#_____

Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Voting Session **June 15, 2010**

I. A. Request made by:

Rodney Rhoades _____ Phone # 854-8679

Signature of Elected Official/Appointed Official/Executive Manager/County Attorney

B. Requested Text:

Receive briefing and provide direction or take other appropriate action related to the Community Outreach Listening Session Findings for the Travis County Central Campus Master Plan.

C. Approved by: _____

Signature of Commissioner(s) or County Judge

II. A. Backup memorandum and exhibits should be attached and submitted with this Agenda Request (Original and eight copies of agenda request and backup).

B. Please list all of the agencies or officials names and telephone numbers that might be affected or be involved with the request. Send a copy of this Agenda Request and backup to them:

Honorable John K, Dietz, 250th District Court	854-9312
Honorable Bob Perkins, 331st District Court	854-9443
Honorable Lora Livingston, 261st District Court	854-9309
Honorable Brenda Kennedy, 403rd District Court	854-9808
Honorable Eric Shepperd, County Court-at-Law #2	854-9248
Honorable David Crain, County Court-at-Law #3	854-9243
Honorable Michael Denton	854-9896
Honorable Guy Herman, Probate Court	854-9258
Honorable Herb Evans, Justice of the Peace, Pct.5	854-9050
Bruce Elfant, Constable Pct., 5	854-9100
Debra Hale, Criminal Court Administration	854-9244
Peg Liedtke, Civil Court Administration	854-9364
Sheriff Greg Hamilton	854-9770
Amalia Rodiguez-Mendosa, District Clerk	854-9737
Dana DeBeauvior , County Clerk	854-9188
Rosemary Lehmberg, District Attorney	854-9400
David Escamilla, County Attorney	854-9415
Dolores Ortega-Carter, Travis County Treasurer	854- 9365
Susan Spataro, Travis County Auditor	854-9125
Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent	854-9700

Danny Hobby, Executive Manager Emergency Services	854-9367
Roger Jefferies, Executive Manager Justice & Public Safety	854-4415
Sherri Fleming, Executive Manager Health & Human & Veterans' Services	854-4100
Joe Gieselman, Executive Manager Transportation & Natural Resources	854-9383
Roger El Khoury, Director Facilities Management Department	854-4579
Joe Harlow, Chief Technology Officer	854-9175
Deece Eckstein , Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator	854-9754
Steven Broberg, Director of Records Management	854-9575
Todd Osburn, HRMD	854-9165
Dan Mansur, HRMD	854-9165
Rodney Rhoades, Executive Manager Planning & Budget	854-8679
Belinda Powell, Strategic Planning Manager	854-9106
Leslie Stricklan, AIA, Sr. Project Manager	854-4778

III. Required Authorizations: Please check if applicable:

Planning and Budget Office (854-9106)

____ Additional funding for any department or for any purpose

___ Transfer of existing funds within or between any line item budget

____ Grant

Human Resources Department(854-9165)

____ A change in your department's personnel (reclassifications, etc.)

Purchasing Office (854-9700)

____ Bid, Purchase Contract, Request for Proposal, Procurement

County Attorney's Office (854-9415)

_ Contract, Agreement, Policy & Procedure

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE: This Agenda Request complete with backup memorandum and exhibits should be submitted to the County Judge's Office no later than 5:00 PM on Tuesday for the following week's meeting. Late or incomplete request may be deferred to the next subsequent meeting.

PLANNING AND BUDGET OFFICE
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

314 W. 11th Street
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767

MEMORANDUM **June 4, 2010**

TO: Members of the Commissioners Court

FROM: Belinda Powell, Strategic Planning Manager
Leslie Stricklan, AIA, Sr. Project Manager

SUBJECT: Review and discussion findings of the Community Listening Sessions for the Travis County Central Campus Needs Analysis and Master Plan.

Proposed Motion:

Receive briefing and provide direction or take other appropriate action related to the Community Outreach Listening Session Findings for the Travis County Central Campus Master Plan.

Summary and Staff Recommendations:

In April and May 2010, Travis County Officials and staff and the Broaddus and Associates Team held a series of focus group meetings, a community wide listening session and a Public Hearing with the Commissioners Court. The meetings were to receive community in-put on the needs analysis findings and the master planning process for the Travis County Central Campus Master Plan.

