Carbon Reduction Program - Waco MPO Project Submission

Submission date:	18 April 2023, 10:00AM
Receipt number:	9
Related form version:	7

Introduction

Proposed Project Details	
City Name:	City of Waco
Contact Name, Title:	Jim Reed, Streets Division Manager
Email:	jimr@wacotx.gov
Phone Number:	2542305780
Project Title:	Negative Emission Tree Planting (MKT Rails to Trails)
Project Location:	MKT Rails to Trail Project from Dallas Avenue to FM 933 (Gholson Road)
Project Location	1112 J J Flewellen Rd, Waco, TX 76704, USA <u>Map</u> (31.575042108222075, -97.12810735935825)

Our community continues to strive for healthy neighborhoods and economic vibrancy. Both are easily satisfied with the numerous positive values associated with the urban landscaping and planning, including street tree effects. The integration of street trees into the urban roadside system offers many advantages to the surrounding area including enhanced property value, environmental benefits, and the well recognized aesthetic enhancements.

This project application consists of the installation of street trees along an active construction project that supports alternative mobility in a area of the city facing decline in social cohesion and in the willingness to interfere with negative decisions noticed due to change. The active construction project is scheduled to be complete no later than June 2024. The work identified in this application shall be separate and apart from the active construction project.

Street trees are essential for life. They not only introduce inviting place making but help filter the water we drink, clean the air we breathe, shade our mobility options on sunny days, and provide habitat to over 80% of the world's terrestrial biodiversity.

Street trees, especially their contribution to negative emission, play a crucial role in alleviating the devastating impact of climate change.

Alignment with Prioritization Criteria:

1. Is your project a listed, eligible activity?

If yes, which eligible category does your project fall under? If no, how and to what degree would your project measurably reduce transportation emissions?

2.

Does your proposed project reduce transportation emissions? In what ways?

When trees are planted and begin to grow, they start absorbing carbon dioxide emissions, which they then store and carry out photosynthesis with. Researchers at University College London, University of Oxford, and ETH Zurich found that if people work together worldwide to plant trees, two-thirds of the total carbon emissions (~three hundred tons) put into the atmosphere due to human activity can be removed. One tree can mature and consume 48 pounds of carbon dioxide per year to allow a human to breathe for two years. Professor Tom Crowther from ETH Zurich conducted 49 experiments and saw how a 1°C rise in global temperature would cause microorganisms to release about 55 billion tons of soil carbon by 2050. The detrimental aftermath is preventable because while carbon is present with warming soils, trees could absorb them when growing.

Does your proposed project address racial equity, to opportunity in both rural and urban communities, or which redress prior inequities and barriers to AOPP and overall mobility needs.)

The top three means of transportation people in North workforce and economic development, remove barriers Waco use to get to work are: car, walking and bus or trolley bus. A total of 11,408 residents commute by car, 200 prefer going to work by walking and 136 by opportunity? How? (Project prioritization considers both bus or trolley bus. There are 26,155 residents in North Waco, with a median age of 35.5. Of this, 48.98% are males and 51.02% are females. US-born citizens make up 88.49% of the resident pool in North Waco, while non-US-born citizens account for 5.17%. Additionally, 6.34% of the population is represented by noncitizens.

> A total of 22,558 people in North Waco currently live in the same house as they did last year.

Everyone in North Waco should get involved in this project! Everyone has the ability to get involved with planting trees, including students, the elderly, and even those with disabilities.

Foundations such as Texas Trees, Texas A&M Forestry, and Waco Tree Foundation shall be contacted to ensure the best opportunity for plantings survival is based on their suggested target placement, and dates for planting the trees. Stakeholders across our community who desire to participate in the tree planting as a contractor, vendor, or volunteer shall be informed on this opportunity to bid and be educated on the resources and conditions to pursue this opportunity to plant the trees in this more industrial area of our community.

Will your proposed project benefit future generations? In "He plants trees for the benefit of later generations":what ways?John Quincy Adams's Motto.

Planting trees, even just one or two, can make a huge difference. Trees are our lifeline to cleaner air and a healthier environment as trees improve air quality by producing oxygen. We need trees now more than ever!

For decades, I have been encouraged to plant trees and tuber species for reasons that will remain pertinent forever. My grandfather (who farmed peanuts across thousands of acres in Hill County) said that you do not plant a tree for yourself to enjoy, but for the enjoyment of future generations. Therefore, it is important to make sure that we have trees standing and providing us with the multitude of benefits for generations to come... If for nothing more important than shade.

From a safety perspective, the tree plantings shall serve as a natural buffer that provides a spatial space between development and users along the trail and sidewalks. Buffers shall include landscape plantings such as grass, trees or shrubs, and shall be placed in an area commonly referred to as the "planting strip," "landscape buffer," "tree buffer," or "tree box." In some areas along the completed trail tree plantings shall be strategically placed in a grassy swales or drainage ditches to improve drainage. Does your proposed project take into account the waysThe active urban construction project to be supportedin which it interacts with surrounding areas andby this application consists of both walking andinfluences current and future accessibility and uses?cycling opportunities adjacent to a high priority #1How?trail corridor project identified in the City of Waco

by this application consists of both walking and cycling opportunities adjacent to a high priority #1 trail corridor project identified in the City of Waco Trail System Master Plan. The former Missouri-Kansas-Texas rail corridor was the first major rail corridor to enter Texas from the north. In Waco, the corridor purchased by the City in 2016, runs from the M. Lipsitz Co. plant by the Brazos River north to just past Lake Shore Drive. The primary benefit of the MKT trail is connecting the neighborhoods of East Waco to the existing trail system surrounding the Brazos River. The MKT trail is planned to provide a safe route for pedestrians and cyclists to travel from the Brazos River to Lake Shore Drive and Lacy Lakeview, and to serve as a catalyst for further redevelopment in East Waco.

Planting trees along this improved concrete corridor of sidewalks and multi-use trails could help facilitate more users and allow people to feel better connected to nature in the process. Cities seem to be shifting from urban sprawl and car centric to being more considerate towards pedestrians and cyclists.

Planting more trees allows this corridor to be more connected with nature, users to feel more secure, and cyclists to experience a more inviting mode of travel to work and play.

The targeted and deliberate placement of street trees planned along the trail and in the parkway area provides shade and a physical barrier between trail users and building structures along and adjacent to the improved path. What is the Local match committed to this project?

Estimated Opinion Construction Costs = \$625,718 (Includes 30% Contingency)

City of Waco Participation Percentages 25% Construction (\$156,430 Based on EOCC) 100% Design Services 100% ROW & Utilities 100% Environmental 100% Inspection Services 100% CA /CM

7.

What is the readiness level of the project? Project funds	#1 - 100% Complete (Walker Partners under Contract)
are available for obligation for a maximum of 4 years (3	#2 - Satisfied (Complete)
years after the last day of the fiscal year for which funds	#3 - Satisfied (Complete)
are authorized). Please indicate project status for	#4 - Satisfied (Complete)
design, engineering (if applicable), ROWs, and cost	#5 - Satisfied (Complete - TxDOT Categorical
estimates.	Exclusion)

8.

