

I.	Projec	t Information		
Project	Name:	Oak Hill Parkway (U.S. Highway (US) 290/State Highway (SH) 71)		
Project	Limits F	From: US 290 W - State Loop 1 (Mopac); SH 71 - US 290 W		
Project	Limits T	o: US 290 W – Ranch-to-Market Road (RM) 1826; SH 71 – Silvermine Drive		
Main C	SJ of pr	eviously cleared project: <b>0113-08-060, 0700-03-077</b>		
Associa	ate CSJ(	(s) of previously cleared project: <b>N/A</b>		
		being done for work that will be done under a new CSJ that will need to be added to the red main CSJ?		
		Yes		
	$\boxtimes$	No		
If so, in	dicate th	ne new CSJ(s): <b>N/A</b>		
District	Austin			
County	(ies): <b>Tr</b>	avis		
Origina	l Approv	ved Environmental Classification (if "CE," also include the type and criterion): <b>EIS</b>		
Origina	l Enviro	nmental Clearance Date: Dec 21, 2018		
laws fo	The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.			
II.	Reeval	luation Number		
Reeval	uation n	umber: 3		
III.	Reaso	n for Reevaluation		
If there	is more	than one reason for the reevaluation, just check the box for the primary reason.		
	$\boxtimes$	Design change		

Passage of time

Change in affected environment



#### ☐ Omission/new information

Summary of reason for reevaluation: See Attachment D for Design Change Exhibits.

- 1) Revise westbound US 290 to westbound SH 71 access to a signalized dual right turn. This change modifies the frontage road intersection configuration—specifically, the westbound US 290 to westbound SH 71 movement. The change removes the sweeping right-turn movement and adds two right-turn lanes with a new signal to control the proposed movement. The purpose is to alleviate expected weave issues on westbound SH 71 between the US 290 westbound frontage road and the HEB Turnaround.
- 2) Add a 200-foot-long right-turn deceleration lane on the US 290 eastbound frontage road at Scenic Brook Drive.

This change adds a 200-foot-long right-turn deceleration lane along the eastbound frontage road at the approach to Scenic Brook Drive. The proposed shared-use path location is shifted to accommodate this addition.

3) Add emergency access to Scenic Brook Drive.

This change entails adding an access point to reestablish the existing emergency access from Lookout Cliff Pass to Scenic Brook Drive. The proposed connection is not included in the RFP Schematic Design.

4) Shift the Parcel 22 driveway west and add channelization.

This change relocates the driveway for Parcel 22 to the west by approximately 100 feet to coincide with the control of access shown in the right-of-way (ROW) maps. This revised driveway location is within the striped gore of the Scenic Brook Drive exit ramp, requiring ramp channelization methods from the end of the physical gore to past the driveway.

- 5) Prevent left turns from the service road west of South View Road to westbound US 290. Traffic control devices will be implemented to alleviate cut-through traffic and enhance the safety of the road. These devices will prevent the westbound access road to westbound US 290 movement. These devices include installation of a concrete barrier in the US 290 median to prevent drivers from turning left onto westbound US 290 from the service road, and signage that will say "Local Access Only."
- 6) Eliminate the westbound ramp braid at Convict Hill by adding collector-distributor road. This change will remove the westbound ramp braid and replace it with a two-lane collector-distributor system between the mainlanes and the frontage roads.
- 7) Eliminate the westbound entrance ramp east of Scenic Brook Drive by adding a collectordistributor road.

This proposed change will remove the proposed entrance ramp and replace it with a single-lane collector-distributor road to bypass the Scenic Brook Drive signalized intersection. Instead of entering to the mainlanes and adding the third mainlane, it will re-enter the frontage road west of Scenic Brook Drive as an auxiliary lane, which will extend to the entrance ramp to just east of Circle Drive. The third mainlane then would be added with the westbound entrance ramp near Circle Drive.

8) Modification of Shared Use Path (SUP) around Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI).



The shared use path will be modified around the SPUI as shown on the schematic in Attachment D.

9) Eliminate the sidewalk along the eastbound frontage from McCarty Lane to Joe Tanner Lane. ROW and utility constraints prevent the construction of this sidewalk.

Roadway modifications, including narrowing the frontage roads to 11-feet wide have been performed and there are no other options available to reduce the footprint to provide the necessary width for the sidewalk. A Shared Use Path being constructed with the Project along McCarty Lane and Joe Tanner Lane was an alternative to the sidewalk before this change and will serve as the route after this change. There is a low water crossing on Joe Tanner Lane at Williamson Creek that will prevent pedestrians on the south side of US 290 from crossing the creek after large rain events.

10) Changes to Noise Barrier (NB) 4 / Soundwall (SW) 1105 located along the eastbound US 290 roadway between Old Fredericksburg Road and Westcreek Drive.

Relocation of NB 4 from the ROW to a location between the US 290 eastbound mainlanes and eastbound frontage road. After relocation, NB 4 would be located on the outside edge of the eastbound mainlanes along retaining wall (RW) 170. NB 4 was moved due to utility conflicts along the ROW. Refer to the exhibit within the attached noise memo (Attachment F).

For a design change on a project with multiple CSJs for different sections of the project, indicate which CSJs are affected by the above-described design change: **0113-08-060**, **0700-03-077** 

Indicate any changes in right-of-way or easements required: N/A

Indicate any changes in the project limits: N/A

Identify any new potential relocations: The design changes will not result in any new relocations.

#### IV. Public Involvement

Describe any public involvement conducted for this reevaluation, including a brief summary of the outcome: Design Change 5: After initial public involvement efforts, it was decided to allow the service road to remain with two-way traffic. However, traffic control devices will be implemented at the US 290 median to prevent the westbound access road to westbound US 290 movement. After the Record of Decision (ROD), the project team continued to communicate with stakeholders about the final elements included in the Oak Hill Parkway design, particularly with Mr. Oglesby of Automotive Specialists, Mrs. Sonora Lee of Blue Frog School of Music, and Mr. Peel. Individual notices to alert stakeholders of the design change have been mailed out. The project will offer stakeholder meetings to Austin Waldorf School and Blue Frog School of Music as they have a higher volume of travelers driving to their locations (See Appendix C Meeting Minutes of Attachment E).

Design Change 8: A meeting took place in March 2021 to receive input from the City of Austin regarding the SUP changes.

Design Change 10: A letter requesting a revote was sent to the property owner regarding NB 4. The property owner returned a revote ballot with a vote in favor of NB 4 (see attached revote letter and ballot in Attachment F).