Attached is a presentation summarizing the findings from those meetings. Generally, the findings centered around the following themes:

Overall Message:

- County Master Plan – and County Facilities – should address more than just "nuts and bolts" offices, courtrooms, and storage space.
- Common vision that County Facilities should contribute to the urban environment, facilitate gathering and collaboration, support after-hours & weekend activities, include missing neighborhood "amenities" like retail, restaurants, & convenience, and "set a high bar" for quality & aesthetics.

Key Themes/Topics:

- Campus: Creating a campus will be a challenge; Existing buildings are worn & ugly
- Aesthetic Quality: Should represent Austin, Travis County & Civic Pride

- Arts, Environment, Nature, Preserving Energy, Collaboration, Government Transparency
- Partnerships: City/County/CapMetro/State/ACC/Private
- Historic Preservation:
  - Keep the View Corridors,
  - Respect the adjacent neighborhood
  - Preserve the dignity of the Heman Marion Sweat Courthouse as the focal point
- Woodridge Square Park: Engage the Square, activate the edges
- Transportation: Transit-rich Corridor
- Access: Parking situation terrible, not visitor-friendly
- Priorities: Need new civil courthouse now

This community input will supplement the quantitative facility, infrastructure and space needs assessments and with the Commissioners Court direction, will help the plan respond to the qualitative issues and concerns held by the broader community.

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Dan Mansur, HRMD

TRAVIS COUNTY CENTRAL CAMPUS STUDY

FOR STRATEGIC NEEDS ANALYSIS & FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

Presentation to the Commissioners Court – June 15, 2010

BROADDUS & ASSOCIATES
INNOVATIVE PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING

RICCIGREENEASSOCIATES
WIGINTON HOOKER JEFFRY
ARCHITECTS

AGENDA

- Introduction / Project Update
- Public Outreach Listening Sessions Outcomes
  - Overview of Outreach Plan
  - Observations & Discussions Recap
  - Key Take-Aways
- Draft Scenario Evaluation Matrix
- Next Steps
- Questions & Discussion