Does proposed project have community support? If yes, **#1 - Satisfied (Previously authorized by City Council** to what extent? 6/18/2019)

- #2 Satisfied
- #3 Satisfied
- #4 Satisfied
- #5 Satisfied

Please include letters of support, public comments, endorsement from public officials, or other related documentation demonstrating type and caliber of community support. 1 - Exhibit 1 Council resolution - GRANT.doc 1 - Exhibit 2 Construction Design and X-Section (Clearing).docx

<u>1 - Exhibit 3 Construction Design and X-Section</u> (Water line).docx

- 1 Exhibit 4 Construction Results 1.docx
- 1 Exhibit 5 Construction Results 2.docx
- 1 Exhibit 6 Construction Results 3.docx
- 1 Exhibit 7 Construction Results 4.docx
- 2 Exhibit 1 Publlic Outreach Meeting.pdf
- 1 Exhibit 8 Proposed Tree Placement.docx
- 2 Exhibit 2 Active Transportation Plan.docx
- 2 Exhibit 3 City-wide Trails Master Plan.docx
- 2 Exhibit 5 Waco Cycling Map (Feature).docx
- 3 Exhibit 1 Area Letters of Support.docx
- 3 Exhibit 2 Area Letters of Support (Continued).docx

2 - Exhibit 4 City-wide Trails Master Plan (System Feature Map).pdf

4 - Exhibit 2 Endorsement from Congressman Bill Flores.docx

4 - Exhibit 1 Endorsement from State Representative Kyle Kacal.docx

4 - Exhibit 3 Endorsement from Congressman Senator Brian Birdwell.docx

5 - Exhibit 1 Endorsement from Bike Texas Executive Director Robin Stallings.docx

5 - Exhibit 2 Endorsement from Waco District Engineer.docx

(Revised C			Resolution
Council Date:	Originating Department:	Presentation By:	Reference #:
06/18/2019	Public Works	Amy Burlarley-Hyland	RES-2019-367

Item:

Consider a resolution approving the submission of twelve (12) separate applications to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for a grant or grants for the following projects in response to TxDOT's 2019 Statewide Call for Projects for the Transportation Alternative Set-Aside (TASA) and/or Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programs, namely: SRTS Projects: (1) Waco SRTS Alta Vista Elementary; (2) Waco SRTS Cesar Chavez Middle; (3) Waco SRTS Indian Springs Middle; (4) Waco SRTS J. H. Hines Elementary; (5) Waco SRTS Provident Heights Elementary; and (6) Waco SRTS South Waco Elementary, and TASA Projects: (1) Waco SRTS Cesar Chavez Middle; (2) Waco SRTS Indian Springs Middle; (3) Waco SRTS J. H. Hines Elementary; (4) Waco TA Cedar Ridge Neighborhood Bike and Ped SUP Connection; (5) Waco TA Mars Drive Bike & Pedestrian Connectivity Improvements; and (6) Waco TA MKT East Waco Rails to Trails Connection, authorizing the City Manager to act on behalf of the City in all matters relating to this funding nomination and to execute all necessary applications, assurances, certifications, and other documents, relative to the submission of the applications, and supporting funding of and other actions related to the above-mentioned projects.

Background:

Approval of this resolution will allow the Public Works Department to apply for federal funding consideration under the Texas Department of Transportation 2019 Statewide Call for Projects for the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Program and/or Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programs. These Programs provide the opportunity for the City to secure federal funds to complete high priority alternative transportation projects, if selected.

The attached resolution includes language provided by TxDOT that outlines the required written commitments by the City to apply for funding under these Programs.

The twelve (12) applications to be submitted to TxDOT for consideration of funding include the following:

Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA)

Waco SRTS Cesar Chavez Middle

Estimated Construction Costs \$1,166,608.00 - Estimated Local Participation \$268,320.00 (Match)

Waco SRTS Indian Springs Middle

Estimated Construction Costs \$577,932.00 - Estimated Local Participation \$132,925.00 (Match)

Waco SRTS J. H. Hines Elementary

Estimated Construction Costs 721,685.00 - Estimated Local Participation \$165,988.00 (Match)

Waco TA Cedar Ridge Neighborhood Bike and Ped SUP Connection

Estimated Construction Costs \$1,811,217.00 - Estimated Local Participation \$416,580.00 (Match)

Waco TA Mars Drive Bike & Pedestrian Connectivity Improvements Estimated Construction Costs \$5,134,198.00 - Estimated Local Participation \$1,180,866.00 (Match) Waco TA MKT East Waco Rails to Trails Connection Estimated Construction Costs \$3,615,633.00 - Estimated Local Participation \$831,596.00 (Match)

Safe Routes to School-Infrastructure (SRTS)

Waco SRTS Alta Vista Elementary

Estimated Construction Costs \$507,626.00 - Estimated Local Participation \$50,763.00 (Engineering)

Waco SRTS Cesar Chavez Middle

Estimated Construction Costs \$1,166,608.00 - Estimated Local Participation \$116,661.00 (Engineering)

Waco SRTS Indian Springs Middle

Estimated Construction Costs \$577,932.00 - Estimated Local Participation \$57,793.00 (Engineering)

Waco SRTS J. H. Hines Elementary

Estimated Construction Costs \$721,685.00 - Estimated Local Participation \$72,169.00 (Engineering)

Waco SRTS Provident Heights Elementary

Estimated Construction Costs \$1,016,146.00 - Estimated Local Participation \$101,615.00 (Engineering)

Waco SRTS South Waco Elementary

Estimated Construction Costs \$468,610.00 - Estimated Local Participation \$46,861.00 (Engineering)

Local Match for Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Projects

TASA funding provides 80% federal funds with a 20% minimum local match required. The local funding match is a cash match or a combination of cash and in-kind contributions provided by or through the project sponsor. Projects selected by the Texas Transportation Commission will also require the addition of a 15% TxDOT administrative fee (based on the total estimated project construction cost) for department administration and oversight. The department's administrative fee will be 80% federally funded with a 20% local match. The 20% local match for TxDOT's administrative cost must be provided in cash.

Local Match for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Projects

SRTS funds are 100% federal funds, meaning no local match is required.

The Texas Transportation Commission will select TASA and SRTS projects through a competitive process administered by

TxDOT departments and the Director of the Division responsible for administering the Programs.

Any project selected for federal funding by the Texas Transportation Commission shall be further authorized by Council action at a later date and prior to the execution of a local agreement with TxDOT. This action shall authorize the City's participation in the appropriate Program(s) and commit the financial match requirements found under the associated Program(s).