#### V. Coordination

Describe any coordination conducted for this reevaluation, including a brief summary of the outcome: Coordination is expected for the public involvement in the form of additional stakeholder meetings, if requested. Additionally, coordination is on-going with the City of Austin Active Transportation and Street Design Division regarding the removal of the sidewalk between McCarty Lane and Joe Tanner Lane.

#### VI. Review of Resource Areas

For each of the resource areas listed below, indicate whether the reason for the reevaluation invalidates the original environmental decision by checking one of the two boxes provided, and explain how that determination was made, with references to any supporting materials.

- For CEs, the CE determination is invalidated only if the project no longer meets the CE criteria at 23 CFR 771.117(a) and (b), or no longer meets the specific (c)-list or (d)-list criteria used.
- For EAs, the FONSI is invalidated only if the project will now have significant environmental impacts requiring an EIS.
- For EISs, the FEIS/ROD is invalidated only if there are now new or different significant environmental impacts not evaluated in the original EIS such that a supplemental EIS is now required.

Also, for each of the resource areas listed below, indicate whether the reason for the reevaluation affects a previously issued permit or other environmental commitment, or triggers the need for any action under any other environmental law or regulation, and provide an explanation for that determination. If any new Activities were created in connection with the reason for the reevaluation, explain the status of any such Activity(ies).

<u>Air</u>		
	$\boxtimes$	Original environmental decision valid
		Original environmental decision no longer valid
		Explanation: Since predicted traffic volumes will not change, the air quality analysis is still valid.
		ason for the reevaluation affects a previously issued permit or other environmental triggers the need for any action under any other environmental law or regulation:
		Yes
	$\boxtimes$	No



Explanation: Previously issued permits or other environmental commitments will not be affected because the air quality analysis from the previous reevaluation is still valid.

Archeological	Sites	and	Cemeteries
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$\boxtimes$	Original environmental decision valid
	Original environmental decision no longer valid
	Explanation: Pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 800.3(a) (1), certain routine projects constitute undertakings with no potential to cause effects on archeological historic properties. In addition, the Programmatic Agreement among the Federal Highway Administration, the Department of Transportation, the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regarding the Implementation of Transportation Undertakings identifies several categories of undertakings that have minimal potential to cause effects. These include: (1) placement of riprap to prevent erosion of waterway banks and bridge piers provided no ground disturbance is necessary; (2) all maintenance work between a highway's mainlanes and adjacent frontage road; (3) driveways and street connectors; (4) all work within interchanges and within medians of divided highways; (5) all work between the flowlines of the ditches and channels and above the original line and grade; (6) bridge replacements where construction activities will be entirely confined within existing right of way and the bridge alignment and dimensions will not be altered; (7) activities with less than 100 cubic yards of ground disturbance below the original grade; and/or (8) design changes for projects that have completed all applicable review and consultation where the new project elements comprise only one or more of the activities listed in [that] section.
	eason for the reevaluation affects a previously issued permit or other environmental triggers the need for any action under any other environmental law or regulation:
	Yes
$\boxtimes$	No
	Explanation: Previously issued permits or other environmental commitments will not be affected because the archeological sites and cemeteries analysis from the previous reevaluation is still valid.
Biology	
$\boxtimes$	Original environmental decision valid
	Original environmental decision no longer valid
	Explanation: No additional impacts to biological resources would occur as a result of the proposed design changes. The proposed design changes occur within the



existing ROW, which would make additional impacts to wildlife species or vegetation highly unlikely to happen. For additional information, see Attachment A.

Indicate if the reason for the reevaluation affects a previously issued permit, voluntary conservation measures, or other environmental commitment; or triggers the need for any action under any other environmental law or regulation:

□ Yes

No

Explanation: Reevaluation 3 does not affect any previously issued permits, Voluntary Conservation Measures (VCMs), or any other environmental commitments for biological resources.

If there is a concern about the need to re-initiate coordination with TPWD, contact the ENV SME assigned to the respective district to discuss.

#### **Community Impacts**

☐ Original environmental decision **no longer** valid

Explanation: The proposed design changes occur in an area covered by the original environmental analysis. The proposed design changes include modifying the frontage road intersection configuration to include two additional right-turn lanes and a signal at westbound US 290 to westbound SH 71, a 200-foot-long right-turn deceleration lane along the eastbound frontage road at the approach to Scenic Brook Drive, and an emergency access point to Scenic Brook Drive. These proposed design changes would require the relocations of a proposed shared-use path at Scenic View Drive and a driveway on Parcel 22. However, these design changes would not require any new ROW or result in any new displacements. Proposed changes to the access road on the south ROW line west of South View Road would limit access to local access only and would add an island in the US 290 median to prevent the westbound access road to westbound US 290 movement. These proposed changes would cause vehicles traveling southbound from the intersection of Circle Drive and South View Road on eastbound Oak Hill Parkway frontage road to the Scenic Brook Drive turnaround to travel westbound and enter the Oak Hill parkway westbound lanes, for a distance of approximately one mile. This additional maximum travel distance of one mile is within the access change range of 0.4 mile to 1.25 mile in the original environmental decision. Additionally, the design changes would not impact any community facilities or disproportionately impact any Environmental Justice communities. As such, the proposed changes would not increase any impacts to the community already identified during the original environmental review.

Indicate if the reason for the reevaluation affects a previously issued permit or other environmental commitment, or triggers the need for any action under any other environmental law or regulation:



	Yes
$\boxtimes$	No
	Explanation: The proposed design changes do not affect a previously issued permit or trigger the need for any action under other environmental law or regulation because no new ROW is required, and no additional community impacts will result from the design changes. No further action is required.
Chapter 26	
$\boxtimes$	Original environmental decision valid
	Original environmental decision no longer valid
	Explanation: No additional ROW is required from parks, recreation areas, scientific areas, or wildlife refuges; therefore, no impacts to Chapter 26 resources are anticipated as a result of the proposed design changes.
	eason for the reevaluation affects a previously issued permit or other environmental ratiggers the need for any action under any other environmental law or regulation:
	Yes
$\boxtimes$	No
	Explanation: Reevaluation 3 does not affect any previously issued permits, VCMs, or any other environmental commitments for Chapter 26 properties.
Cumulative Imp	<u>pacts</u>
$\boxtimes$	Original environmental decision valid
	Original environmental decision no longer valid
	Explanation: The cumulative impacts analysis in the original environmental review includes the areas where design changes currently are being proposed. The changes would not require any additional ROW and would not open access to any undeveloped areas. As such, the proposed design changes would not result in any additional cumulative impacts.
	eason for the reevaluation affects a previously issued permit or other environmental triggers the need for any action under any other environmental law or regulation:
	Yes
$\boxtimes$	No
	Explanation: The proposed design changes would not affect a previously issued permit or trigger the need for any action under other environmental law or regulation because no new ROW is required, no new areas would be opened to



access, and no new cumulative impacts are expected to result from the design changes. No further action is required.