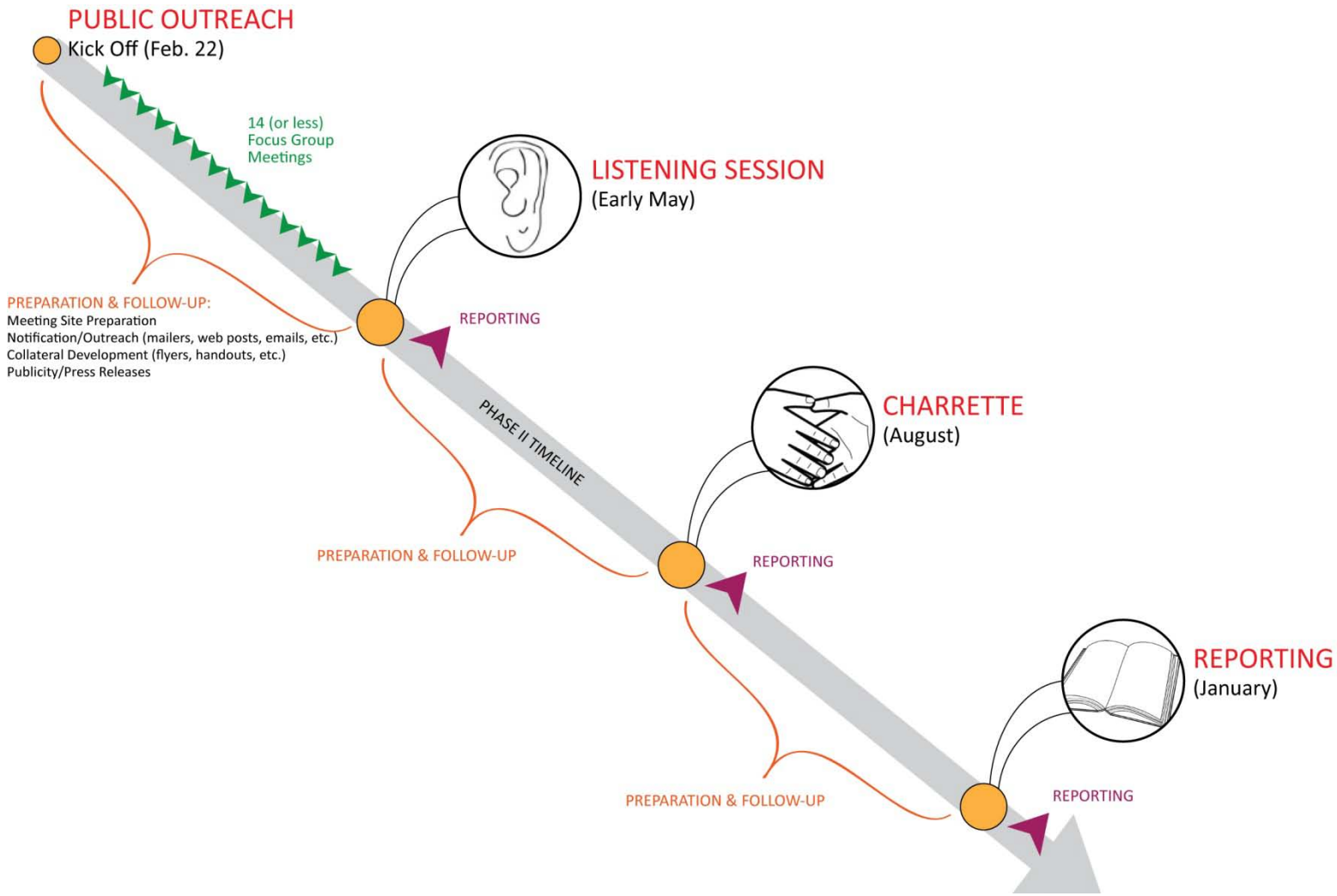
PROJECT UPDATE

PHASE 2: FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

PUBLIC LISTENING SESSIONS - OUTCOMES

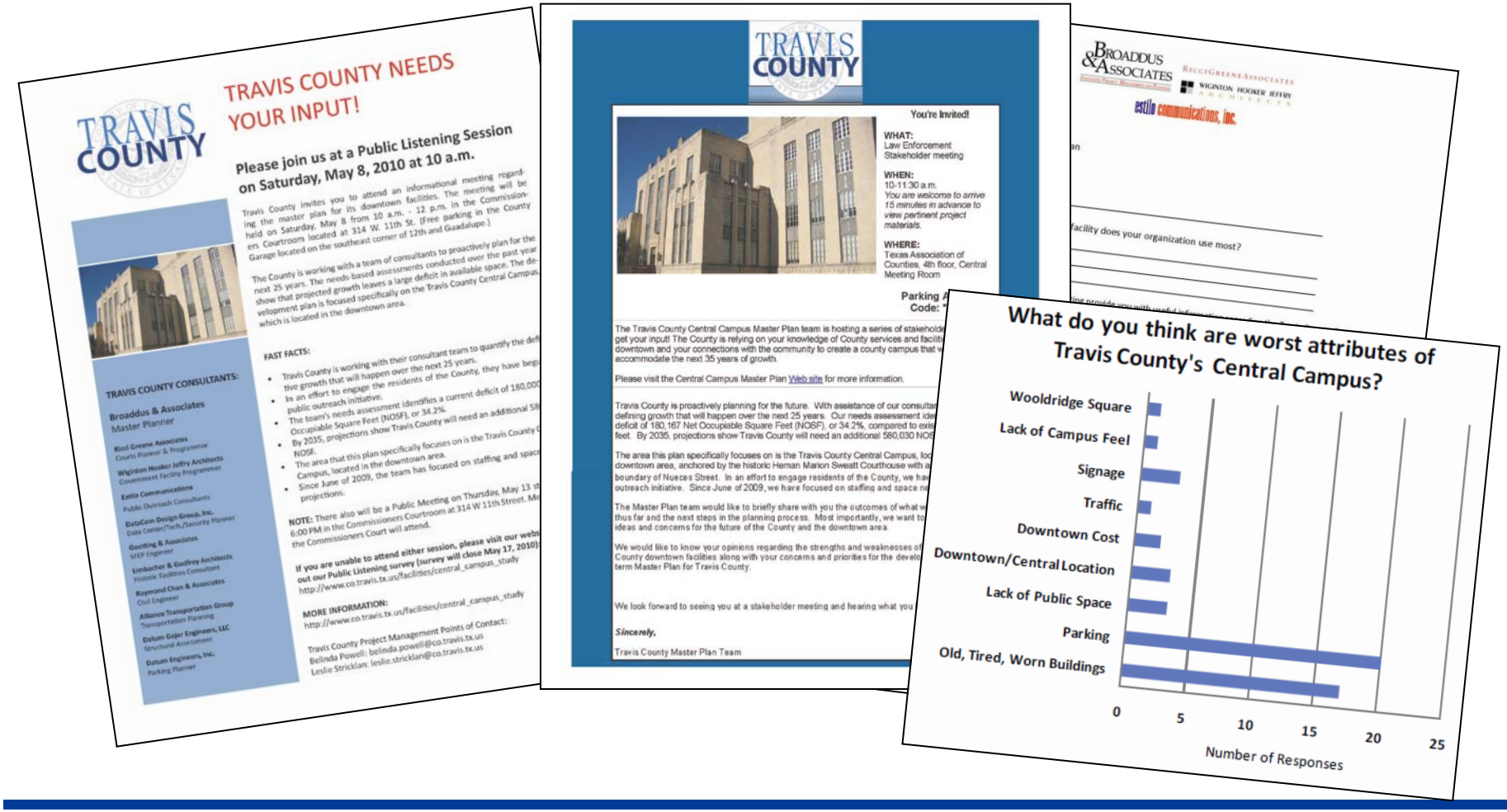
PUBLIC OUTREACH PLAN

- COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



OUTREACH MATERIALS

Fliers, E-vites, Surveys engaging 115 stakeholders, 275 media contacts, posting 120 fliers, 50 online responses



FOCUS GROUPS & PUBLIC SESSIONS

Questions asked of each group:

1. Best & Worst Attributes of Central Campus?
2. Current Problems with Central Campus Facilities?
3. Major Concerns about County's Development Downtown?
4. Top Priorities for the Plan?
5. One Key Issue that the Plan should Consider?

WHAT WE HEARD

Group #1: Civil/Family

- HMS is Outdated & Inefficient
  - no private meeting spaces
  - jurors treated horribly (outside of e-juror check-in)
  - no parking
  - no space to do business
  - no assembly area
  - no children's area
- In general, they thought the HMS gives a bad first impression of the County, whereas it should be a point of pride
- "Wish list" for a New Courthouse
  - private meeting spaces
  - on-site child care
  - "war rooms"
  - food at the courthouse, franchises
  - lawyers lounge with wifi
  - business centers
  - mediation rooms
  - full blown legal library
  - paperless (pro se cases)
  - drug lab on-site

WHAT WE HEARD

Group #2: Criminal Justice

- CJC Inefficient
  - terrible parking
  - small courtrooms
  - no waiting area
  - No private space for victims or consultation with clients
  - no disability access to the building