Attachments:

Resolution (DOCX)

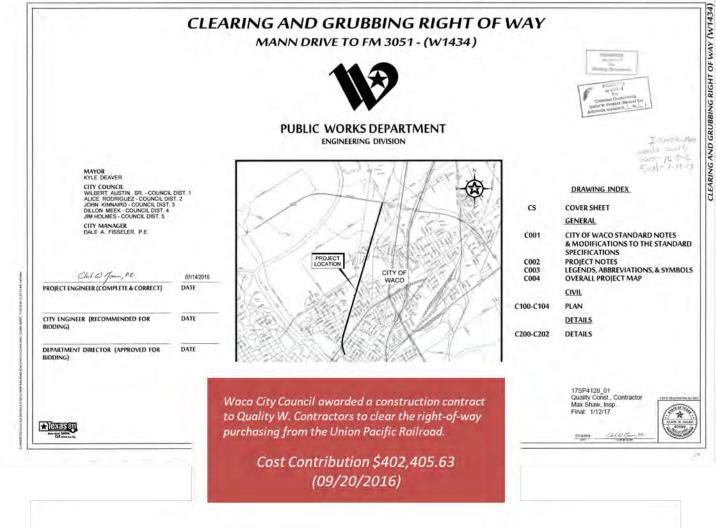
RES 2019-367 (PDF)

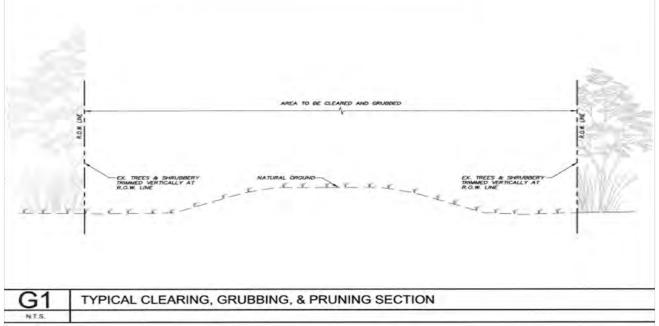
Fiscal Impact:

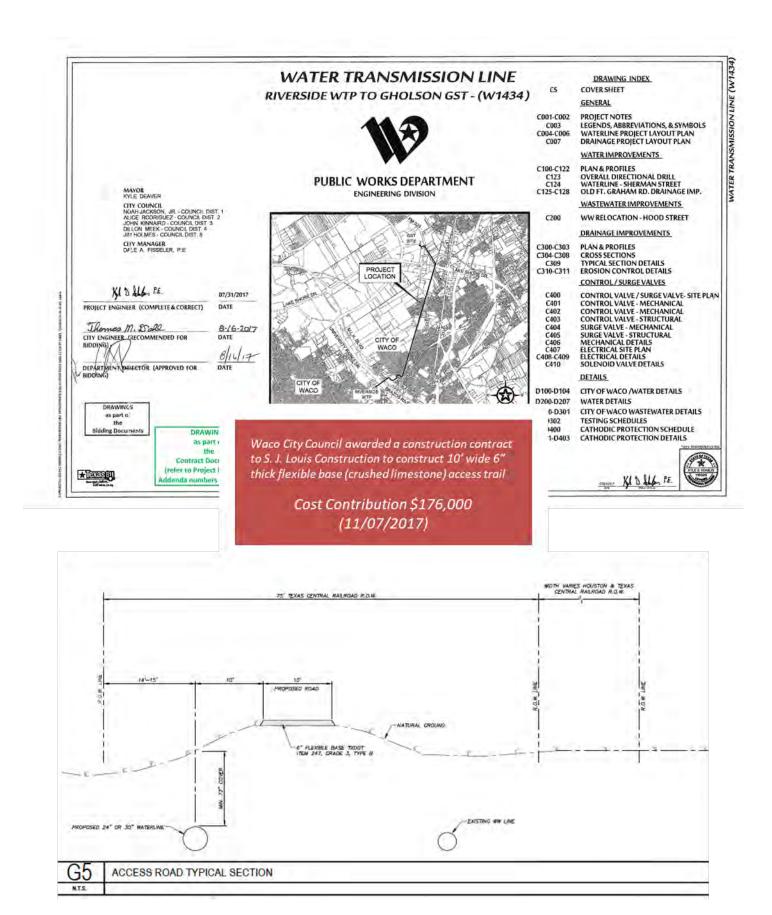
There is no fiscal impact associated with applying for the grants. However, if awarded a TASA grant, the City will be responsible for 20% of the selected TASA project costs plus an additional 3% for the State's administrative fees and 100% of any construction costs overruns. If awarded a SRTS grant, no match is required since the program funds projects at 100% but the City is responsible of 100% of all costs overruns. Projects awarded funding and approved by the Texas Transportation Commission by minute order shall be proposed for Council consideration through an appropriate budget amendment or the proposed 2021 Streets CIP Budget. Acceptance of funding arrangements with the State of Texas would be subject to future City Council action.

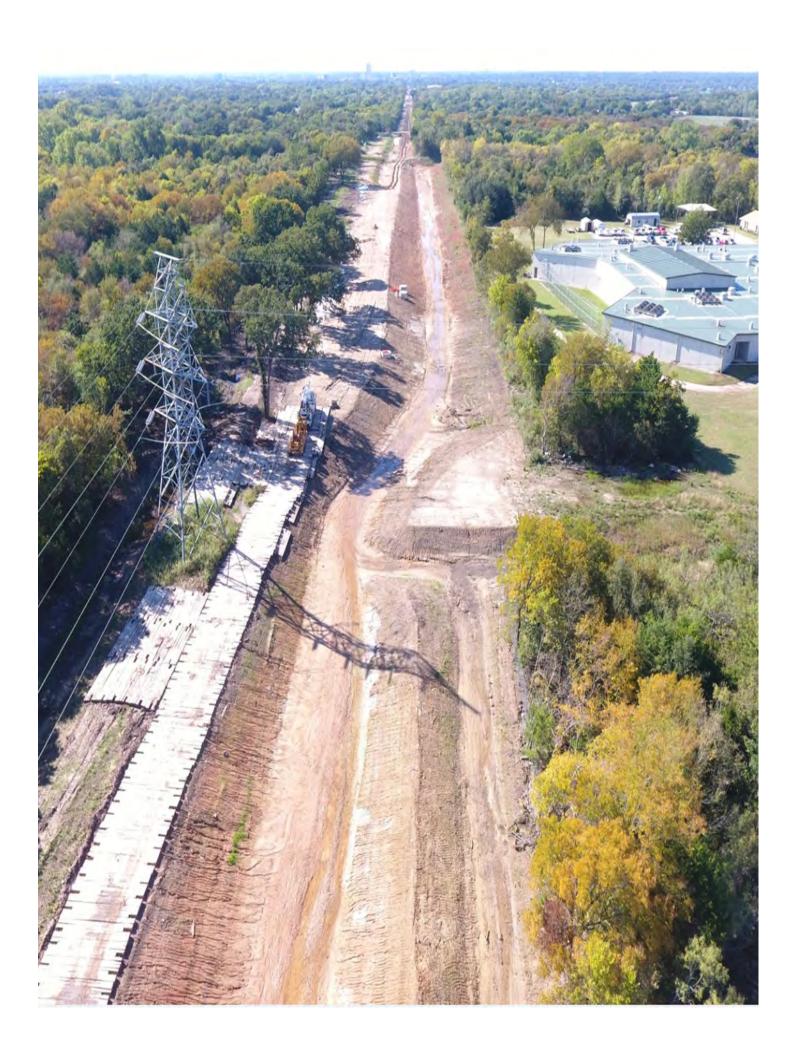
Project Schedule:

