



Hello,

We hope you are enjoying the end of summer! We appreciate your continued interest in this project and want to share additional information with you.

We have received many questions and heard input from the public on how the environmental review process affects the Austin Avenue Bridges project. The information below provides a broad overview of the environmental process. We also have added information to the project webpage. The next public meeting has not been scheduled, but we anticipate that it will be held this fall. The team held an informal meeting for the Section 106 consulting parties, which included a project overview presentation and a walking tour on Tuesday, August 23 (see photo below). The presentation is available online. Please reach out if you have additional questions or concerns.

Environmental Overview

Section 106 Consulting Party Presentation



What We Have Heard

Concern: *The Environmental Process has not been transparent.*

Response: The City and the project team have provided information transparently since this process began. At the first public meeting, the environmental team presented highlights of the environmental process and was available to answer questions. In addition, the team has emphasized the importance of the environmental process at all meetings. We will continue to keep you updated and informed on this process as it continues. You can view exhibits from the first public meeting here: [June 29, 2016 Public Meeting Exhibits](#)

Concern: *Only replacement is being considered for the bridges.*

Response: The City is undertaking this process to evaluate multiple options to address the bridge infrastructure and determine the best solution. Options being considered include variations of rehabilitation, replacement, maintenance, and no build. This information also has been shared since the beginning of the project and preliminary results of the evaluation of alternatives will be presented at the third public meeting.

Concern: *Public did not know they had a voice in the process.*

Response: A major component of this process is public involvement and the City is working closely with the public to collect and incorporate input throughout this process. To date two public meetings have been held with over 160 attendees. The City and team have held or attended more than 20 additional meetings with individuals or small groups to collect input on the project. The team has shared email updates with more than 600 people in the project database. Two additional public meetings will be held before this project is concluded. Further, the City and project team will continue meeting with anyone to share project information and collect input at any time. Please reach out if you feel you have not been heard.

Concern: *The first two public meetings did not follow NEPA requirements.*

Meaningful public involvement is an important required component of the environmental process (National Environmental Policy Act and Section 106). The first two meetings were held in addition to the meetings that are required by TxDOT environmental procedures. The meetings that are planned include a public meeting to share alternatives and another meeting or possibly a hearing to present the proposed alternative or solution. These will be scheduled as meeting 3 and 4 in this project. All regulatory requirements are being followed. The public involvement process for this project is going above what is required by the environmental review process and the City puts utmost value on the public input. Please sign up for email updates and stay tuned to the project website for information. The City will continue to notify you of future opportunities to participate and again, please reach out if you feel you have not been heard.

Concern: *Public did not know they could be a consulting party.*

Response: Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, individuals and organizations with a demonstrated legal or economic relation to the proposed project may participate in Section 106 review as consulting parties. As referenced in the environmental overview document, the formal consulting party process begins as alternatives are being developed and evaluated for potential impacts to cultural resources. That process is ongoing. If you are interested in applying to become a consulting party, please reference the Environmental Overview document linked above.

[Read More](#)

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