  - access to holding cells is via elevator is terrible
- Like convenient location of Downtown Courthouse
- Agreed that most if not all of the County facilities should stay downtown
- "Wish List" for CJC
  - provide more space to speak with their clients
  - increase the grand jury room square footage
  - add more parking

WHAT WE HEARD

Group #3: Chambers of Commerce

- Facilities are outdated and unattractive
- Plan should create a sense of space, a “campus feel”
  - Implement design standards
- The look and appeal of the County facilities should be enhanced
  - Facilities are a symbol of business practices
- Support idea of moving the jail to the Del Valle site out of downtown
- Would like to see County (maximize current real estate) versus taking up more real estate from private, taxpaying businesses
- Would like to see a change to the current Travis County’s parking policy, change the mindset of employees and the community to use public transportation or carpool

WHAT WE HEARD

Group #4: Law Enforcement

- Central Booking Inefficiently Configured
  - Booking and filing requires running between two buildings
  - Central Booking's layout makes getting in/out difficult of the facility a problem
  - Cars line up around the block
- Parking is inadequate
- Downtown may be too crowded for Central Booking
  - Relocation could alleviate costs of bussing to Del Valle and traffic/parking congestion
- However, downtown location may be best configuration b/c it's central
- Support expansion of the CJC/Central Booking block
- Wooldridge Square:
  - Enhance / Use more