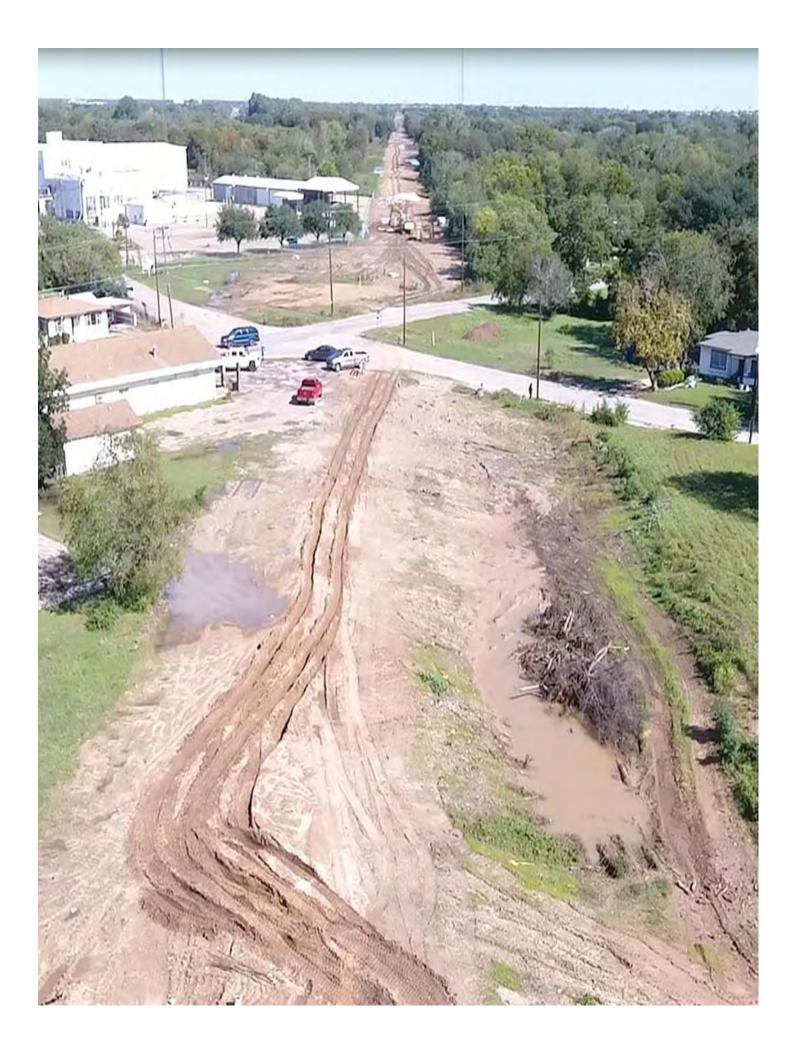
Awards for 2019 Transportation Alternative Set-Aside (TASA) and Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programs are expected to be announced in the Spring of 2020.

