a few to present to the other groups. The groups then reported out. Potential names for the study included: Oak Hill Parkway, Oak Hill Way, Oak Hill Gateway, Convict Hill Parkway, Oak Hill Connection, and Gateway Oak Hill.

Next, meeting attendees selected their favorite proposed project names by placing a green dot by the ones they liked best and a red dot by the names they liked least. The Oak Hill Parkway was selected by most as the favorite project name.

Steve concluded the meeting by thanking the attendees for their time and input. The names they generated would be shared with and voted on by the greater Oak Hill community via an online poll through September 11th. The name would be announced with the kick-off of the environmental study later this fall.

Meeting Findings

- Many in the group had participated in several lengthy public involvement processes in the past and expressed some mistrust that this process would be any more productive or collaborative.
- Many stakeholders felt Oak Hill has been disrespected or abused by government agencies with more power than they have.
- A sore point is the vacant right-of-way land that has negatively affected businesses and residents. They pass it daily and they feel it's a constant reminder of how TxDOT has failed to meet their needs.
- Several people remarked that the community had a lot of shared interests and visions but that they believe TxDOT will do what's best for TxDOT.
- Preservation and enhancing the natural environment was a major theme. Williamson Creek and the cliff are two key symbols for the community.
- This is not simply the neighborhood vs. development: there is disagreement among the neighbors over the best course of action.
- There is a desire for balance: commercial development with green space, efficient traffic flow with safe traffic flow, neighborhood access to local services with connectivity to larger metro services. Attendees seemed to understand that there will be trade-offs.

**OAK HILL
ENVISIONING MOBILITY WORKSHOP**

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