WHAT WE HEARD

Group #5: Neighborhoods - Government

- Look of Central Facilities should be Improved
  - Incorporate more green areas
  - Great Streets to improve the pedestrian's environment
  - Create a campus identity
- Less surface parking, but more parking overall
- Transportation
  - Lack of transportation options to the downtown – suggested parking could be provided by the State with a shuttle running between facilities
- Concerned about County's current space deficiency coupled with the view corridors
- County should use current space and buildings more efficiently
- Wooldridge Park shape (bowl) lends to deactivated edges
  - County should activate the edges of the Square to make it a benefit to county employees and users (vibrant park = vibrant area surrounding it)

WHAT WE HEARD

Group #6: Neighborhoods - Private

- Too much surface parking, and it doesn't lend to the success of the park and pedestrian experience
- No parking for visitors (and no direction leads to them incorrectly parking in neighboring businesses parking area)
  - Mass transit for the occasional user isn't a reasonable expectation
- Wayfinding is an issue - public needs to know where to go and how to get there
- HMS is old, outdated, and should be repurposed and used by the public
  - Space could be leased to business such as restaurants and copy/printing
- Need better civic space for County users and the general public to feel that it's open for them to use and enjoy

WHAT WE HEARD

Group #7: Historical

- County facilities are not a "campus"
  - Poor identity, streetscape, & feel (with the exception of the HMS Courthouse)
- Park has potential to be restored
  - County should place active uses around the park to enhance it
- Lacking parking, transportation alternatives, Dillo, ADA access, meeting facilities, signage and wayfinding, historic photos and renditions.
- Contribute to the Urban Fabric
  - Quality of buildings
  - Streetscapes
  - Compatibility w/Historic Structures
- Alternative uses for the HMS building
  - Food, community services, archival space
- HMS a historic and symbolic center of County development

WHAT WE HEARD

Group #8: Social Services

- Lack of pride in County facilities
  - Should instill a sense of greatness through art, environment, and architecture
  - New facilities should be like City Hall: reflective of the values of Austin/Travis County
  - County should "set the bar" for Design – energy efficiency, quality
- Buildings aren't easily accessible, confusing, old and bureaucratic, stuffy
- County's responsibility to go beyond the Criminal: County should improve quality of life by making their facilities user-friendly
  - Open
  - Easy access
  - Easy to navigate
  - Family-friendly for inmate/patients of the system
- County should be transparent in their actions and their buildings should reflect this openness

WHAT WE HEARD

Group #9: Transportation & Access

- Downtown location is convenient
- Buildings aren't attractive, and their conditions are terrible
- Guadalupe & Lavaca: Transit-rich Corridor
  - Bus
  - Bus rapid transit
  - Bike
  - Urban Rail
- County development should support alternate transport modes
  - i.e. shower facilities for bikers
- County facilities could be mixed-use destinations, which would help revitalize the park &surrounding area
- Coordination & Partnership between City, County, CapMetro, others

WHAT WE HEARD

Public Listening Session #1

- Downtown Campus not Cohesive – Image / Identity
- Respect the View Corridors
  - Build Below Grade
- HMS building should a center point for image and identity
- Security necessary for some of the facilities
  - Security in direct opposition w/notion of neighborhood-like campus
- Use landscape as a way to tie the campus together and give public appeal and a pedestrian aesthetic
- Campus a “dead zone” after 5 pm and on weekends, could be improved
- New buildings need to be great, not mediocre
  - Recognize that public may not support the expense

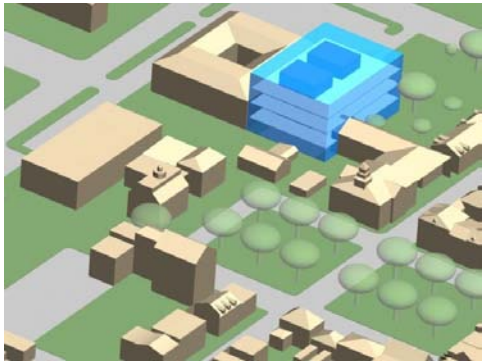
WHAT WE HEARD

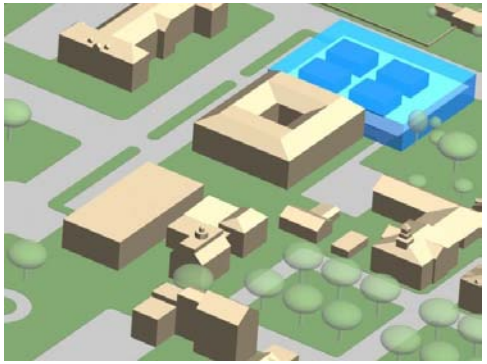
Public Listening Session #2

- Well attended by members of the Austin Bar Association (ABA)

