



1 WELCOME TO THE OPEN HOUSE

SCHEDULE:

OPEN HOUSE - 5:30–6:00

PRESENTATION - 6:00–6:30

Q&A - 6:30–7:00

OPEN HOUSE - 7:00–7:30

Please sign in, browse the exhibits, visit with the project team, and visit Station 6 to submit your comments and complete a short survey. If you are unable to stay for the presentation, it will be available on the project website at:

www.co.travis.tx.us/lwtp

Information presented in this handout is from the Draft LWTP and should be considered draft material.

Thank you for coming!

2 BACKGROUND & PROCESS

The Land Water and Transportation Plan (LWTP) will provide a framework for formulating policies and developing capital improvement programs to guide growth and protect land and water resources in unincorporated Travis County (areas outside of city limits) as it faces a tremendous amount of population growth. The LWTP is about expanding options people have when choosing where they live, work, and play and how they travel on a daily basis. It's about providing options that enhance quality of life, protect land and water resources, and use County resources wisely.

Map 1 – Travis County Incorporated Areas

This map shows incorporated and unincorporated areas of Travis County.

Map 2 – Travis County Future Growth

This map illustrates the population of Travis County in 2010 and the projected population for 2035.

LWTP GOALS

- Identify where the county will incent development
- Identify where the county will incent conservation
- Provide guidance to minimize incompatible land uses
- Guide consistent collaboration with other agencies at the regional and local level
- Help coordinate private and public investment

The Land Conservation Concept portion of this plan identifies priorities and policies which will chart the course for conserving land over the next 20 years.

Map 5 – Lands Conserved in Unincorporated Travis County

Approximately 60,000 acres of unincorporated Travis County has been conserved as parks, preserves, or conservation easements.

Map 14 – Land Conservation Concept

This map shows the location of natural resources prioritized in the Draft LWTP for protection as a Conservation Area or River and Creek Corridor.

Conservation Areas

Large, contiguous tracts of land that have been prioritized for conservation.

River and Creek Corridors

Minimally developed lands following waterways, often used for passive recreation or agriculture, and ideally connect conservation areas.

The Conservation Area and River and Creek Corridor configurations are preferred because they protect land and water resources better, and provide richer nature-related recreation and educational experiences.

(Proposed priority River and Creek Corridors can be seen on the Land Conservation Concept Map)

CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

Flood plain - any land area susceptible to being inundated by water

Prime Farmland - USDA-designated land having the combination of soil, growing season, and moisture supply required to produce sustained yields of food, forage, and fiber crops

Post Oak Savannah - a unique eco-region in eastern Travis County abutting Blackland Prairie, and Colorado River and Terrace eco-regions

Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat - a place where species at risk of extinction due to limited range, few in numbers, or threatened by environmental conditions live

Springs - locations where groundwater comes to the surface



The Development Concept provides alternatives for how new growth will be accommodated and supported in the unincorporated areas of Travis County. The Concept allows for expanded choices for residents living in these areas through the encouragement of new alternatives for land development (Activity Centers) and through choices in the ways residents commute (Transportation Corridors).

Map 4 – Activity Centers and Emerging Development

This map shows the locations of currently proposed developments in the unincorporated areas of Travis County.

Map 13 – Development Concept

This map identifies higher density mixed use developments (Activity Centers), that can be oriented around corridors for multiple modes of transportation including auto, bike, pedestrian, and transit (Transportation Corridors).

Activity Centers

CAMPO defines Activity Centers as “planned and built mixed use developments that have the density and diversity of land use and design attributes that produce lower vehicle miles traveled and support transit, bicycling and walking.”

Transportation Corridors

Roadways that accommodate automobiles, bicyclists, pedestrians, and transit and provide connectivity between Activity Centers.

DEVELOPMENT & TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIES

- Encourage new growth along the SH 130 Corridor
- Support existing development along RM 620 Corridor
- Prioritize and develop Transportation Corridors connecting Activity Centers
- Leverage infrastructure investments that support Activity Centers
- Provide development and employment incentives

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LWTP USES

The LWTP is an umbrella plan for growth-related capital improvement plans, regulations, permits, programs, and services. Many are already in place and only need to be monitored and updated as required. Other actions, however, need to be undertaken to accomplish goals in the plan to improve the quality of life of Travis County residents, optimize the benefits of land and water resources, and use Travis County resources wisely.

Map 15 – Growth Guidance Concept

This map shows an integrated view of Travis County’s preferred development and conservation land use patterns. These two concepts were overlaid and integrated to identify areas of opportunity and conflict to balance conservation and development interests.