Induced Growth		
$\boxtimes$	Original environmental decision valid	
	Original environmental decision no longer valid	
	Explanation: The induced growth Area of Influence (AOI) and discussion in the original environmental review includes the areas where design changes are currently being proposed. The changes would not require any additional ROW and would not open access to any undeveloped areas. As such, the proposed design changes would not induce growth in new areas.	
	eason for the reevaluation affects a previously issued permit or other environmental triggers the need for any action under any other environmental law or regulation:	
	Yes	
$\boxtimes$	No	
	Explanation: The proposed design changes would not affect a previously issued permit or trigger the need for any action under other environmental law or regulation because the proposed changes occur in the area covered in the original AOI, no new ROW is required, and no new areas would be opened to access. No additional induced growth impacts are anticipated to result from the design changes, and no further action is required.	
Hazardous Mat	<u>erials</u>	
$\boxtimes$	Original environmental decision valid	
	Original environmental decision no longer valid	
	Explanation: The proposed design changes are not anticipated to alter the potential impacts to any of the previously identified hazardous material sites. In the 2017 Hazardous Material Technical Report, it was determined that impacts would occur at site IDs 4, 6, 20, and 23. Impacts to these sites are still expected to occur as determined previously. For additional information, see Attachment B.	
Indicate if the reason for the reevaluation affects a previously issued permit or other environmental commitment, or triggers the need for any action under any other environmental law or regulation:		
	Yes	
$\boxtimes$	No	
	Explanation: The initial evaluation included a buffer that encompasses the subject area of the reevaluation. Thus, no new area is being evaluated as a result of the proposed changes.	

Historic Resources

$\boxtimes$	Original environmental decision valid
	Original environmental decision no longer valid
	Explanation: In accordance with TxDOT's Guidance List of Projects that Do Not Require Review of Coordination for Non-Archeological Historic Property Compliance, the proposed design changes fall within the List of Undertakings that Have No Potential to Cause Effects to Non-Archeological Historic Properties. Because the proposed projet also meets Appendix 4, Minimal Potential to Affect Historic Properties within TxDOT's Guidance on Historical Studies Review Procedures, a TxDOT Historical Studies revised minimized Project Coordination Request (PCR) has been completed.
	reason for the reevaluation affects a previously issued permit or other environmental or triggers the need for any action under any other environmental law or regulation:
	Yes
	No
	Explanation: Previously issued permits or other environmental commitments will not be affected because the historic resources analysis from the previous reevaluation is still valid.
Noise	
$\boxtimes$	Original environmental decision valid
	Original environmental decision no longer valid
	Explanation: The design changes have not affected the original environmental decision for noise. However, additional coordination for the noise wall change was required and is described below.
	reason for the reevaluation affects a previously issued permit or other environmental or triggers the need for any action under any other environmental law or regulation:
$\boxtimes$	Yes
	No
	Explanation: Due to the relocation of NB 4 / SW 1105, the proposed length of the barrier would increase from 667 feet as identified in the original 2017 noise study and 2021 reevaluation to approximately 815 feet. The barrier height would decrease from 19 feet as identified in the 2017 noise study and 2021 reevaluation to 13 feet. The total number of benefited receivers (BRs) would increase by one from 14 BRs in the previous noise studies to 15 BRs in the current reevaluation. Due to utility conflicts along the ROW, NB 4 / SW 1105 has been relocated from the ROW to a location between the US 290 eastbound mainlanes and eastbound

frontage road. After relocation, NB 4 would be located on the outside edge of the eastbound mainlanes along RW 170 (See Attachment F for Noise Memo). A letter sent to the property owner requesting a revote on the noise barrier, as well as the signed ballot in favor of the noise barrier have been included in Attachment F.

	signed ballot in favor of the noise barrier have been included in Attachment F.
Section 4(f)	
$\boxtimes$	Original environmental decision valid
	Original environmental decision no longer valid
	Explanation: The proposed design changes include modifying the frontage road intersection configuration to include two additional right-turn lanes and a signal at westbound US 290 to westbound SH 71, a 200-foot-long right-turn deceleration lane along the eastbound frontage road at the approach to Scenic Brook Drive, an emergency access point to Scenic Brook Drive, the elimination of the westbound ramp braid at Convict Hill by adding a collector-distributor road, and the elimination of the westbound entrance ramp east of scenic brook drive by adding a collector-distributor road. The new work would occur in areas already covered in the original environmental review and would not require any new ROW. Additionally, these proposed design changes would not occur in a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-listed area or on park land. As such, the changes would not result in any new Section 4(f) impacts.
	reason for the reevaluation affects a previously issued permit or other environmental or triggers the need for any action under any other environmental law or regulation:
	Yes
$\boxtimes$	No
	Explanation: The proposed design changes would not affect a previously issued permit or trigger the need for any action under other environmental law or regulation because the proposed changes occur in the area covered in the original environmental review, no new ROW is required, and the changes would not occur in an NRHP-listed area or on park land. No further action is required.
Water	
$\boxtimes$	Original environmental decision valid
	Original environmental decision no longer valid
	Explanation: The design changes associated with Reevaluation 3 have not resulted in any new impacts to potentially jurisdictional waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) that were not previously accounted for in Reevaluation 2. See Attachment C for further

Indicate if the reason for the reevaluation affects a previously issued permit or other environmental commitment, or triggers the need for any action under any other environmental law or regulation:

details.

	П	Yes
		No
		Explanation: Reevaluation 3 does not affect any previously issued permits or any other environmental commitments for water resources.
<u>Other</u>		
	$\boxtimes$	Original environmental decision valid
		Original environmental decision no longer valid
		Explanation: The design changes in Reevaluation 3 will not result in new impacts to any other environmental resources.
		eason for the reevaluation affects a previously issued permit or other environmental triggers the need for any action under any other environmental law or regulation:
		Yes
	$\boxtimes$	No
		Explanation: Reevaluation 3 does not affect any previously issued permits or environmental commitments for any other environmental resources.
VII.	Reeval	uation Conclusion
Check	one of th	e boxes below to indicate the overall conclusion of this reevaluation.
	$\boxtimes$	Original environmental decision valid
		Original environmental decision <u>no longer</u> valid
VIII.	Prepare	er
Name:	Ryan Hi	11
Title: E	nvironm	ental Manager, Atkins North America, Inc.
Date: 1	2/10/202	21