- Need for a new Civil Courthouse
  - Family-friendly
  - Meeting Rooms
  - Conference Rooms

- Need to preserve HMS Courthouse as Civic Icon

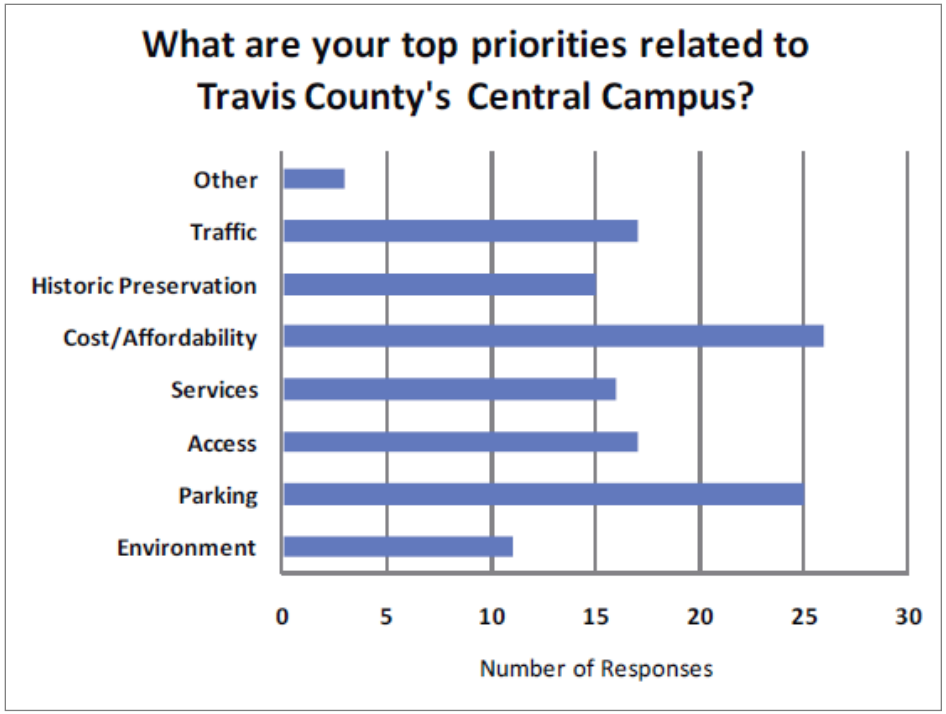




WHAT WE HEARD

Online Survey

- Mixed Response re: Downtown Location (Cost vs. Convenience)
- Cost and Affordability a major concern
- Parking named the worst attribute of the central campus
- Civic pride an issue
  - old and worn buildings
  - preserving the HMS
- Other responses:
  - After hours use of facilities
  - Create a campus feel
  - Sustainable / Green development



KEY TAKE - AWAYS

Campus:

- Creating a campus will be a challenge
- Existing buildings are worn & ugly

Aesthetic Quality:

- Should Represent Austin/Travis County & Civic Pride & Arts, Environment, Nature, Preserving Energy, Collaboration, Government Transparency

Partnerships:

- City/County/CapMetro/State/ACC /Private

WHAT WE LEARNED

Historic Preservation:

- Keep the View Corridors
- Respect the Adjacent Neighborhood
- HMS Courthouse as a focal point

Woodridge Square Park:

- Engage the Square
- Activate the “Edges”

Transportation

- Transit-rich Corridor

Access:

- Parking situation terrible
- Not visitor-friendly

Priorities:

- Need new civil courthouse now

KEY MESSAGE

- County Master Plan – and County Facilities – should address more than just “nuts and bolts” offices, courtrooms, and storage space.

- Common vision that County Facilities should:
  - Contribute to the urban environment
  - Facilitate gathering and collaboration
  - Support after-hours & weekend activities
  - Facilitate inclusion of missing neighborhood “amenities” like retail, restaurants, & convenience
  - “Set a high bar” for quality & aesthetics.