THE LWTP IS INTENDED TO:

- Set priorities for transportation and conservation related Capital Improvement Programs (CIPs)
- Guide formulation of growth-related policies and practices
- Guide long range, collaborative planning efforts such as the Colorado River Corridor Plan (CRCP)
- Guide transportation and conservation-related public/private partnerships
- Set Travis County’s growth-related agenda for Texas State legislative action
- Guide Travis County Annual Work Plans and Annual Budgets

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SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

Travis County is engaging the public through this process to gain insight from residents and to ensure development of a plan that reflects local values and priorities.

Please take a few moments to:

TAKE THE ONLINE SURVEY

SHARE YOUR COMMENTS WITH US VIA WRITTEN COMMENT CARD
OR EMAIL: LWTP@CO.TRAVIS.TX.US

Your comments must be received by October 1, 2014 to be included in the public input summary.

Share this Information!

Please tell your neighbors, colleagues and friends in the community about the LWTP and encourage them to participate.

Para Información en español:

Albert Castro, Consultor de Participación Pública
(512) 387-1730
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DRAFT GROWTH GUIDANCE POLICIES

Growth Guidance Policies provide guidance to the Travis County Commissioners Court in balancing conservation and development interests in unincorporated Travis County and achieve LWTP goals and objectives. They are general, by nature, and are achieved through specific actions that are proposed by County staff, vetted by citizens, and only then considered for adoption by the Travis County Commissioners Court.

LAND

- POLICY L-1: Encourage development that is consistent with the County's "Activity Centers and Transportation Corridors" concept and has minimal impact on land and water resources.
- POLICY L-2: Develop an interconnected, multi-purpose, system of parks, preserves, privately conserved properties, and conservation subdivisions that protect high-priority land and water resources and complement "Activity Centers and Transportation Corridors" land use patterns.
- POLICY L-3: Prioritize conservation of the following lands:
- Prime Farmland (designated by the USDA)
 - Post Oak Savanna
 - Threatened and endangered species habitat protected by the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP)
 - Land with numerous springs
 - Land along the Colorado River and its major tributaries
 - Land along the Pedernales River and other Lake Travis tributaries
- POLICY L-4: Support conservation in eastern Travis County that helps balance conservation county-wide and protects land and water resources in advance of development in high growth areas.
- POLICY L-5: Develop a park and preserve system that provides opportunities for the public to enjoy nature-based recreation throughout the county.
- POLICY L-6: Manage the Balcones Canyonland Preserve (BCP) with best practices to conserve rare, threatened, and endangered species habitats and systems.
- POLICY L-7: Use best management practices to maintain or restore native woodlands, prairies, riparian zones and other ecosystems and control invasive species on County-owned land.
- POLICY L-8: Regulate development to decrease loss-of-life and property damage from flooding, fire, and other hazards.
- POLICY L-9: Reduce wildfire potentials in parks and preserves through forest management, prescribed fire, site and ecotype-appropriate fuels management, adjacent landowner outreach promoting FireWise and Community Wildfire Protection Plan recommendations, and other best management practices.
- POLICY L-10: Require best management practices for the construction of streets, structures, and drainage facilities in subdivision developments and transition to sustainable construction and O&M practices.
- POLICY L-11: Develop and implement strategies for minimizing light pollution and maintaining dark skies.
- POLICY L-12: Support state, county, and local regulation of billboards.
- POLICY L-13: Develop and implement design standards for protecting the natural and rural character of county roads.
- POLICY L-14: Provide information and resources to private landowners to promote best conservation and management of native ecosystems, especially on sites adjacent to parks and preserves.
- POLICY L-15: Support local government decisions regarding the location of Activity Centers and Corridors.

WATER

- POLICY W-1: Encourage and support residents and businesses on best methods to manage water resources including rainwater harvesting and xeriscape practices.
- POLICY W-2: Support efforts to reduce reliance upon Lake Travis and groundwater resources including conservation, piping from other sources, and new impoundments.
- POLICY W-3: Use water quality protection rules to protect ground and surface water resources throughout our jurisdiction from potential land development impacts.
- POLICY W-4: Use regulatory authority to ensure adequate groundwater is available for future subdivision needs and establish a groundwater conservation district in SW Travis County to protect the Trinity Aquifer from further unsustainable withdrawals.
- POLICY W-5: Protect Lake Travis water quality in accordance with the Travis County water quality protection standards and by conserving land along tributaries.
- POLICY W-6: Protect the Colorado River Alluvial Aquifer.
- POLICY W-7: Protect watersheds and headwaters up-gradient of spring sites known to be habitat of the Jollyville Plateau salamanders.