Effective Date: January 2020

# Attachment A: Biological Resources





# Oak Hill Parkway Biological Resources Memo

To: Christiana Astarita (christiana.astarita@txdot.gov	/)
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From:	Ryan Hill	Email:	Ryan.hill@atkinsglobal.com
Date:	01 December 2021	Phone:	512-342-3363
Ref:	CSJ #s: 0113-08-060, 0700-03- 077	cc:	Jon Geiselbrecht (jon.geiselbrecht@txdot.gov)

Subject: Oak Hill Parkway Water Resources Reevaluation #3

## Vegetation

The following Ecological Mapping Systems of Texas (EMST) have been identified within the project area in previous Reevaluations: (1) Edwards Plateau: Ashe Juniper Motte and Woodland, (2) Edwards Plateau: Deciduous Oak/Evergreen Motte Woodland, (3) Edwards Plateau: Savanna Grassland, (4) Edwards Plateau: Floodplain Juniper Shrubland, (5) Edwards Plateau: Riparian Hardwood Forest, (6) Native Invasive: Mesquite Shrubland, and (7) Urban Low Intensity. These seven EMST types correspond to the "Disturbed Prairie", "Edwards Plateau Savannah, Woodland, and Shrubland", "Floodplain", "Riparian", and "Urban" habitat types which are identified in the 2013 TxDOT – Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Programmatic Agreement 2017 Revision (TxDOT 2017). No additional EMST types will be included in the current Reevaluation 3.

As a result of the 2021 Reevaluation 3 design revisions, total vegetation impacts within the Oak Hill Parkway (OHP) Project area will not change from the 215.34 acres of impacts determined in Reevaluation 2. The proposed design changes in Reevaluation 3 will all be taking place within previously assessed existing and proposed ROW. Therefore, additional impacts to vegetation are not expected. In addition, coordination with TPWD would not be required because there will be no additional vegetation impacts in a new MOU habitat type, nor does the project exceed a new vegetation threshold. Coordination with TPWD for the three MOU habitat types previously found to exceed thresholds has already been completed as a result of the original Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Process.

# Habitat for Threatened or Endangered Species

Habitat assessments for threatened and endangered species were performed for previous Reevaluations 1 and 2 in 2019, and in the original Environmental Impact Statement in 2018. Prior to performing habitat assessments, threatened and endangered species lists from the USFWS Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) system and TPWD were consulted to determine which species could occur in the project area (USFWS 2019; TPWD 2019). A combination of desktop analysis and field verification by qualified biologists were then used to determine suitable habitat for each species (USFWS Species Recovery Permit # TE168185-3 and TPWD Scientific Research Permit # SPR-0691-409, Biological Resources Technical Report – Addendum #2 Oak Hill Parkway CSJ #s: 0113-08-060 & 0700-03-077 2019). Based on the original project design, and subsequent design changes in Reevaluations 1 and 2, the potential project impacts to each species were also evaluated.





The proposed design modifications under Reevaluation 3 have not resulted in a change of impact or effect determinations presented in the documentation for Reevaluation 2 (TxDOT 2019). However, several species have undergone a change in listing status since the previous Reevaluation 2 (USFWS 2021; TPWD 2021). A summary of these changes are provided in **Table 1**. The updated species lists from the USFWS and TPWD are provided in **Attachment A**.

Table 1. A comparison of species listings and determinations between Reevaluation 2 and Reevaluation 3.

Species	Federal/State Status in Reevaluation 2 (2019) <sup>1</sup>	Federal/State Status in Reevaluation 3 (2021)	Habitat and Impact Determination in Reevaluation 2 (2019)	Determination in Reevaluation 3 Changed? (2021)
Black rail ( <i>Laterallus</i> <i>jamaicensis</i> )	PT / SGCN	PT/ST	No suitable habitat, No Effect/ No Impact	No
Black-capped Vireo (Vireo atricapilla)	NL / SE	NL / SGCN	No suitable habitat, No Impact	No
Bald Eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus)	NL/ST	NL / SGCN	No suitable habitat, No Impact	No
Sharpnose shiner (Notropis oxyrhyncus)	NL / SGCN	NL / SE	No suitable habitat, No Impact	No
Smalleye shiner (Notropis buccula)	NL / SGCN	NL / SE	No suitable habitat, No Impact	No
Smooth pimpleback (Cyclonaias houstonensis)	FC/ST	NL / NL	No suitable habitat, No Effect/ No Impact	NA <sup>2</sup>
Texas tortoise (Gopherus berlandieri)	NL/ST	NL / NL <sup>3</sup>	Suitable habitat present, May Impact	NA
Timber rattlesnake (Crotalus horridus)	NL/ST	NL / NL	No suitable habitat/ No Impact	NA

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Species status codes: USFWS (FT = Federally Threatened, FE = Federally Endangered, FC = Federal Candidate, PT = Proposed Threatened, NL = Not listed) TPWD (SE = State Endangered, ST = State Threatened, NL = Not listed)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>NA = Not Applicable

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>According to the TPWD, the Texas tortoise is still considered a State Threatened species, but the species is no longer listed to occur in Travis county. Therefore, the original impact determination made for this species is no longer applicable to the project since the species would not occur in the project area.





### References

- Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD). 2019. Annotated County Lists of Rare Species: Travis County. Revision July 17, 2019. http://tpwd.texas.gov/gis/rtest/. Accessed November 2019.
- TPWD. 2021. Annotated County Lists of Rare Species: Travis County. Last revisions October 1, 2021. http://tpwd.texas.gov/gis/rtest/. Accessed December 2021.
- TxDOT 2017. Texas Parks and Wildlife 2013 MOU: Best Management Practices 2017 Revision. https://ftp.txdot.gov/pub/txdot-info/env/toolkit/300-01-pa.pdf. (accessed November 2020).
- TxDOT 2019. Oak Hill Parkway Biological Resources Technical Report Addendum #2. Prepared by Cox | McLain environmental Consulting. November 2019.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2019. Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) "Official Species List for Project Area." <a href="http://www.fws.gov/endangered/">http://www.fws.gov/endangered/</a>. Accessed November 2019.
- USFWS. 2021. Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) "Official Species List for Project Area." http://www.fws.gov/endangered/. Accessed December 2021.





# Attachment A: USFWS and TPWD Endangered and Threatened Species Lists



# United States Department of the Interior



#### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Austin Ecological Services Field Office 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200 Austin, TX 78758-4460 Phone: (512) 490-0057 Fax: (512) 490-0974

http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/AustinTexas/

In Reply Refer To: December 03, 2021

Consultation Code: 02ETAU00-2022-SLI-0401

Event Code: 02ETAU00-2022-E-00950

Project Name: Oak Hill Parkway

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project

location or may be affected by your proposed project

#### To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that *may* occur within the county of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Please note that new information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Also note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of federally listed as threatened or endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect these species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

While a Federal agency may designate a non-Federal representative to conduct informal consultation or prepare a biological assessment, the Federal Agency must notify the Service in writing of any such designation. The Federal agency shall also independently review and evaluate the scope and content of a biological assessment prepared by their designated non-Federal representative before that document is submitted to the Service.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by a federally funded, permitted or authorized activity, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. The following definitions are provided to assist you in reaching a determination:

- No effect the proposed action will not affect federally listed species or critical habitat. A "no effect" determination does not require section 7 consultation and no coordination or contact with the Service is necessary. However, if the project changes or additional information on the distribution of listed or proposed species becomes available, the project should be reanalyzed for effects not previously considered.
- May affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the project may affect listed species and/or critical habitat; however, the effects are expected to be discountable, insignificant, or completely beneficial. Certain avoidance and minimization measures may need to be implemented in order to reach this level of effect. The Federal agency or the designated non-Federal representative should consult with the Service to seek written concurrence that adverse effects are not likely. Be sure to include all of the information and documentation used to reach your decision with your request for concurrence. The Service must have this documentation before issuing a concurrence.
- *Is likely to adversely affect* adverse effects to listed species may occur as a direct or indirect result of the proposed action. For this determination, the effect of the action is neither discountable nor insignificant. If the overall effect of the proposed action is beneficial to the listed species but the action is also likely to cause some adverse effects to individuals of that species, then the proposed action "is likely to adversely affect" the listed species. The analysis should consider all interrelated and interdependent actions. An "is likely to adversely affect" determination requires the Federal action agency to initiate formal section 7 consultation with our office.

Regardless of the determination, the Service recommends that the Federal agency maintain a complete record of the evaluation, including steps leading to the determination of effect, the qualified personnel conducting the evaluation, habitat conditions, site photographs, and any other related information. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered

Species Consultation Handbook" at: <a href="http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF">http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF</a>.

#### Migratory Birds

For projects that may affect migratory birds, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) implements various treaties and conventions for the protection of these species. Under the MBTA, taking, killing, or possessing migratory birds is unlawful. Migratory birds may nest in trees, brushy areas, or other areas of suitable habitat. The Service recommends activities requiring vegetation removal or disturbance avoid the peak nesting period of March through August to avoid destruction of individuals, nests, or eggs. If project activities must be conducted during this time, we recommend surveying for nests prior to conducting work. If a nest is found, and if possible, the Service recommends a buffer of vegetation remain around the nest until the young have fledged or the nest is abandoned.

For additional information concerning the MBTA and recommendations to reduce impacts to migratory birds please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Birds Office, 500 Gold Ave. SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102. A list of migratory birds may be viewed at <a href="https://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/migratory-bird-treaty-act-protected-species.php">https://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/migratory-bird-treaty-act-protected-species.php</a>. Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers can be found at: <a href="https://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/guidance-documents/communication-towers.php">https://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/guidance-documents/communication-towers.php</a>. Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the wind energy guidelines

https://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/guidance-documents/wind-energy.php ) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

Finally, please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 et seq.), and projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan <a href="https://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/guidance-documents/eagles.php">https://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/guidance-documents/eagles.php</a>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

#### Attachment(s):

Official Species List

# **Official Species List**

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Austin Ecological Services Field Office 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200 Austin, TX 78758-4460 (512) 490-0057

# **Project Summary**

Consultation Code: 02ETAU00-2022-SLI-0401

Event Code: Some(02ETAU00-2022-E-00950)

Project Name: Oak Hill Parkway
Project Type: TRANSPORTATION

Project Description: Transportation highway project.

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/@30.2530901,-97.88977071000696,14z">https://www.google.com/maps/@30.2530901,-97.88977071000696,14z</a>



Counties: Travis County, Texas

## **Endangered Species Act Species**

There is a total of 14 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. Note that 2 of these species should be considered only under certain conditions.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an
office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of
Commerce.

#### **Birds**

NAME STATUS

#### Golden-cheeked Warbler (=wood) *Dendroica chrysoparia*

Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/33">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/33</a>

#### Piping Plover Charadrius melodus

Threatened

Population: [Atlantic Coast and Northern Great Plains populations] - Wherever found, except those areas where listed as endangered.

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available.

This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions:

Wind Energy Projects

Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039</a>

#### Red Knot Calidris canutus rufa

Threatened

There is **proposed** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available.

This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions:

Wind Energy Projects

Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864</a>

#### Whooping Crane *Grus americana*

Endangered

Population: Wherever found, except where listed as an experimental population

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758

Event Code: 02ETAU00-2022-E-00950

**Amphibians** 

NAME **STATUS** 

Austin Blind Salamander Eurycea waterlooensis

Endangered

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5737

Barton Springs Salamander Eurycea sosorum

Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1113">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1113</a>

Jollyville Plateau Salamander *Eurycea tonkawae* 

Threatened

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available.

Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3116">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3116</a>

Clams

NAME **STATUS** 

Texas Fatmucket Lampsilis bracteata

Proposed

There is **proposed** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not

available.

**Endangered** 

Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9041">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9041</a>

Insects

NAME **STATUS** 

Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* 

Candidate

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</a>

Tooth Cave Ground Beetle Rhadine persephone

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5625

Endangered

**Arachnids** 

**NAME STATUS** 

Bee Creek Cave Harvestman Texella reddelli

Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2464

Bone Cave Harvestman Texella reyesi

Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5306

Tooth Cave Spider Neoleptoneta myopica

Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2360">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2360</a>

Event Code: 02ETAU00-2022-E-00950

# **Flowering Plants**

NAME **STATUS** 

Bracted Twistflower Streptanthus bracteatus

Proposed

There is **proposed** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available.

Threatened

Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2856">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2856</a>

### **Critical habitats**

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

Last Update: 10/1/2021

#### TRAVIS COUNTY

#### **AMPHIBIANS**

**Austin blind salamander** Eurycea waterlooensis

Aquatic and subterranean; streams and caves.

Federal Status: LE State Status: E SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G1 State Rank: S1

Barton Springs salamander Eurycea sosorum

Aquatic; springs, streams and caves with rocky or cobble beds.

Federal Status: LE State Status: E SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G1 State Rank: S1

**Jollyville Plateau salamander** Eurycea tonkawae

Aquatic; springs, streams and caves with rocky or cobble beds.

Federal Status: LT State Status: T SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G2 State Rank: S2

**Pedernales River Springs** *Eurycea sp. 6* 

salamander

Aquatic; springs, streams and caves with rocky or cobble beds.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: N

Endemic: Y Global Rank: G1 State Rank: S1S2

**Strecker's chorus frog** Pseudacris streckeri

Terrestrial and aquatic: Wooded floodplains and flats, prairies, cultivated fields and marshes. Likes sandy substrates.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: N Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S3

Woodhouse's toad Anaxyrus woodhousii

Terrestrial and aquatic: A wide variety of terrestrial habitats are used by this species, including forests, grasslands, and barrier island sand dunes.

Aquatic habitats are equally varied.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: N Global Rank: G5 State Rank: SU

**ARACHNIDS** 

Bandit Cave spider Cicurina bandida

Very small, subterrestrial, subterranean obligate

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G2Q State Rank: S1

#### **DISCLAIMER**

#### **ARACHNIDS**

**Bone Cave harvestman** Texella reyesi

Small, blind, cave-adapted harvestman endemic to several caves in Travis and Williamson counties; weakly differentiated from Texella reddelli

Federal Status: LE State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: Y Global Rank: G2G3 State Rank: S2

No accepted common name Texella grubbsi

Habitat description is not available at this time.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G1G2 State Rank: S1

No accepted common name Texella mulaiki

Habitat description is not available at this time.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G2G3 State Rank: S2

No accepted common name Texella spinoperca

Habitat description is not available at this time.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: Global Rank: GNR State Rank: SNR

No accepted common name Tartarocreagris infernalis

Habitat description is not available at this time.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: Y Global Rank: G2G3 State Rank: S2?

No accepted common name Tartarocreagris intermedia

Habitat description is not available at this time.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G1G2 State Rank: S1

No accepted common name Tartarocreagris altimana

Habitat description is not available at this time.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G1G2 State Rank: S1

No accepted common name Tartarocreagris attenuata

Habitat description is not available at this time.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G1G2 State Rank: S1

#### **DISCLAIMER**

#### **ARACHNIDS**

No accepted common name Tartarocreagris domina

Habitat description is not available at this time.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G1G2 State Rank: S1

No accepted common name Tartarocreagris proserpina

Habitat description is not available at this time.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G1G2 State Rank: S1

No accepted common name Cicurina travisae

Habitat description is not available at this time.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G1G2Q State Rank: S1

No accepted common name Eidmannella reclusa

Habitat description is not available at this time.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G1G2 State Rank: S1

Reddell harvestman Texella reddelli

Small, blind, cave-adapted harvestman endemic to a few caves in Travis and Williamson counties

Federal Status: LE State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G2G3 State Rank: S2

**Tooth Cave pseudoscorpion**Tartarocreagris texana

 $Small, cave-adapted\ pseudoscorpion\ known\ from\ small\ limestone\ caves\ of\ the\ Edwards\ Plateau$ 

Federal Status: LE State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G1G2 State Rank: S1

**Tooth Cave spider** Neoleptoneta myopica

Very small, cave-adapted, sedentary spider

Federal Status: LE State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Global Rank: G1G2 State Rank: S1

**BIRDS** 

bald eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus

#### DISCLAIMER

#### **BIRDS**

Found primarily near rivers and large lakes; nests in tall trees or on cliffs near water; communally roosts, especially in winter; hunts live prey, scavenges, and pirates food from other birds

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: N Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S3B,S3N

Black Rail Laterallus jamaicensis

Salt, brackish, and freshwater marshes, pond borders, wet meadows, and grassy swamps; nests in or along edge of marsh, sometimes on damp ground, but usually on mat of previous years dead grasses; nest usually hidden in marsh grass or at base of Salicornia

Federal Status: LT State Status: T SGCN: Y
Endemic: N Global Rank: G3 State Rank: S2

black-capped vireo Vireo atricapilla

Oak-juniper woodlands with distinctive patchy, two-layered aspect; shrub and tree layer with open, grassy spaces; requires foliage reaching to ground level for nesting cover; return to same territory, or one nearby, year after year; deciduous and broad-leaved shrubs and trees provide insects for feeding; species composition less important than presence of adequate broad-leaved shrubs, foliage to ground level, and required structure; nesting season March-late summer

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: N Global Rank: G3 State Rank: S3B

Chestnut-collared Longspur Calcarius ornatus

Occurs in open shortgrass settings especially in patches with some bare ground. Also occurs in grain sorghum fields and Conservation Reserve

Program lands

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: N Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S3

Franklin's gull Leucophaeus pipixcan

This species is only a spring and fall migrant throughout Texas. It does not breed in or near Texas. Winter records are unusual consisting of one or a few individuals at a given site (especially along the Gulf coastline). During migration, these gulls fly during daylight hours but often come down to wetlands, lake shore, or islands to roost for the night.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: N Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S2N

golden-cheeked warbler Setophaga chrysoparia

Ashe juniper in mixed stands with various oaks (Quercus spp.). Edges of cedar brakes. Dependent on Ashe juniper (also known as cedar) for long fine bark strips, only available from mature trees, used in nest construction; nests are placed in various trees other than Ashe juniper; only a few mature junipers or nearby cedar brakes can provide the necessary nest material; forage for insects in broad-leaved trees and shrubs; nesting late March-early summer.

Federal Status: LE State Status: E SGCN: Y

Endemic: N Global Rank: G2 State Rank: S2S3B

interior least tern Sternula antillarum athalassos

#### DISCLAIMER

#### **BIRDS**

Sand beaches, flats, bays, inlets, lagoons, islands. Subspecies is listed only when inland (more than 50 miles from a coastline); nests along sand and gravel bars within braided streams, rivers; also know to nest on man-made structures (inland beaches, wastewater treatment plants, gravel mines, etc); eats small fish and crustaceans, when breeding forages within a few hundred feet of colony