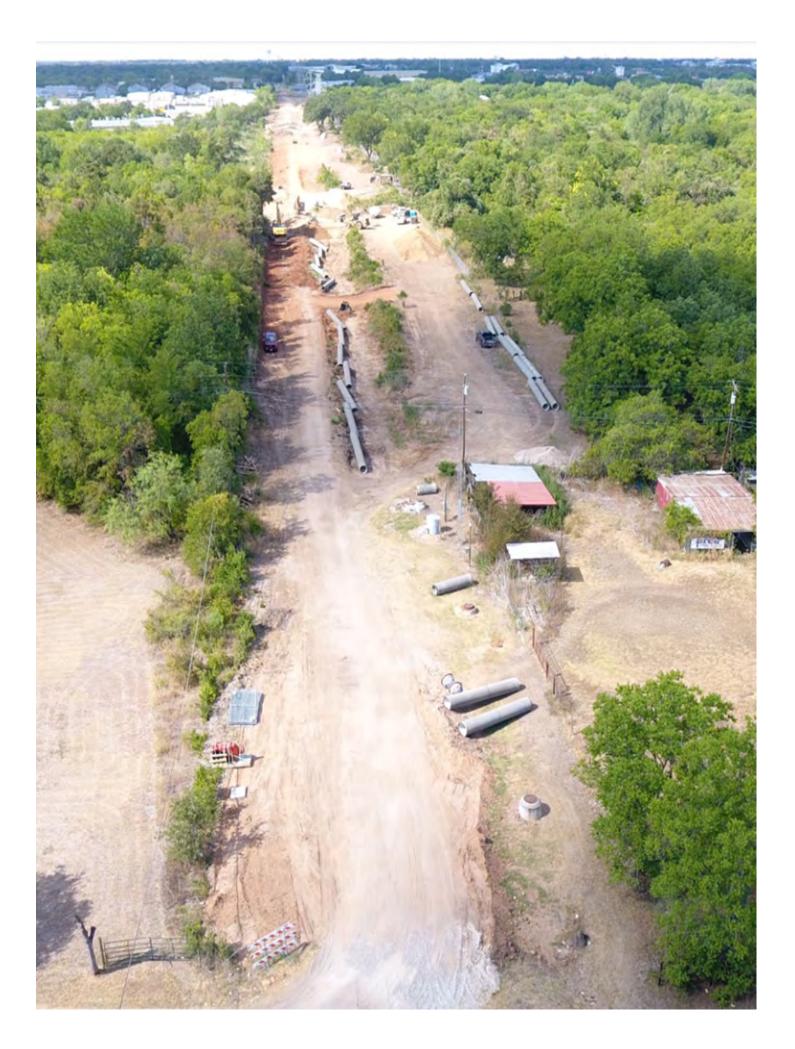


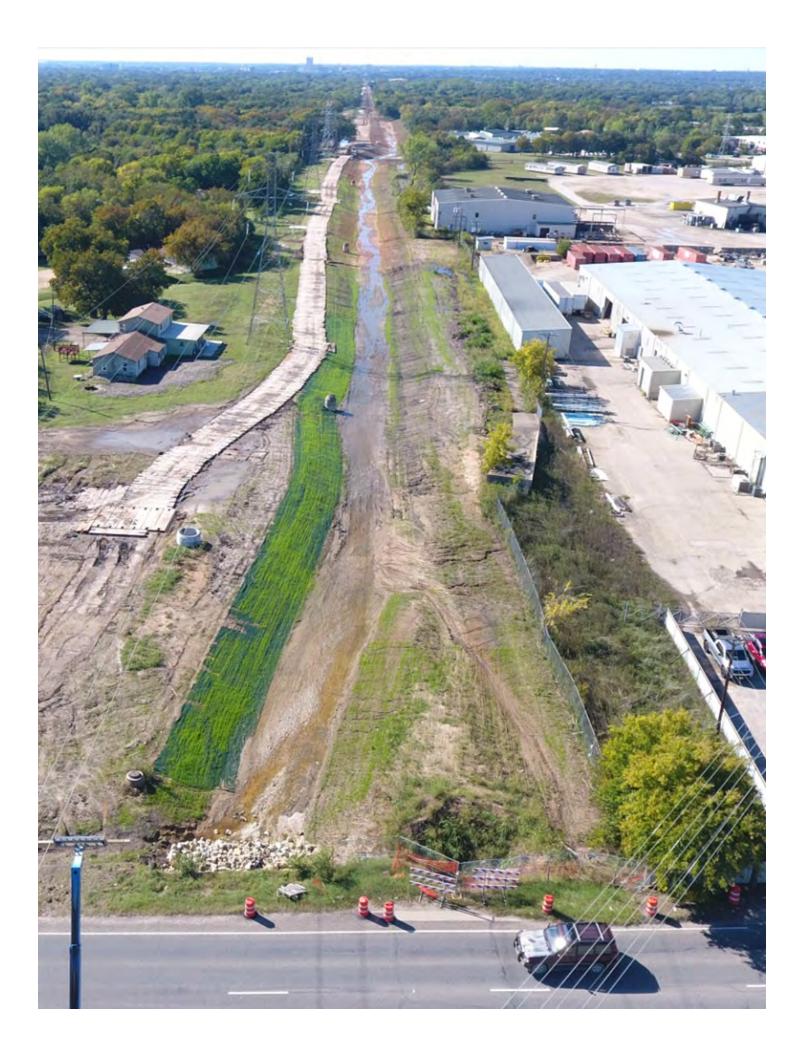


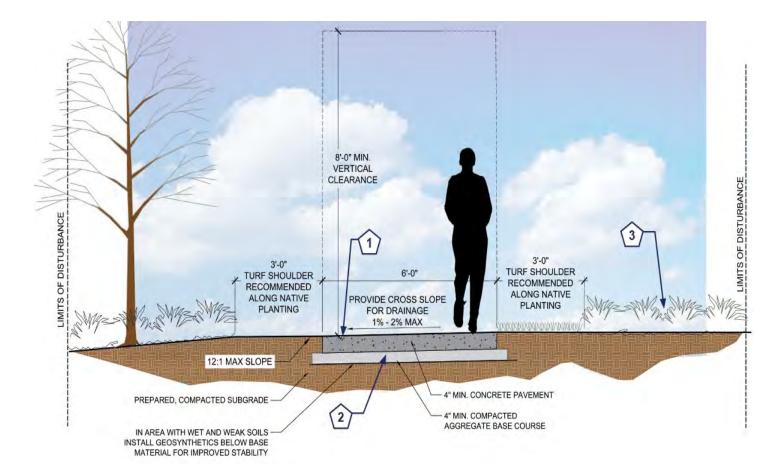


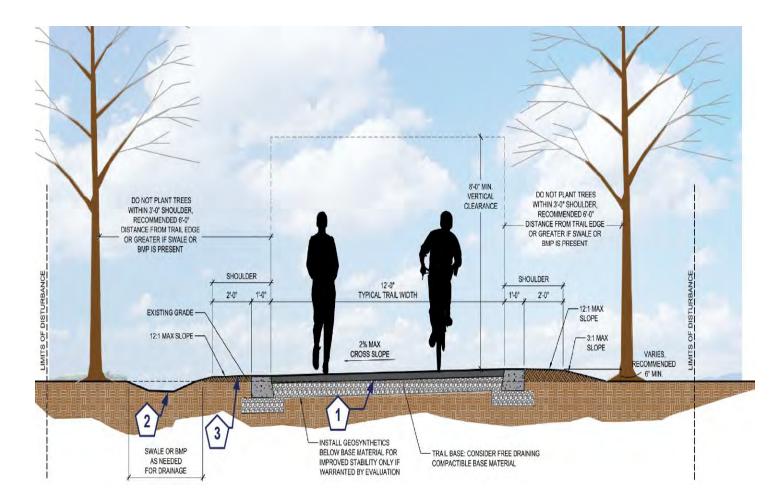














STREETS DIVISION P.O. Box 2570 Waco, TX 76702-2570 254/750-5440 Fax: 254/750-5844 Betterstreetswaco.com

Date: 10/13/22

1398 Letters to area Residents and Businesses

Re: MKT East Waco Trail

Dear Property Owner/Resident,

The City of Waco is preparing to construct improvements in your neighborhood. These improvements will include the construction of a 1.23 mile long, 12-foot wide, concrete mixed-use trail. The trail will be constructed through the stretch of land formerly owned and used by the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad Company. The limits of this project extend from the intersection of Dallas St. and Waco Drive to Gholson Rd (FM 933).

We invite you to join us for an informational "come and go" meeting on October 27th, 2022 from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the East Waco Library located at 901 Elm Ave. During this meeting, we will:

- Give a brief overview of the project.
- Provide visuals of the areas affected.
- Answer questions you may have in relation to your specific property.

Representatives from the City of Waco and Walker Partners will be at the meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact Teresa Bryant, Community Outreach Coordinator, City of Waco at 254 750-6613. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Sincerely,

Teresa Bryant

Teresa Bryafit Community Outreach Coordinator City of Waco Public Works Department



MKT East Waco Trail Dallas St./Waco Drive to Gholson Rd. (FM 933)

FAQs

How can a citizen reach out if they have questions?

Facebook: <u>www.facebook.com/cityofwacotx/</u> Website: <u>www.waco-texas.com/</u> Email: <u>contact@gotowaco.com</u> Contact Person: Teresa Bryant, Community Outreach Coordinator, <u>teresab@wacotx.gov</u>

What type of project is this?

The MKT East Waco Trail is a 12-foot wide, concrete, mixed-use (bike and pedestrian) trail that will be approximately 1.23 miles long.

How much will this project cost and how will it be funded?

Total funding available for this project is \$2,887,568.00 A portion of the funding for this project is being provided by the federal government under the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) Program. This funding is received by the City through a grant administered by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). The federal share of the project amount is 80% up to a maximum of \$2,310,054.00 and the City's share is 20% up to \$577,514.00.

When is construction going to begin and end?

Construction is currently estimated to being in Summer/Fall 2023 and be complete by Fall 2024

How will traffic be affected?

Trail construction will have a limited impact on traffic since it will be constructed in the old railroad rightof-way. The trail will cross a few local streets. All street crossings will be designed to meet all safety requirements. Any road closures required to accommodate construction will have clearly indicated detour routes with signage.

Will I be able to get to my house? Will customers be able to enter my business?

Construction will not block residential driveways and customers will retain access to businesses in the vicinity of the project. In the event closures are needed, the contractor will send notifications to residents prior to the closure.



active transportation plan

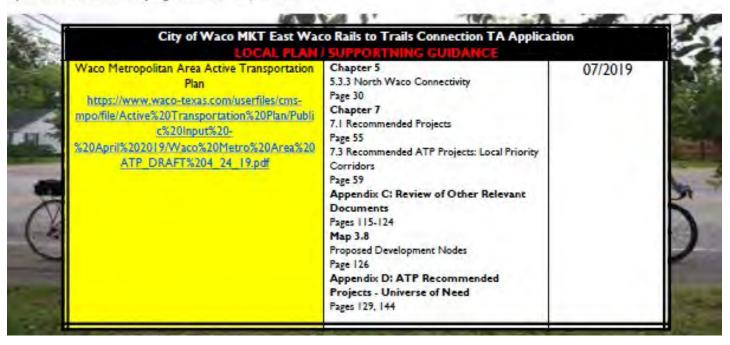


"The grant applications will always say, 'Is there an adoptive plan that has gone through a public process where you've considered this?" Now, cities can point to this ATP and already have that first foot in the door."

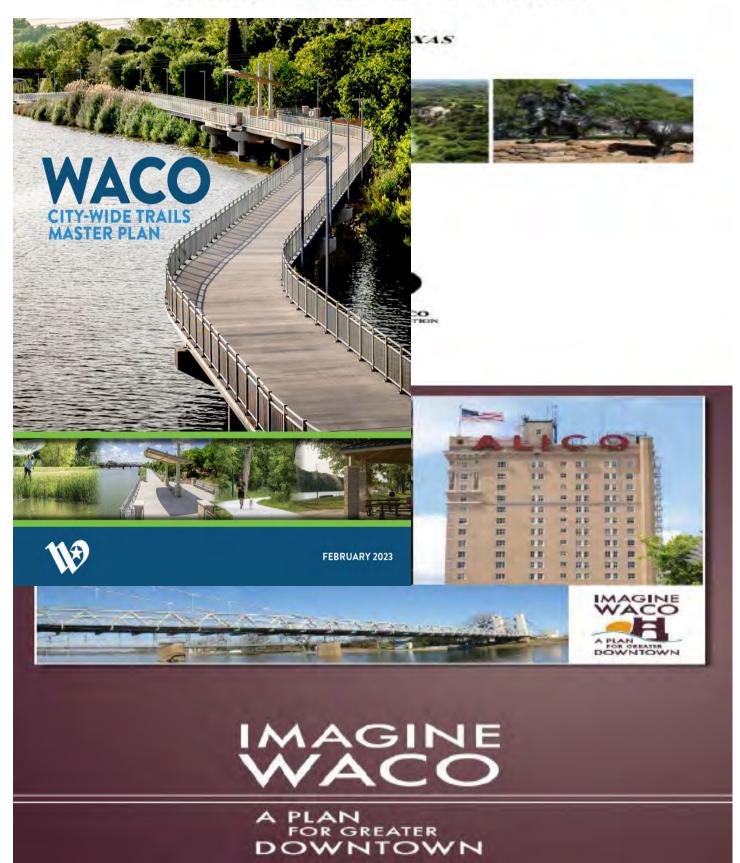
> Chelsea Phlegar Senior Planner Waco Metropolitan Planning Organization

Active Transportation Plan seeks to correct chronic lack of sidewalks, bike lanes

By RHIANNON SAEGERT rsaegert@wacotrib.com May 12, 2019 🗣

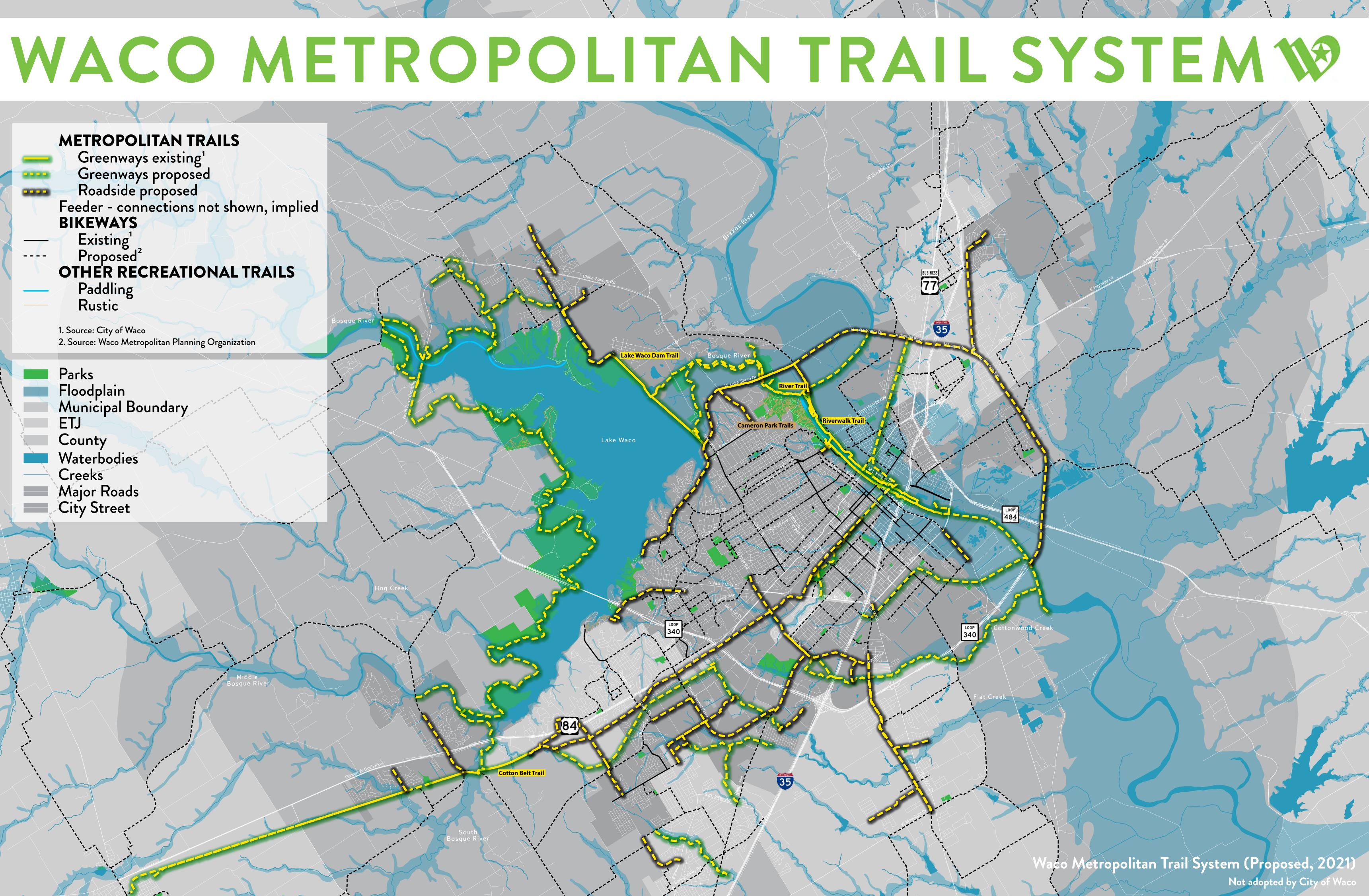


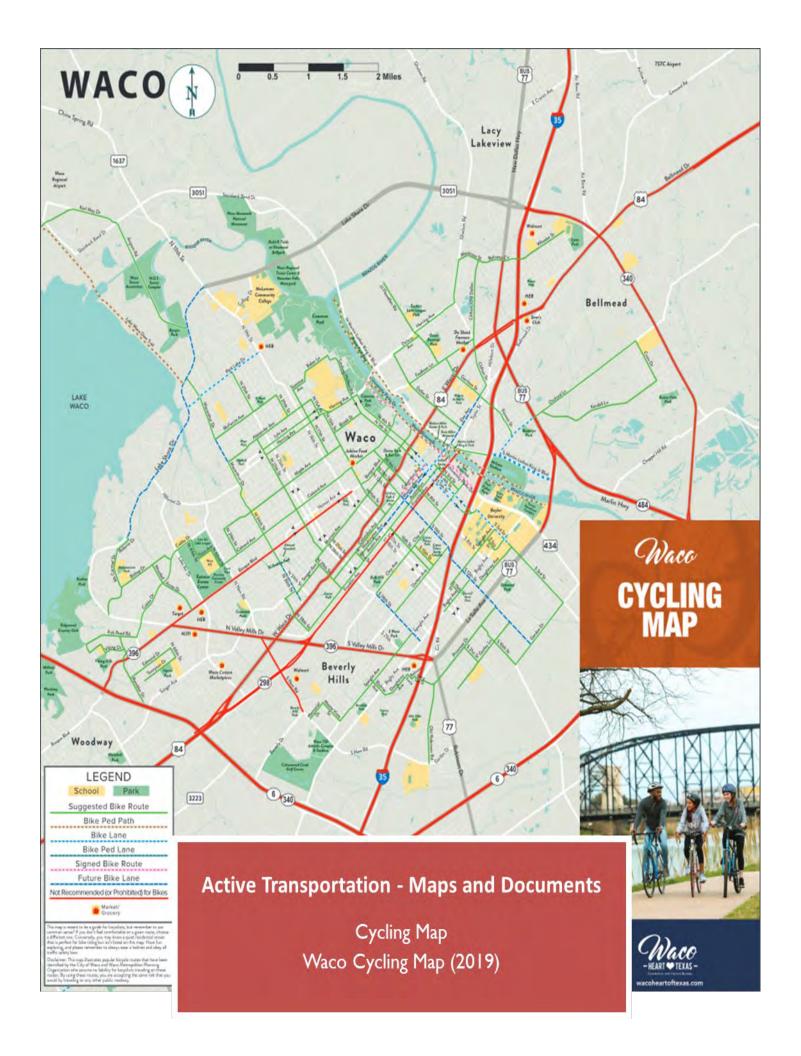
2017 CITY OF WACO – PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN



METROPOLITAN TRAILS Greenways existing¹ Greenways proposed Roadside proposed Feeder - connections not shown, implied BIKEWAYS -----Existing¹ Proposed² - - - -**OTHER RECREATIONAL TRAILS** Paddling Rustic 1. Source: City of Waco 2. Source: Waco Metropolitan Planning Organization Parks

Floodplain Municipal Boundary ETJ County Waterbodies Creeks Major Roads City Street





City of Waco MKT Rails to Trails Connection TA Application		
L (NOT ALL LI	ETTERS OF SUPPORT ETTERS RECEIVED ARE SHOWN)	
Stuart Smith	Concerned Citizen	1 503 Columbus Avenue
Jackson Griggs, MD	Family Support Specialist	Providence Family Health Center
Meg Wallace, LMSW	Organizer	The Amberley Collaborative
Dave Morrow, AICP	Advocacy Director	Waco Bicycle Club
Mike Stone	Executive Director	Grassroots Community Development
Amanda Potts	Concerned Citizen	6005 Mesquite Tree CT.
Rachel Russell	Assistant to Office of Institutional Effectiveness	Baylor University
Michael Larsen	Vice President	China Springs Neighborhood Association
Ellen Filgo	Concerned Citizen	2216 Gorman Avenue
Jared Gould	Concerned Citizen	3111 Austin Avenue
Valarie Adamek	Concerned Citizen	572 Bob Johnson Road
Elinor Davis	Concerned Citizen	5024 Brooks Drive
Sarah Ellzey	Concerned Citizen	1 829 Washington Avenue
Luann Jennings	Concerned Citizen	2107 Gorman Avenue
Jerri Love	Concerned Citizen	104 Turtle Creek Road
Tabitha Wilson	Concerned Citizen	
Jeremy Vickers, Ph.D.	Associate Vice President External Affairs	Baylor University
Libby Bellinger	Concerned Citizen	
Rev. Dee Dee Carson	Associate Pastor	First Presbyterian Church
Cora Hill	Film and Digital Media Production	Baylor University
Jackie Lott	Concerned Citizen	
Angela Tekell	School Board Trustee	Waco ISD
Lynn Bulmahn	Concerned Citizen	5213 Lake Highlands Drive
Amy Sielaff	I st Grade Teacher	Rapoport Academy
Mark Stine	Director of Legislative Affairs	Bike Texas
Andrea Zimmerman	Concerned Citizen	
Jessica LiBassi, BSN, RNc-NIC	Concerned Citizen	
Amy Stell	Concerned Citizen	
Dr. Elesha Coffman	Professor	Baylor University
Nick Haynes, LMSW	Career Success Professional	Baylor University
Stephanie Pieper	Concerned Citizen	

City of Waco MKT Rails to Trails Connection TA Application		
L (NOT ALL LI	ETTERS OF SUPPORT ETTERS RECEIVED ARE SHOWN)	
Stuart Smith	Concerned Citizen	1503 Columbus Avenue
Jackson Griggs, MD	Family Support Specialist	Providence Family Health Center
Meg Wallace, LMSW	Organizer	The Amberley Collaborative
Dave Morrow, AICP	Advocacy Director	Waco Bicycle Club
Mike Stone	Executive Director	Grassroots Community Development
Amanda Potts	Concerned Citizen	6005 Mesquite Tree CT.
Rachel Russell	Assistant to Office of Institutional Effectiveness	Baylor University
Michael Larsen	Vice President	China Springs Neighborhood Association
Ellen Filgo	Concerned Citizen	2216 Gorman Avenue
Jared Gould	Concerned Citizen	3111 Austin Avenue
Valarie Adamek	Concerned Citizen	572 Bob Johnson Road
Elinor Davis	Concerned Citizen	5024 Brooks Drive
Sarah Ellzey	Concerned Citizen	1829 Washington Avenue
Luann Jennings	Concerned Citizen	2107 Gorman Avenue
Jerri Love	Concerned Citizen	104 Turtle Creek Road
Tabitha Wilson	Concerned Citizen	
Jeremy Vickers, Ph.D.	Associate Vice President External Affairs	Baylor University
Libby Bellinger	Concerned Citizen	
Rev. Dee Dee Carson	Associate Pastor	First Presbyterian Church
Cora Hill	Film and Digital Media Production	Baylor University
Jackie Lott	Concerned Citizen	
Angela Tekell	School Board Trustee	Waco ISD
Lynn Bulmahn	Concerned Citizen	5213 Lake Highlands Drive
Amy Sielaff	I st Grade Teacher	Rapoport Academy
Mark Stine	Director of Legislative Affairs	Bike Texas
Andrea Zimmerman	Concerned Citizen	
Jessica LiBassi, BSN, RNc-NIC	Concerned Citizen	
Amy Stell	Concerned Citizen	
Dr. Elesha Coffman	Professor	Baylor University
Nick Haynes, LMSW	Career Success Professional	Baylor University
Stephanie Pieper	Concerned Citizen	



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES KYLE KACAL DISTRICT 12

July 12, 2019

Eric L. Gleason Director of Public Transportation Texas Department of Transportation 125 E. 11th Street, Austin, TX 78701

Dear Mr. Gleason:

I write to you today to express my strong support for the City of Waco's applications submitted under the Texas Department of Transportation's 2019 Call for Projects under both the Safe Routes to School Program and the Transportation Alternatives Program.

The city of Waco has seen tremendous economic and population growth in recent years, and that growth has led to many challenges that the City of Waco has taken head-on, particularly as they pertain to infrastructure and transportation. These nine projects throughout the city represent vital investments as they will improve safety for all citizens of Waco, especially children who are still in school. As you know, one injury or one loss of life is too many, and we must do everything we can to protect Texans on and around the road.

I want to thank you for your thoughtful consideration of these projects. I am grateful for your leadership and your hard work to keep Texas moving safely. If I can ever be helpful, or if I can answer any additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at (512) 463-0412.

