

2014-18 & PY14

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

**SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENTS TO
2014-18 CONSOLIDATED PLAN
& PY14 ACTION PLAN**



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Travis County, Texas Substantial Amendments

SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE 2014-18 CONSOLIDATED PLAN & PROGRAM YEAR 2014 ACTION PLAN

Prepared by:

Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service (HHS/VS)

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

Office of the County Executive

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Original 2014-18 ConPlan & PY14 Action Plan Approved by the TCCC on: August 5, 2014
Substantial Amendments Approved by the TCCC on August 4, 2015

Questions or Comments? Please contact the CDBG Office at cdbg@co.travis.tx.us

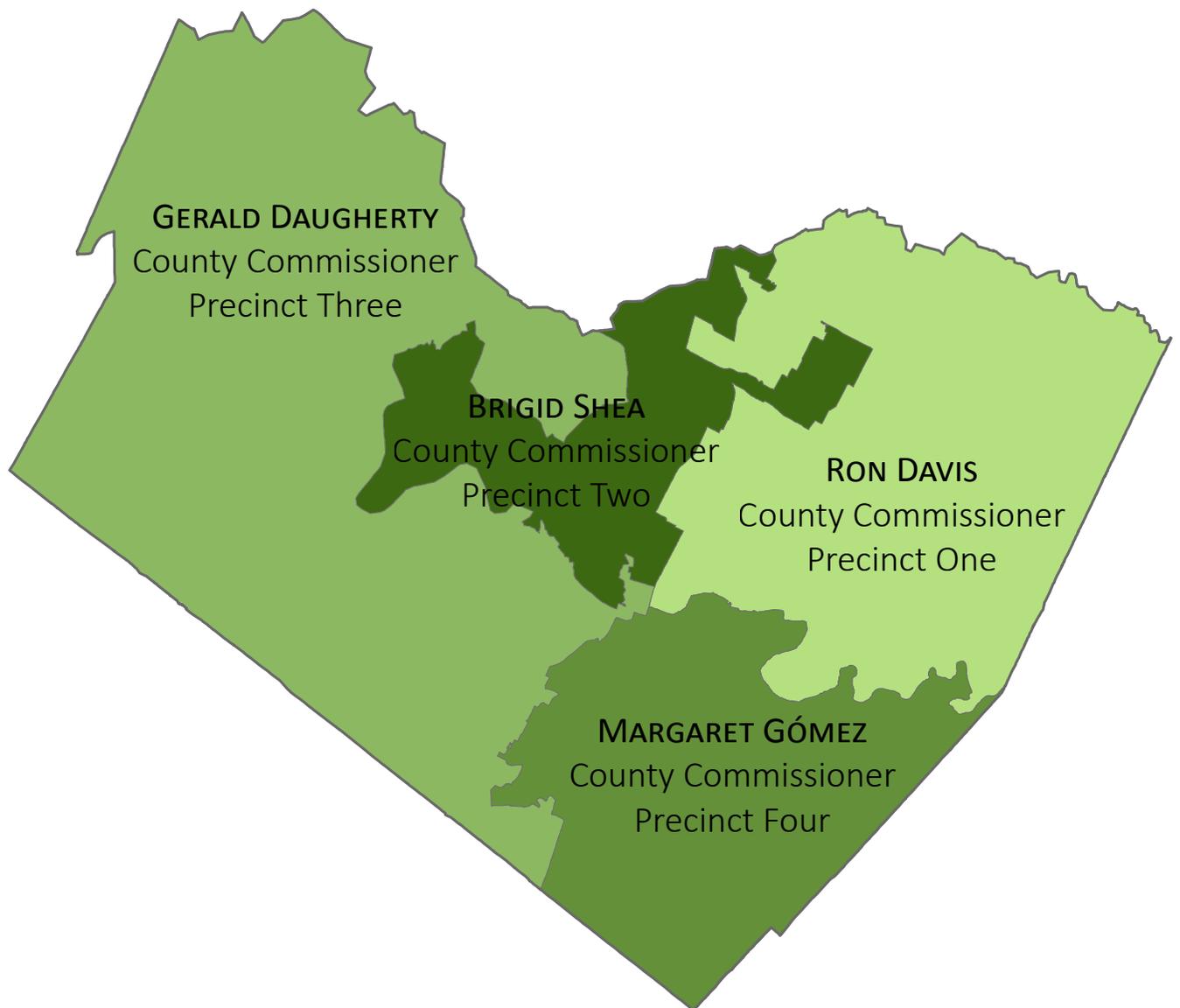
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Travis County, Texas COMMISSIONERS COURT

SARAH ECKHARDT
Travis County Judge



I. Introduction

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) initiative is a federal grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The program provides annual grants to cities and counties to carry out a variety of community development activities aimed at revitalizing neighborhoods, improving affordable housing options, and providing improved community facilities and services. Since 2006, Travis County has received CDBG funds from HUD on an annual basis.