- POLICY W-8: Integrate storm water, flood mitigation, and water resource protection planning and programming.
- POLICY W-9: Develop and implement protocols for designing, constructing, and maintaining sustainable Rights-of-Way (ROWs).
- POLICY W-10: Use sustainable practices to reduce water consumption in County parks.
- POLICY W-11: Promote and use best management practices to control invasive aquatic species on County-owned properties.
- POLICY W-12: Promote and educate public on invasive species management.

TRANSPORTATION

- POLICY T-1: Support development of high density, mixed use Activity Centers through the use of transportation investments that integrate land use and transportation.
- POLICY T-2: Reduce demand on the region’s roadway system by developing a transportation network that provides people with multiple ways to travel.
- POLICY T-3: Prioritize transportation options that allow for choice within and connecting Activity Centers.
- POLICY T-4: Avoid and minimize impacts of transportation on sensitive natural and cultural resources, especially threatened and endangered species habitat.
- POLICY T-5: Provide bike lanes, sidewalks or shared use paths on arterial roads.
- POLICY T-6: Connect multi-use trails in County parks to the regional bike and pedestrian system.
- POLICY T-7: Formulate policies guiding County’s role in transit.
- POLICY T-8: Incorporate regional transit plans in the planning and development of County transportation facilities.
- POLICY T-9: Plan for and develop a road network that facilitates emergency access and evacuation.
- POLICY T-10: Support efforts to minimize residents’ harmful exposure to hazardous materials transported by road, rail or pipeline.
- POLICY T-11: Consider the total project context during the design process that balances transportation, land use, economic, social and environmental goals and objectives.

GROWTH GUIDANCE TOOLS

- POLICY GGT-1: Use existing regulatory authority to guide development.
- POLICY GGT-2: Pursue additional authority to prevent incompatible land use conflicts in unincorporated Travis County.
- POLICY GGT-3: Allocate funds for capital improvements supporting “Activity Centers”, “Corridors”, or conservation of County-prioritized lands.
- POLICY GGT-4: Support incentives for capital improvements supporting “Activity Centers”, “Corridors”, or conservation of County-prioritized lands.
- POLICY GGT-5: Protect County-prioritized land and water resources through park and preserve land acquisitions, parkland dedications, conservation easements, floodplain buy-out programs, and the Conservation Subdivision Ordinance.
- POLICY GGT-6: Coordinate with local jurisdictions, agencies and the private sector to promote connectivity and compatible development of land, water, and transportation systems.
- POLICY GGT-7: Prioritize investments in arterials connecting to SH 130.
- POLICY GGT-8: Use platting, permitting, other growth information to identify market-driven Activity Center and Corridors.

PLANNING AND POLICY FORMULATION

- POLICY PPF-1: Comply with all applicable local, state and federal rules, regulations and permits.
- POLICY PPF-2: Engage county residents, stakeholders, and experts in planning and policy formulation processes.
- POLICY PPF-3: Use statistically valid data to identify Travis County residents’ opinions and preferences.
- POLICY PPF-4: Coordinate departmental planning to optimize use of County resources.
- POLICY PPF-5: Ensure that public facilities are planned in advance of public need.
- POLICY PPF-6: Complete and regularly update departmental plans and studies to guide development of county-wide bond programs and other capital investment decisions.
- POLICY PPF-7: Monitor growth in unincorporated Travis County to identify “horizon issues”.
- POLICY PPF-8: Coordinate land use and transportation policies with local jurisdictions, agencies and the private sector.
- POLICY PPF-9: Specify procedures for waiving conditions of a plan or policy when environmental, fiscal, or other types of constraints make its implementation unfeasible.

FINANCE

- POLICY F-1: Leverage County capital improvement funds with federal and state grants, private sector partnerships, contributions from other jurisdictions and agencies, and user and impact fees (see Appendix A: Funding for Capital Improvements).
- POLICY F-2: Assess impacts of capital improvements, program expansions, and federal/state mandates on the O&M costs.
- POLICY F-3: Analyze efficiency and cost effectiveness of capital investments and seek innovative ways to reduce costs.
- POLICY F-4: Analyze the fiscal impact on County resources of providing new types of services or facilities.
- POLICY F-5: Analyze fiscal impact of creating Transportation Reinvestment Zones (TRZs).