Sincerely,

Kyle Kacal State Representative

CAPITOL: P.O. BOX 2910 · AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910 · PHONE: 512-463-0412 · EMAIL: KYLE.KACAL@HOUSE.TEXAS.GOV DISTRICT: 3000 BRIARCREST, SUITE 203 · BRYAN, TEXAS 77802 · PHONE: 979-774-7276

BRAZOS, FALLS, LIMESTONE, MCLENNAN, ROBERTSON

BILL FLORES

Cheve Schemeter - CALASE

ARE OTANT WHEN

1000 Roumannet Kanso Orman Burdams-Weinemannet 192 200 M Rouman 2007 Ege ei fei Filler 1992 225 erster

The section of the se

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

July 3, 2019

Mr. Attila Bality Acting Program Manager U.S. Department of Interior National Parks Service

Dear Mr. Ballity:

As the Representative of the 17th Congressional District of Texas, I am pleased to write in strong support for the City of Waco's application to the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program. The Bosque River Trail Corridor project will greatly contribute to Waco's objective of providing more opportunities for individuals and families to enjoy healthy outdoor activities.

Waco has demonstrated a coordinated effort to preserve public access to nature through the trails system along the Brazos and Bosque rivers. The 2015 designation of the Waco Mammoth National Monument, cooperatively managed by the National Park Service, the City of Waco, and Baylor University, opened even more opportunities for the community and visitors to learn about our natural history. The Waco Mammoth National Monument Strategic Plan strives to create new opportunities to experience and access the park through additional trails and river access.

The Bosque River Trail Corridor project achieves this goal as an expansion of Waco's scense Metropolitan Trail System. Waco recently completed a 6-mile Brazos Riverwalk loop along the Brazos River through downtown Waco, connecting it to Cameron Park's 20-mile rustic trail system. This project will continue the effort upstream, along the banks of the Bosque River, providing connectivity from key Waco destinations to the Mammoth National Monument.

Outdoor activities promoting exercise and healthy living are vital to building communities where our families can grow and flourish. I look forward to the success of this project and the new opportunities it will provide residents and visitors to Waco to experience the area's natural beauty. Thank you for your consideration of the application submitted by the City of Waco. Please contact me at (202) 225-6105 if you have any questions or need additional information.

With great respect,

Bin From

Bill Flores Member of Congress 17th District of Texas

Wino Will Marries Werney, Serie 3.2 Wines 10,76701 Printing 2011 / 22 or 1.27 (Act) 2701 Print Berner Casser and South State Mild decord and comments of parts (dec Decord The Televis United State Decord The State State State

Martint Frankright H1990 Barrier Roan, Santar Austria, 17, 19730 Homm (200) 175-1770 (1, 107) 111

COMMETTI L.OH.

AND THE OWNER

PRIMARITY & ANY THE INTEGET

The Senate of The State of Texas

CHARMAN NATURAL REVENSION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



FINANCE STATE ACCORD.

BRIAN BIRDWELL

July 29, 2019

TA/SRTS Program Manager c/o Bonnie Sherman TxDOT-Public Transportation Division 125 E. 11th Street Austin, TX 78701

RE: Letter/Recognition for the federally funded TxDOT Safe Routes to School Program and the Transportation Alternative Program.

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to express my support for the City of Waco's endeavor to seek federal grant funding distributed by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for the Safe Routes to School Program and the Transportation Alternative Program. The federal grant money would fund new local transportation infrastructure that would improve the safety of Waco's pedestrians and cyclists, specifically those who are below high school age.

I strongly urge you to fund these projects with the federal grant money administered by TxDOT for the Safe Routes to School Program and the Transportation Alternative Program.

Sincerely,

Sidnell

Brian Birdwell Senate District 22

PO. Box 12068 + Jamma Tanas 78711 + (112) 465-0122 + 15121 475-3729 EAN



May 8, 2019

Ms. Bonnie Sherman Statewide Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinator, Public Transportation Division Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) 125 E. 11th Street Austin, TX 78701

Re: BikeTexas Strong Support for City of Waco Grant Application for Safe Routes to School Funding under the February, 2019 Request for Proposals

Dear Ms. Sherman,

Since 1991, BikeTexas has been the statewide non-profit organization promoting bicycle and pedestrian safety for Texans of all ages, with a special emphasis on school children. Since 1999, BikeTexas has worked to establish the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program in Texas and nationally, and has conducted a number of programs in school children bicycle and pedestrian safety, funded by TxDOT, the U.S. Department of Education, and other sources.

BikeTexas has worked closely with public officials and private citizens in Waco for many years. Waco has developed and <u>connected</u> key elements that contribute to its emergence as a walking and bicycling community: a historic river greenbelt trail, an extensive world-class mountain bike trail network, pathways on a major university campus, and an emerging system of bike lanes.

It is natural for the City of Waco to now focus on basic neighborhood biking and walking needs for children to and from school. We have reviewed the main elements of the nine school infrastructure projects developed by Mr. Jim Reed, Capital Improvement Manager, City of Waco. BikeTexas has no doubt of the commitment and ability of the Waco community to wisely use SRTS funds to achieve this vision.

While it is making decisions on the disbursement of these important SRTS funds, BikeTexas urges the TxDOT SRTS review committee to carefully consider the merits of these school projects, as proposed by the City of Waco to meet the immediate needs of neighborhood children, and to contribute to a safe and comfortable city-wide system for biking and walking.

Sincerely,

ROBIN STALINES

Robin Stallings Executive Director cc: Mr. Jim Reed, City of Waco, Waco Texas

3301 E 5th St Suite B, Austin, TX 78702 • 512-476-RIDE (7433) • mail@biketexas.org • www.BikeTexas.org



125 EAST 11TH STREET | AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-2483 | (512) 463-8588 | WWW.TXDOT.GOV

July 17, 2019

Jim Reed City of Waco 415 Franklin Avenue Waco, Texas 76701

RE: TxDOT Letter of Consent for proposed TA/SRTS project within or affecting state right-of-way

Dear Mr. Reed:

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) offers no objection to *City of Waco's* nomination of the *Waco TA Market East Waco Rails to Trails Connection* project in TxDOT's 2019 *Transportation Alternatives/Safe Routes to Schools (TA/SRTS) Call for Projects.* The project shall construct an off road 12ft. wide shared use path that will tie into FM 933. If selected for TA or SRTS funding, the project must be developed in accordance with TxDOT procedures and meet state and federal guidelines. Final project plans must be reviewed and approved by TxDOT.

If selected for funding, the *City of Waco* will be required to commit to the project's development, implementation, construction, maintenance, management, and financing by executing an Advance Funding Agreement with TxDOT. The *City of Waco* will be responsible for maintaining the completed improvements for a period of time commensurate with the federal investment as outlined in TxDOT 2019 TA/SRTS Program Guide. It may be necessary to execute or update a *Municipal Maintenance Agreement or Advance Funding Agreement for Voluntary Maintenance By a Local Government (On System)* with TxDOT.

Thank you for coordinating with our office, TxDOT will continue to work with the *City of Waco* should the project receive funding. Please continue to coordinate with our staff as this project moves forward. Should you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact Katelyn Kasberg or Erika Kunkel, TxDOT Waco District TA/SRTS Coordinators at 254-867-2733 or 254-867-2728.

Sincerely,

Stan Swiałek, P.E. District Engineer Waco District

Cc: Clayton Zacha, P.E., McLennan County Area Engineer Katelyn Kasberg, District TA/SRTS Coordinator Erika Kunkel, District TA/SRTS Coordinator

OUR GOALS MAINTAIN A SAFE SYSTEM + ADDRESS CONGESTION + CONNECT TEXAS COMMUNITIES + BEST IN CLASS STATE AGENCY

An Equal Opportunity Employer