The administration of the CDBG program follows a cycle that includes the drafting of a Consolidated Plan, an Action Plan, and an annual evaluation. The Consolidated Plan identifies the County's community and housing needs and outlines the strategies to address those needs over a five-year period. The Action Plan defines the specific activities and projects to be undertaken during each program year. The annual evaluation assesses yearly accomplishments.

According to Travis County's Citizen Participation Plan as required by HUD rules, a substantial amendment is required if any of the changes represent 1) a change in the location or beneficiaries of a project proposed under the Consolidated Plan or Action Plan; 2) a change in the scope of the project by more than 25%; or 3) a change in the funding of a new project that was not originally subject.

Travis County is proposing to amend its 2014-2018 Consolidated Plan and Program Year 2014 (PY14) Action Plan.

II. Public Engagement

During the week of June 8, 2015 Travis County published a Public Notice announcing the availability of the draft Substantial Amendment, the public comment period, and the public hearings at Travis County Commissioners Court. The notice appeared in several area newspapers of general circulation that target the unincorporated areas of Travis County. Copies of the notices may be found in *Appendix A* (English) and *Appendix B* (Spanish). Public notices were also posted at the seven Travis County Community Centers, on the Travis County Website, the HHS/VS Department webpage, the CDBG website (English and Spanish), and Facebook and Twitter pages. Email and postal mail notices were provided to people who attended public hearings previously or who requested to be on the notification list.

Travis County HHS/VS drafted the Substantial Amendment and presented it to the Travis County Commissioners Court on June 23, 2015. The Substantial Amendment was posted for public review and written comments prior to final approval by the Travis County Commissioners Court.

The comment period was held from June 29, 2015 to July 28, 2015. Additionally, public hearings were held at Travis County Commissioners Court on July 7, 2015 and July 14, 2015. The public had the

opportunity to submit comments in writing via email or postal mail, or verbally at the public hearing. The draft Substantial Amendment was posted on the Travis County CDBG website (www.co.travis.tx.us/CDBG), and copies of the document were available for review at the seven Travis County Community Centers.

III. Amendments to the 2014-18 Consolidated Plan

The CDBG program is currently operating under a five-year Consolidated Plan that covers the Program Years 2014-2018. Travis County Commissioners Court approved the PY14-18 Consolidated Plan on August 5, 2014. The Consolidated Plan includes a Strategic Plan that outlines the assistance goals and objectives over the planning period. The deletion of projects in the PY14 Action Plan proposed in this Substantial Amendment impacts the goals originally established in the Strategic Plan

Additionally, the Inclusive Playground at Southeast Metro Park is a new project for PY15. The project falls under the category of Populations with Specialized Needs, a High Priority in the Consolidated Plan. When the Consolidated Plan was drafted no goals were associated with the category Populations with Specialized Needs.

The goals outlined in the Consolidated Plan are being amended to reflect these changes and to generalize the goals to allow for flexibility in approving projects in the remaining years of the Consolidated Plan that were not originally contemplated at the time of plan drafting. Multiple tables throughout the Consolidated Plan will be revised. The tables below summarize the major changes that will be incorporated into the plan.