DRAFT SCENARIO EVALUATION MATRIX

CRITERIA CATEGORIES

- SPACE PROGRAM
- ADJACENCIES
- SITE SELECTION / URBAN DESIGN
- COST / EFFICIENCY / ECONOMY

"DRAFT working document for review and discussion: NOT FOR PUBLICATION."

SPACE PROGRAM

- Accommodates Projected 2035 Space Needs
- Allows for Anchor Tenant Expansion Beyond 2035
- Accommodates Projected 2035 Parking Needs - Employee
- Accommodates Projected 2035 Parking Needs – Visitors & Jury
- Includes Building Amenities
- Includes Campus Amenities
- Enables Optimal Functional Layouts for Criminal & Civil Court Floors

ADJACENCIES

- Achieves Optimal Functional / Operational Adjacencies - Department to Department
- Achieves Optimal Functional / Operational Adjacencies – Department to Building
- Functions Support / Enhance Adjacent Neighbors – Wooldridge Square Park, Governor’s Mansion, Historic Neighborhood (Building to Neighborhood)

SITE PLANNING / URBAN DESIGN

- Building Forms Contribute to Urban Environment (Create Street-Edge)
- Key Civic Buildings Provided Prominent Site / Building Form
- Capital View Corridors & Scale of Neighbors Respected
- Encourages Campus – All Buildings w/in Walking Distance
- Accommodates Urban / Neighborhood Amenities (i.e. Retail, Restaurants, Convenience)
- Accommodates Civic Amenities (i.e. Meeting Spaces, Gathering Space)

SITE PLANNING / URBAN DESIGN

- Provides Setbacks for Civil & Criminal Courthouse Structures
- Contributes to the Pedestrian Experience

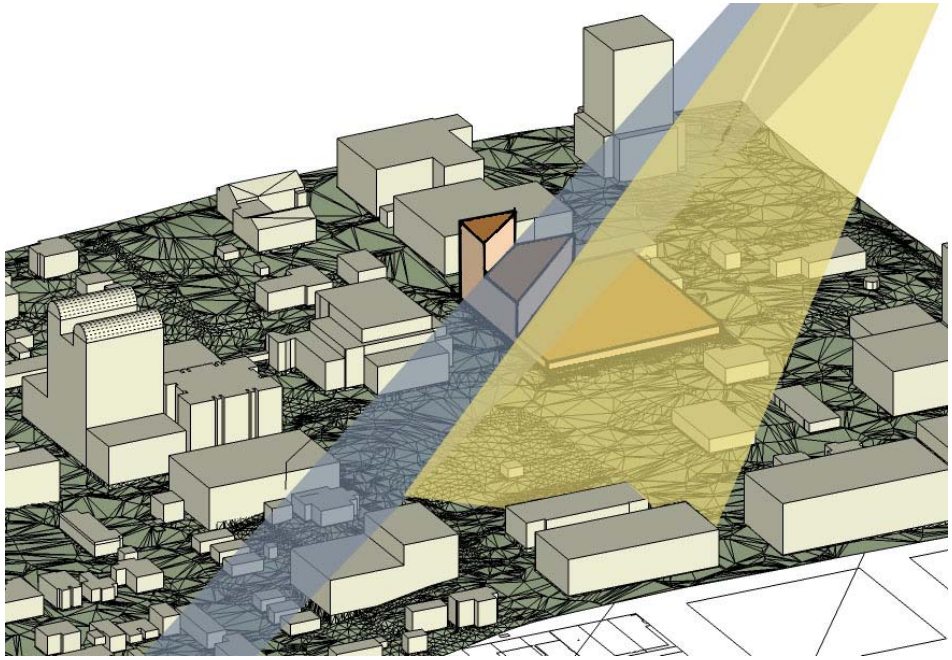
COST / EFFICIENCY / ECONOMY

- Highest & Best Use of Real Estate
- Efficient Circulation Factors/Departmental Layouts to minimize overall space required
- Implementation & Phasing: Solution is Workable at Each Planning Horizon
- Overall Capital Cost

NEXT STEPS

NEXT STEPS

- Finalize Draft Scenario Evaluation Matrix
- Develop +/-3 Development Scenarios
- Present Scenarios to Public in August
  - Day 1: Commissioner's Court Work-session
  - Day 2: County Officials, Steering Committee Members, County Staff
  - Day 3: Public Charrette



QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION