



AUSTIN AVENUE BRIDGES PROJECT

PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

MAY 11, 2017



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Austin Avenue Bridges Project

Public Meeting Summary

The City of Georgetown began a study of Austin Avenue from 3rd Street to Morrow Street, including the two historically significant bridges crossing the San Gabriel River, in January of 2016. This study has included a range of both short- and long-term solutions for Austin Avenue while balancing considerations such as safety, mobility, public input, impacts to property owners and cost. In Spring and Summer of 2016, two public meetings were held to give the community an opportunity to view and provide input on twelve potential alternatives. Based on data analysis and feedback collected, these options were narrowed down to five alternatives, which were presented for review and input at the third public meeting.

MEETING DETAILS

The City of Georgetown hosted the third public meeting for the Austin Avenue Bridges Project to share revised alternatives and gather input and feedback from the community. The meeting was in an open house format with no formal presentation, and attendees were able to view public meeting exhibits, visit with members of the project team and provide their input on the project and process at their convenience.

Thursday, May 11, 2017

4 – 7 p.m.

The City of Georgetown GCAT Building
510 W. 9th St., Georgetown, TX 78626



Austin Avenue Public Meeting

NOTICES AND ADVERTISEMENTS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

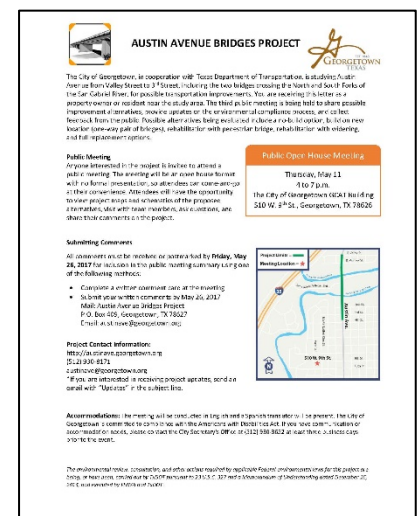
The following methods were used to contact and inform the community of the meeting:

Direct Mail

A public meeting notification letter in English and Spanish was mailed on April 11, 2017 to 161 addresses, which included Section 106 consulting parties, community facilities, and property owners inside the following limits: Williams Drive to 6th Street and from Rock Street to Main Street. This letter was also mailed to 21 elected officials on April 12, 2017. A second reminder letter was mailed to 15 consulting parties on May 2, 2017.

Published Notifications

A public meeting announcement was published in the *Williamson County Sun* on April 30, 2017. A Spanish version of the announcement was published in *El Mundo* on April 27, 2017.



English Public Meeting Announcement

Email Notifications

An email notification was sent on April 13, 2017 to 683 individuals, which included public officials, landowners, businesses, community organizations and other interested parties who signed up for notifications. Due to unsubscribers and email bounce-backs, a second notification was sent to 679 email addresses on May 4, 2017.

Signage

Public meeting details were posted on large signs at the north and south ends of the San Gabriel Trail on April 19, 2017. The signs displayed the date and location of the public meeting and project contact information.

Outreach

Public meeting flyers and contact cards with project information were distributed to local business and City offices on May 5, 2017.

On April 5, 2017, city staff also attended The Downtown Lowdown, a quarterly informal community meeting regarding activities in Georgetown's downtown district, to share updated project information with interested Georgetown residents.



Signage placed at the north and south ends of the San Gabriel Trail

PUBLIC MEETING EXHIBITS & STATIONS

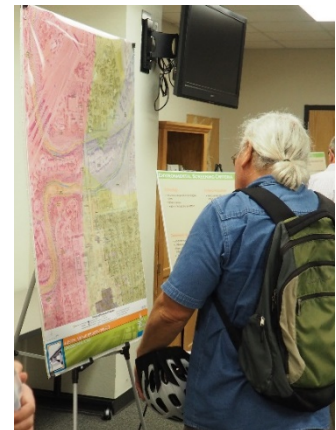
As attendees entered the public meeting, they were asked to sign in and were provided name tags and a handout with details about the project and the presented alternatives. This handout is included in the appendix.

Attendees were invited to view exhibit boards that displayed the following information:

- Project Need and Purpose
- Project Description
- Environmental Review
- NEPA Process
- Environmental Screening Criteria
- Alternatives Analysis
- Analysis Summary
- Next Steps

A station including maps of the five alternatives was also available for attendees to view, discuss with team members and provide mapped comments on post-it notes. The following alternatives were presented:

- 1. No Build
- 2A. Build on New Location and Conversion to 1-way pair of Bridges (east)
- 6A. Rehabilitation with Pedestrian Bridge (east)



Austin Avenue Public Meeting

Summary of Participation

61 – Meeting Attendees
1 – Mapped Comment
106 – Written and Emailed Comments
1 – Section 106 Comment
1 – NextDoor Poll Shared

- 7A. Rehabilitation and Widen Bridges (east)
- 8. Full Replacement

Written comments cards and online comment forms on laptops and iPads were available at a comment station for attendees to provide their input.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
The Austin Avenue Bridges are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NHRP) list because of the construction method used to build the bridges in 1940. As a result of this eligibility, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is included in this study. A station was provided to share details with a separate comment card and exhibits sharing the following information:

- Anticipated scheduled activity related to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
- Historic significance of the Austin Avenue Bridges
- Aerial map of the area showing historic resources
- Draft of eligibility recommendations



Austin Avenue Public Meeting - Section 106 Station

PUBLIC INPUT

Input was collected through several methods. Meeting attendees had the opportunity to view large aerial maps of the five alternatives and leave location-specific comments on post-it notes. In addition, input was collected through an online comment form, written comment cards and email.

The official comment period was open from May 11, 2017 to May 26, 2017. Several additional recipients enrolled for email updates at the public meeting, and a public meeting follow-up statement with a reminder of the comment period was sent to 693 emails in the database on May 12, 2017. A final reminder to share input was sent to 709 email addresses on May 24, 2017.



Austin Avenue Public Meeting

Mapped Comment

One mapped comment was submitted for Alternative 2a regarding the potential trail connection at the South Fork of the San Gabriel River (see right).

Written & Emailed Comments

There were 13 written comments collected through comment cards at the public meeting, 64 comments submitted through the online comment form and 29 additional comments received via email. One written comment was submitted regarding Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and one emailed comment included the results of a NextDoor poll



Mapped Comment on Alternative 2a

submitted by a local resident. The full text of this poll and all written and emailed comments received are included in the appendix.

Four comments were received outside of the official comment period, including an additional NextDoor Poll submitted by a local resident. Comments submitted outside of the official comment period were reviewed by the project team and included in the appendix, but are not included in the content summary or totals listed in this report.

Comment Summary

The comments collected shared valuable information from the community with the City and the project team. To further analyze these comments, the project team organized the comments by topic and created the summary below. Note - some comments were counted under more than one topic.

Comment Topic	Number of Comments
Preference for 6A Rehabilitation with pedestrian bridge	53
Cost/funding	26
Impact to downtown/businesses	26
Pedestrian/bicycle accommodations and safety	24
Public involvement process	23
Preference for 8 Full replacement	17
Planning for long term	17
Opposition to 8 Full replacement	16
Turning options	13
Condition of bridges	11
Environmental considerations	9
Historic value of bridges	9
Opposition to 7A Rehabilitation and widen bridges	9
Additional design considerations	6
Traffic control plan during construction	6
Construction impacts	6
Preference for 7A Rehabilitation and widen bridges	6
Lane transitions	6
Vehicle safety	5
Increased traffic/speed	5
Environmental process	5
Congestion and traffic patterns	5
Support for widening lanes	4
Opposition to widening	2
Desire to preserve handrail	2
Preference for 2A Build on new location and conversion to 1-way pair of bridges	2
Study process	2
Preference for 1 No build	2
Support for widening bridges	2
Public Transit	2
Request for elevation rendering of alternatives	1