Table 1 - Original Goals Summary

	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Street Improvements	2014	2018	Non-Housing Community Development	Infrastructure	CDBG: \$1,000,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 6,106 Persons Assisted
2	Owner Occupied Home Rehabilitation	2014	2018	Non-Housing Community Development	Housing	CDBG: \$2,000,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 72 Household Housing Unit
3	Creation of New Rental Units	2014	2016	Affordable Housing	Housing	CDBG: \$343,000	Rental units constructed: 192 Household Housing Unit
4	Tenants' Rights and Fair Housing Counseling	2014	2018	Non-Housing Community Development	Community Services	CDBG: \$250,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 340 Persons Assisted
5	Expansion of Social Work Services	2014	2018	Non-Housing Community Development	Community Services	CDBG: \$400,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2,000 Persons Assisted

Table 2 - Revised Goals Summary

	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Infrastructure	2014	2018	Non-Housing Community Development	Infrastructure	\$1,000,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 7,500
2	Housing	2014	2018	Affordable Housing	Housing	\$2,500,000	Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 100 units created or rehabilitated
3	Community Service	2014	2018	Non-Housing Community Development	Community Services	\$750,000	Public Service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 45,000 Persons Assisted
4	Populations with Specialized Needs	2014	2018	Non-Homeless Special Needs	Populations with Specialized Needs	\$750,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 27,000 Persons Assisted
5	Public Buildings and Facilities	2014	2018	Non-Housing Community Development	Public Buildings and Facilities	\$0	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 0 Persons Assisted
6	Business and Jobs	2014	2018	Non-Housing Community Development	Business and Jobs	\$0	Jobs created/retained: 0

Table 3 - Original Goal Descriptions

1	Goal	Street Improvements
	Description	Street improvements to bring road up to County standards.
2	Goal	Owner Occupied Home Rehabilitation
	Description	Provide needed repairs to low-to-moderate income homeowners to improve and/or maintain affordable housing stock.
3	Goal	Creation of New Rental Units
	Description	Land acquisition to a new multi-family housing complex.
4	Goal	Expansion of Social Work Services
	Description	Provides increased access to social work services in the CDBG service area, a traditionally underserved area.
5	Goal	Tenants' Rights and Fair Housing Counseling
	Description	Increase access for tenants' rights and fair housing counseling.

Table 4 - Revised Goal Descriptions

1	Goal	Infrastructure
	Description	Improve neighborhood quality through infrastructure projects including but not limited to street improvements, water and sewer improvements, transit related infrastructure and sidewalks.
2	Goal	Housing
	Description	Create, maintain or improve affordable housing stock for low to moderate income residents. Provide assistance to low and moderate income residents to improve existing or create new opportunities for housing affordability.
3	Goal	Community Service
	Description	Improve access to services for residents of the unincorporated areas. Projects may include but are not limited to case management, fair housing and tenant counseling, and transportation.
4	Goal	Populations with Specialized Needs
	Description	Provide services or infrastructure/facilities projects that benefit populations with specialized needs that may include but are not limited to elderly individuals, disabled individuals, victims of domestic violence, those in need of substance abuse services and those in need of mental health services.
5	Goal	Public Buildings and Facilities
	Description	Create, maintain or improve facilities or buildings that may include but are not limited to parks, recreational facilities, community centers and health clinics.
6	Goal	Business and Jobs
	Description	Create or retain jobs and promote commercial business for target populations.

IV. Amendments to the PY14 Action Plan

The Program Year 2014 (PY14) Action Plan covers the time period from October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015. Travis County Commissioners Court approved projects for inclusion in the PY14 Action Plan on June 10, 2014, and approved the PY14-18 Consolidated Plan and PY14 Action Plan on August 5, 2014. Travis County’s CDBG allocation for PY14 was \$997,649.

PY14 Projects to be Deleted

Two approved projects for PY14 did not proceed, requiring the reallocation of \$468,010 in PY14 funds to PY14 approved alternate projects. For more information on the project substitution, please refer to: https://www.traviscountytx.gov/images/health_human_services/Docs/cdbg/py14-project-sub-eng.pdf. The use of alternate projects is not part of the public comment process for this amendment. The following projects are being deleted from the PY14 Action Plan.

Table 5 – Projects/Activities to be Deleted

Projects/Activities	Amount	Reason for Change
Acquisition of Land to Support New Rental Housing: Lowden Lane	\$343,010	Developer withdrew project
Street Improvements: Forest Bluff	\$125,000	No longer eligible based on current data

Project Details for Acquisition of Land to Support New Rental Housing-Lowden Lane: The PY14 approved projects included funds for land acquisition to support the Lowden Lane Apartments, 192 units of affordable rental housing proposed by the Housing Authority of Travis County. The County was notified that the project will not proceed due to issues related to location, costs to further extend the land acquisition contract, and the City of Austin’s decision not to provide a letter of concurrence to TDHCA for an alternate property. The \$343,010 in CDBG funds was therefore reallocated for PY14.

