

2017 Biographical Sketches

Transportation and Natural Resources (TNR) Staff

Charlie Watts **Planning Project Manager**

Charlie graduated with a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from Texas Tech University in 1984. He received his Masters of Science in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Texas at Austin in 1992. He is a certified planner of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and a member of the American Planning Association. He has over twenty-five years of professional planning experience spanning both public and private sectors. He began his career in 1985 as a landscape and irrigation designer for the David Bost Group in Round Rock, Texas. In 1987, prior to joining Travis County, he worked as a Planner for Community Land Resources, Inc. (CLRINC), a planning consulting firm in Austin, Texas. While at CLRINC, he provided Geographic Information System (GIS) support, graphic design and plan element development for comprehensive plans in small municipalities throughout Texas. Charlie joined Travis County's Transportation and Natural Resources Department (TNR) in 1993. His responsibilities include planning support for the development of Travis County's first multi-modal, local transportation plan. Prior to this, he provided planning support to the County's first comprehensive plan for public facilities, the Land, Water & Transportation Plan (LWTP). Other long-range planning responsibilities include an emphasis in transportation planning, capital improvements planning, and project coordination and liaison to city and State agencies.

Cathy Stevens **Planner, Sr.**

Cathy currently is a Senior Planner with the Travis County Transportation and Natural Resources (TNR) department, where she is working on the County's first local transportation plan. Prior to joining Travis County in December 2015, Cathy served as the Planning and Environmental Manager for the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), the area's regional transportation planning agency. Cathy worked at CAMPO for 15 years. While at CAMPO, she coordinated the development of the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan and supported development of the CAMPO 2035 and 2030 Regional Transportation Plans. She also co-chaired the region's Clean Air Coalition Advisory Committee, and helped develop and implement three regional air quality improvement plans. Prior to serving at CAMPO she worked for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) on transportation and air quality issues. .

Melissa Zone **Planner, Sr.**

Melissa has over 25 years of experience in urban/regional planning. She received her Master of Public Administration degree with a concentration in City/Regional Management and Policy and B.A. in Urban Studies with a concentration in Urban Planning from Cleveland State University. In her current position, Melissa performs transportation, water resource planning, affordable housing policy and analysis of pending legislation for Travis County. Committee member for the

county's first Affordable Housing Policy Advisory Group. She coauthored the Land, Water and Transportation Plan (LWTP) and the Colorado River Corridor Plan (CRCP). Her responsibilities also include administering the Travis County Transportation and Natural Resources Department's Public Engagement and Outreach program and monitoring the progress of action item implementation for the LWTP. Melissa's career achievements have included successfully negotiating over 200 agreements between developers and communities resulting in transportation system improvements, conservation land and more green space, and increased housing affordability at no additional cost to taxpayers. During her free time she provides pro bono community planning and design assistance to low-income neighborhoods and small businesses that can't afford to hire a professional planner. She serves on several boards and is an active volunteer for a dog rescue organization. Melissa's upbringing instilled in her the values of fairness, diversity and compassion for all. Proudly carrying on her family's tradition of public service, she has led many grassroots efforts to protect the interests of neighborhoods and advance participatory government.

Wendy Scaperotta, MLA
Planning Project Manager

Wendy is Travis County's park planner whose primary responsibility is the long range and capital improvement planning of the park system. This includes preparing park master plans with the capital improvement projects that are implemented through the County's park bond programs. She has facilitated four (4) voter-approved bond programs, working closely with the parks subcommittee of the citizen bond advisory committee appointed by the Commissioners Court. This has yielded approximately \$185 million over the past twenty (20) years for parkland acquisition and park development projects. Travis County adopted its latest parks master plan that is the foundation of the 2017 bond program in August, 2016. Wendy also has conservation planning responsibilities. She facilitated the funding of the conservation easement initiative launched in the 2011 bond program, was the project manager for the County's new growth-management Land, Water, and Transportation Plan (LWTP), and completed the conservation element of the LWTP. Prior to joining TNR, Wendy worked in both the public and private sector in south Florida as a project manager and landscape architect concentrating on park projects. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Design and Planning from SUNY Buffalo and a Masters of Landscape Architecture from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Wendy obtained her professional landscape architecture registration in 1987 and was accepted as a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners in 1994.

David Shore
Geographic Information System (GIS) Coordinator

David graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental/Resource Studies and Wildlife Biology from Southwest Texas State University (Texas State University). He has 18 years of GIS experience including private and public sectors. He began his career shortly after graduation as a GIS Technician for AverStar Inc. He became Production Coordinator overseeing the hypsography contract for the State's StratMap project, where he was responsible for 100% acceptance of all contract deliverables. In 2002, he joined the Planning Department at the City of Cedar Park, Texas. While there, he provided GIS support including data capture, analysis, data management,

geographic data research, decision making support and interagency coordination. He also expanded the use of GIS throughout other City Departments. Prior to joining Travis County, he worked for the City of Austin, Watershed Protection Department, providing GIS support and analysis with an emphasis on floodplain issues. He joined Travis County, TNR, in 2007. He has provided support on a range of projects supporting all TNR Divisions, other County Departments, and answering constituent's questions when called upon. He has been GIS Coordinator since 2009 overseeing, advocating, innovating, supporting and planning for GIS use/implementation throughout the County.

Steve Schiewe, P.E.

Engineer, Road and Bridge Maintenance Division

Mr. Schiewe earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin, and has been a Licensed Professional Engineer in Texas since 1993. He came to Travis County in 1999 and has been the drainage engineer for the Road and Bridge Maintenance Division since 2005. He designs repairs and improvements to the drainage infrastructure system and manages consultant contracts for projects constructed by county forces. He acts as engineering consultant and advisor to maintenance field staff and supervisors, and interacts with citizens regarding drainage concerns. Prior to working for Travis County, he spent the previous 11 years with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department designing a variety of water, wastewater and other infrastructure projects, with a view toward economical and low-maintenance solutions in locations of particular cultural and environmental significance. He still enjoys hiking the parks with his wife and two sons, and serves as a deacon at Dayspring Fellowship in Austin.

Laura Seaton

Executive Assistant

Laura graduated with a BA from The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington and with an MA in Whole Systems Design from Antioch University in Seattle. She has been working in government since 2003, as the Administrative Officer for the Department of Public Works and Environmental Management, County of Maui from 2003-2010 and joined Travis County in early 2011. She was originally hired by Travis County to be the admin support for the previous CBAC and was asked to stay on as the department's Executive Assistant. Government is Laura's third career. She previously worked all around the US in food & beverage and broadcasting. She continues the part-time career she started along with broadcasting when she was 17, as a commercial voiceover actress. She is a multimedia artist and believes service to others makes the journey worthwhile, supporting several community groups and organizations.