Project Details for Street Improvements-Forest Bluff: The PY14 approved projects included \$125,000 in funds for the Forest Bluff street improvement project. All street improvement projects that use CDBG funds must be located in areas which primarily benefit low and moderate income residents as defined by HUD. The data used for this determination is referred to as the Low to Moderate Income Summary Data (LMISD) and is specific to each grantee. HUD uses special tabulations of Census data to determine eligible areas. The LMISD for the Travis County CDBG entitlement as of July 1, 2014 is 49.36%, which means that for an area to be eligible, at least 49.36% of the residents must be low to moderate income.

During the development of the PY14 Action Plan, CDBG staff used the HUD LMISD data that was currently in effect to determine the eligibility of street improvement projects. After the PY14 Action

Plan had been drafted, HUD released a new LMISD data set, which went into effect on July 1, 2014. Due to the required timeline for public notice, review, and submission of the plan to HUD, CDBG staff were unable to incorporate the new data into the PY14 Action Plan. Subsequently, CDBG staff reviewed all the projects and alternate projects against the new data set and determined that most of the Forest Bluff street improvement project was no longer eligible based on the percent of low to moderate income residents in the area.

PY14 Alternate Project

The PY14 Action Plan includes approved alternate projects. The inclusion of alternate projects allows for flexibility in the event of unforeseen incidents, and allows the CDBG program to utilize any unspent PY14 project savings in a timely manner by reprogramming them to an approved alternate project. One additional alternate project is being proposed as part of the Substantial Amendment to the PY14 Action Plan. Project details follow.

Alternate Project: Heine Farm Rd Sidewalk Improvements-- \$300,000

This project would install one pedestrian sidewalk along Heine Farm Road between Stoney Meadow Dr. and Ross Road. A new sidewalk will improve safety of Heine Farm Road by providing a walkway that will eliminate the need for pedestrians to walk in the street. The sidewalk would be constructed in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Architectural Barriers Regulations of Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR).

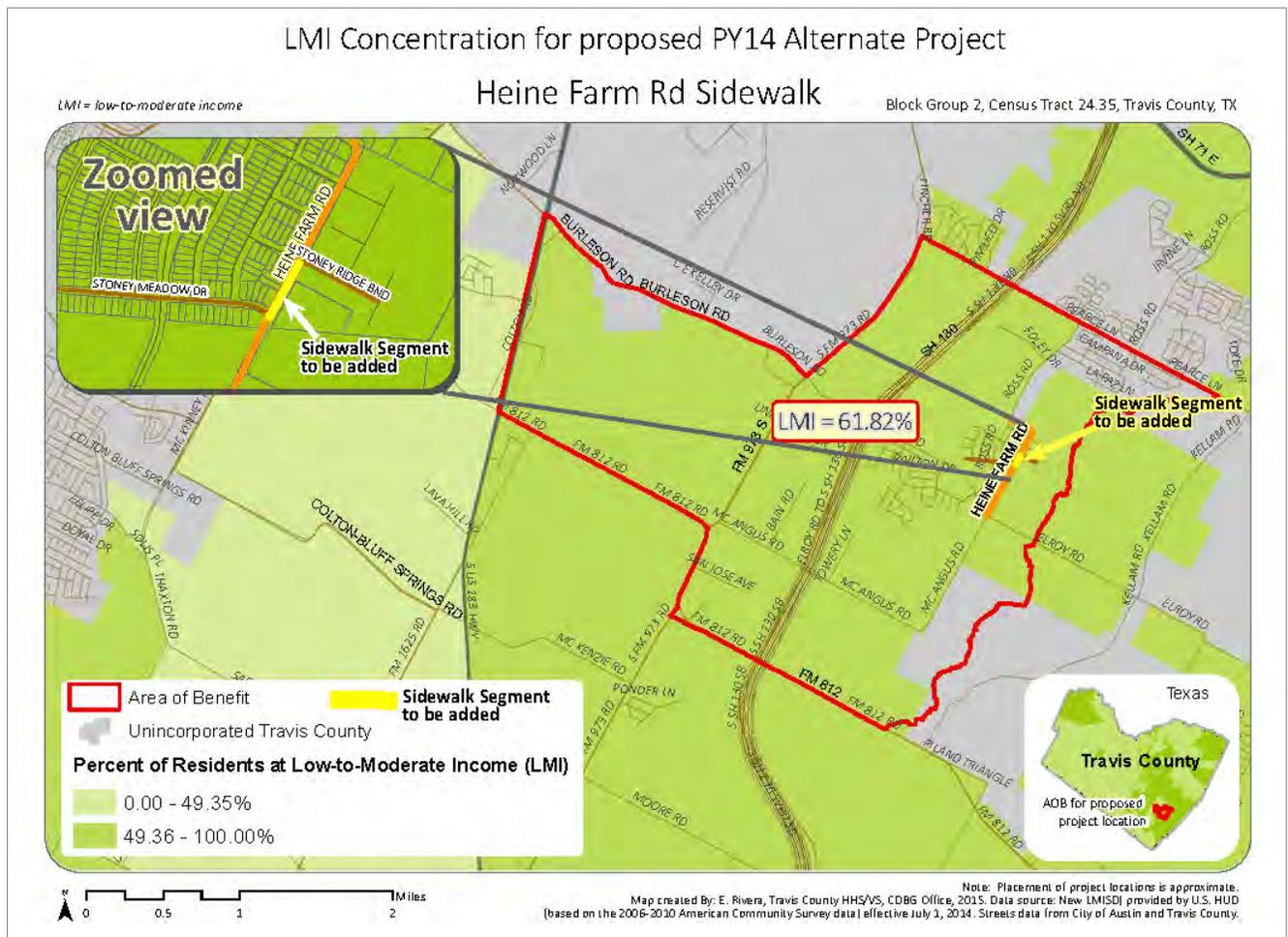
The improvements impact 3,510 people, of which, 61.82% are considered low to moderate income. The project will be implemented in two phases. The project includes funds for a TNR Senior Engineer to act as a project manager.

Table 6 – Alternate Project General Information

General Project Information	
CDBG Funding	\$300,000
Leverage Funding	N/A
Program Delivery	Travis County Transportation and Natural Resource Department
Program Oversight	Travis County Health and Human Service and Veteran Services
Estimated Start/Completion Date	TBD
Location	Heine Farm Road between Stoney Meadow Dr. and Ross Road. See Map below for more information.

Table 7 – Alternate Project Priority & Performance Measurement Information

Priority & Performance Measurement Information (HUD-prescribed)			
Priority Need Category	Infrastructure	Project	Sidewalk Improvements
Eligible Activity	Sidewalks	Outcome Category	Sustainability
Objective Category	Suitable Living Environment	Specific Objective	Improve quality of public infrastructure for lower income persons
Citation	§570.201 (c)	Accomplishment	3,510 individuals
Eligibility	LMA	Matrix Code	03L Sidewalks
Priority in the 2014-2018 Strategic Plan	High	Travis County SAP #	TBD



Detailed Results of Participation Process

The draft substantial amendments were posted for public comment from June 29 to July 28, 2015. Comments were accepted in writing via email or regular mail to the Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans' Service CDBG staff. The draft document was posted on the Travis County website and copies were available at the seven Travis County Community Centers for public review.

During the 30-day comment period, two public hearings were held at which the public could comment on the proposed substantial amendments. The two public hearings were held at the Travis County Commissioners' Court during the normally scheduled voting session, and were held in the traditional public hearing format with oral testimony. Because the public comment period and hearings for the PY15 Action Plan were held concurrently with the comment period and hearings for the Substantial Amendments, some of the comments received during the hearings included references and items related to the PY15 Action Plan. A summary of the comments received at the hearings follows, for a complete transcript of the testimony please refer to the "Public Participation Appendix" of the PY15 Action Plan.

Summary of Public Comments Received during Public Comment Period

- One person provided comments at the July 7, 2015 hearing at Commissioners Court. The comments related to the ongoing home repair program, and provided clarification that the PY15 goals for the project referred only to PY15 allocated funds, and that unspent funds from prior years would be used during the upcoming program year to provide repairs to additional houses.
- One person provided comments at the July 14, 2015 hearing at Commissioners Court. This person spoke in support of the priorities outlined in the Consolidated Plan and called attention to the ongoing need for services in the unincorporated areas as more population locates outside the city.