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: N

Endemic: N Global Rank; G4T3O State Rank: S1B

Lark Bunting Calamospiza melanocorys

Overall, it's a generalist in most short grassland settings including ones with some brushy component plus certain agricultural lands that include grain sorghum. Short grasses include sideoats and blue gramas, sand dropseed, prairie junegrass (Koeleria), buffalograss also with patches of bluestem and other mid-grass species. This bunting will frequent smaller patches of grasses or disturbed patches of grasses including rural yards. It also uses weedy fields surrounding playas. This species avoids urban areas and cotton fields.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: N Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S4B

mountain plover Charadrius montanus

Breeding: nests on high plains or shortgrass prairie, on ground in shallow depression; nonbreeding: shortgrass plains and bare, dirt (plowed)

fields; primarily insectivorous

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: N Global Rank: G3 State Rank: S2

piping plover Charadrius melodus

Beaches, sandflats, and dunes along Gulf Coast beaches and adjacent offshore islands. Also spoil islands in the Intracoastal Waterway. Based on the November 30, 1992 Section 6 Job No. 9.1, Piping Plover and Snowy Plover Winter Habitat Status Survey, algal flats appear to be the highest quality habitat. Some of the most important aspects of algal flats are their relative inaccessibility and their continuous availability throughout all tidal conditions. Sand flats often appear to be preferred over algal flats when both are available, but large portions of sand flats along the Texas coast are available only during low-very low tides and are often completely unavailable during extreme high tides or strong north winds. Beaches appear to serve as a secondary habitat to the flats associated with the primary bays, lagoons, and inter-island passes. Beaches are rarely used on the southern Texas coast, where bayside habitat is always available, and are abandoned as bayside habitats become available on the central and northern coast. However, beaches are probably a vital habitat along the central and northern coast (i.e. north of Padre Island) during periods of extreme high tides that cover the flats. Optimal site characteristics appear to be large in area, sparsely vegetated, continuously available or in close proximity to secondary habitat, and with limited human disturbance.

Federal Status: LT State Status: T SGCN: Y

Endemic: N Global Rank: G3 State Rank: S2N

swallow-tailed kite Elanoides forficatus

Lowland forested regions, especially swampy areas, ranging into open woodland; marshes, along rivers, lakes, and ponds; nests high in tall tree in clearing or on forest woodland edge, usually in pine, cypress, or various deciduous trees

Federal Status: State Status: T SGCN: Y

Endemic: N Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S2B

#### **DISCLAIMER**

#### **BIRDS**

western burrowing owl Athene cunicularia hypugaea

Open grasslands, especially prairie, plains, and savanna, sometimes in open areas such as vacant lots near human habitation or airports; nests and

roosts in abandoned burrows

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: N Global Rank: G4T4 State Rank: S2

white-faced ibis Plegadis chihi

Prefers freshwater marshes, sloughs, and irrigated rice fields, but will attend brackish and saltwater habitats; currently confined to near-coastal rookeries in so-called hog-wallow prairies. Nests in marshes, in low trees, on the ground in bulrushes or reeds, or on floating mats.

Federal Status:

State Status: T

SGCN: Y

Endemic: N Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S4B

**whooping crane** Grus americana

Small ponds, marshes, and flooded grain fields for both roosting and foraging. Potential migrant via plains throughout most of state to coast;

winters in coastal marshes of Aransas, Calhoun, and Refugio counties.

Federal Status: LE State Status: E SGCN: Y

Endemic: N Global Rank: G1 State Rank: S1S2N

wood stork Mycteria americana

Prefers to nest in large tracts of baldcypress (Taxodium distichum) or red mangrove (Rhizophora mangle); forages in prairie ponds, flooded pastures or fields, ditches, and other shallow standing water, including salt-water; usually roosts communally in tall snags, sometimes in association with other wading birds (i.e. active heronries); breeds in Mexico and birds move into Gulf States in search of mud flats and other wetlands, even those associated with forested areas; formerly nested in Texas, but no breeding records since 1960

Federal Status: State Status: T SGCN: Y

Endemic: N Global Rank: G4 State Rank: SHB,S2N

zone-tailed hawk Buteo albonotatus

Arid open country, including open deciduous or pine-oak woodland, mesa or mountain county, often near watercourses, and wooded canyons and tree-lined rivers along middle-slopes of desert mountains; nests in various habitats and sites, ranging from small trees in lower desert, giant cottonwoods in riparian areas, to mature conifers in high mountain regions

Federal Status: State Status: T SGCN: Y

Endemic: N Global Rank: G4 State Rank: S3B

**CRUSTACEANS** 

**Balcones Cave amphipod** Stygobromus balconis

Subaquatic, subterranean obligate amphipod

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G2G3 State Rank: S2

#### **DISCLAIMER**

#### **CRUSTACEANS**

**Ezell's Cave amphipod** Stygobromus flagellatus

Known only from artesian wells

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G2G3 State Rank: S3

No accepted common name Lirceolus bisetus

Habitat description is not available at this time.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G1G2 State Rank: S1

#### **FISH**

american eel Anguilla rostrata

Originally found in all river systems from the Red River to the Rio Grande. Aquatic habtiats include large rivers, streams, tributaries, coastal watersheds, estuaries, bays, and oceans. Spawns in Sargasso Sea, larva move to coastal waters, metamorphose, and begin upstream movements. Females tend to move further upstream than males (who are often found in brackish estuaries). American Eel are habitat generalists and may be found in a broad range of habitat conditions including slow- and fast-flowing waters over many substrate types. Extirpation in upstream drainages attributed to reservoirs that impede upstream migration.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: N Global Rank: G4 State Rank: S4

#### Guadalupe bass Micropterus treculii

Endemic to the streams of the northern and eastern Edwards Plateau including portions of the Brazos, Colorado, Guadalupe, and San Antonio basins; species also found outside of the Edwards Plateau streams in decreased abundance, primarily in the lower Colorado River; two introduced populations have been established in the Nueces River system. A pure population was re-established in a portion of the Blanco River in 2014. Species prefers lentic environments but commonly taken in flowing water; numerous smaller fish occur in rapids, many times near eddies; large individuals found mainly in riffle tail races; usually found in spring-fed streams having clear water and relatively consistent temperatures.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G3 State Rank: S3

#### silverband shiner Notropis shumardi

In Texas, found from Red River to Lavaca River; Main channel with moderate to swift current velocities and moderate to deep depths; associated with turbid water over silt, sand, and gravel.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: N Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S4

#### Texas shiner Notropis amabilis

In Texas, it is found primarily in Edwards Plateau streams from the San Gabriel River in the east to the Pecos River in the west. Typical habitat includes rocky or sandy runs, as well as pools.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: N Global Rank: G4 State Rank: S4

#### **DISCLAIMER**

#### **INSECTS**

a caddisfly Neotrichia juani

Specimens were collected from perennial and ephemeral rivers, and small spring-fed streams (Harris and Tiemann 1993).

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: Global Rank: G1 State Rank: S1

a caddisfly Xiphocentron messapus

Habitat description is not available at this time.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: Y Global Rank: G1G3 State Rank: S2?

a cave obligate beetle Rhadine austinica

Habitat description is not available at this time.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: Y Global Rank: G1G2 State Rank: S1S2

American bumblebee Bombus pensylvanicus

Habitat description is not available at this time.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: Global Rank: G3G4 State Rank: SNR

cave obligate springtail Oncopodura fenestra

Habitat description is not available at this time.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: Y Global Rank: G2G3 State Rank: S2?

Comanche harvester ant Pogonomyrmex comanche

Habitat description is not available at this time.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G2G3 State Rank: S2

Kretschmarr Cave mold beetle Texamaurops reddelli

Small, cave-adapted beetle found under rocks buried in silt; small, Edwards Limestone caves in of the Jollyville Plateau, a division of the

Edwards Plateau

Federal Status: LE State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G1G2 State Rank: S1

#### DISCLAIMER

#### **INSECTS**

No accepted common name Lymantes nadineae

Habitat description is not available at this time.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: Global Rank: GNR State Rank: SNR

No accepted common name Bombus variabilis

Habitat description is not available at this time.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: Global Rank: G1G2 State Rank: SNR

No accepted common name Andrena scotoptera

Habitat description is not available at this time.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: Global Rank: GNR State Rank: SNR

No accepted common name Macrotera parkeri

Habitat description is not available at this time.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: Global Rank: GNR State Rank: SNR

No accepted common name Rhadine subterranea

Habitat description is not available at this time.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G2 State Rank: S2

**Tooth Cave ground beetle** Rhadine persephone

Resident, small, cave-adapted beetle found in small Edwards Limestone caves in Travis and Williamson counties
Federal Status: LE State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G1G2 State Rank: S1

#### **MAMMALS**

**Aransas short-tailed shrew** Blarina hylophaga plumbea

Excavates burrows in sandy soils underlying mottes of live oak trees or in areas with little to no ground cover.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: Y Global Rank: G5T1Q State Rank: S1

#### DISCLAIMER

#### **MAMMALS**

big brown bat Eptesicus fuscus

Any wooded areas or woodlands except south Texas. Riparian areas in west Texas.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: N Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S5

big free-tailed bat Nyctinomops macrotis

Habitat data sparse but records indicate that species prefers to roost in crevices and cracks in high canyon walls, but will use buildings, as well; reproduction data sparse, gives birth to single offspring late June-early July; females gather in nursery colonies; winter habits undetermined, but may hibernate in the Trans-Pecos; opportunistic insectivore

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: N Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S3

cave myotis bat Myotis velifer

Colonial and cave-dwelling; also roosts in rock crevices, old buildings, carports, under bridges, and even in abandoned Cliff Swallow (Hirundo pyrrhonota) nests; roosts in clusters of up to thousands of individuals; hibernates in limestone caves of Edwards Plateau and gypsum cave of Panhandle during winter; opportunistic insectivore.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: N Global Rank: G4G5 State Rank: S2S3

eastern red bat Lasiurus borealis

Red bats are migratory bats that are common across Texas. They are most common in the eastern and central parts of the state, due to their requirement of forests for foliage roosting. West Texas specimens are associated with forested areas (cottonwoods). Also common along the coastline. These bats are highly mobile, seasonally migratory, and practice a type of "wandering migration". Associations with specific habitat is difficult unless specific migratory stopover sites or wintering grounds are found. Likely associated with any forested area in East, Central, and North Texas but can occur statewide.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: N Global Rank: G3G4 State Rank: S4

eastern spotted skunk Spilogale putorius

Generalist; open fields prairies, croplands, fence rows, farmyards, forest edges & Degree woodlands. Prefer woodled, brushy areas & Degree woodled, brushy

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: N Global Rank: G4 State Rank: S1S3

hoary bat Lasiurus cinereus

Hoary bats are highly migratory, high-flying bats that have been noted throughout the state. Females are known to migrate to Mexico in the winter, males tend to remain further north and may stay in Texas year-round. Commonly associated with forests (foliage roosting species) but are found in unforested parts of the state and lowland deserts. Tend to be captured over water and large, open flyways.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: N Global Rank: G3G4 State Rank: S4

long-tailed weasel Mustela frenata

#### **DISCLAIMER**

#### **MAMMALS**

Includes brushlands, fence rows, upland woods and bottomland hardwoods, forest edges & rocky desert scrub. Usually live close to water.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: N Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S5

mountain lion Puma concolor

Generalist; found in a wide range of habitats statewide. Found most frequently in rugged mountains & tip riparian zones.

Federal Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: N Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S2S3

Northern yellow bat Lasiurus intermedius

Occurs mainly along the Gulf Coast but inland specimens are not uncommon. Prefers roosting in spanish moss and in the hanging fronds of palm trees. Common where this vegtation occurs. Found near water and forages over grassy, open areas. Males usually roost solitarily, whereas females roost in groups of several individuals.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: N Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S4

swamp rabbit Sylvilagus aquaticus

Primarily found in lowland areas near water including: cypress bogs and marshes, floodplains, creeks and rivers.

Federal Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: N Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S5

tricolored bat Perimyotis subflavus

Forest, woodland and riparian areas are important. Caves are very important to this species.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: N Global Rank: G2G3 State Rank: S2

western hog-nosed skunk Conepatus leuconotus

Habitats include woodlands, grasslands & Damp; deserts, to 7200 feet, most common in rugged, rocky canyon country; little is known about the

habitat of the ssp. telmalestes

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: N Global Rank: G4 State Rank: S4

**MOLLUSKS** 

**Balcones Spike** Fusconaia iheringi

Habitat description is not available at this time.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: N

Endemic: Y Global Rank: GNR State Rank: SNR

#### **DISCLAIMER**

#### **MOLLUSKS**

No accepted common name Stygopyrgus bartonensis

Habitat description is not available at this time.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G1 State Rank: S1

No accepted common name Patera leatherwoodi

Habitat description is not available at this time.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Global Rank: G1 State Rank: S1

No accepted common name Millerelix gracilis

Habitat description is not available at this time.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: Global Rank: G2G3 State Rank: S2?

No accepted common name Phreatodrobia punctata

Habitat description is not available at this time.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G2 State Rank: S1

Texas Fatmucket Lampsilis bracteata

Reported to occur in slow to moderate current in sand, mud, and gravel substrates among large cobble, boulders, bedrock ledges, horizontal cracks in bedrock slabs, and macrophyte beds. Has also been observed inhabiting the roots of cypress trees and vegetation along steep banks. Past authorities have reported this species intolerant of reservoir conditions but recent surveys suggest it may persist in some impoundment conditions (Howells 2010c; Randklev et al. 2017b). [Mussel of Texas 2019]

Federal Status: PE State Status: T SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G1 State Rank: S1

Texas Fawnsfoot Truncilla macrodon

Occurs in large rivers but may also be found in medium-sized streams. Is found in protected near shore areas such as banks and backwaters but also riffles and point bar habitats with low to moderate water velocities. Typically occurs in substrates of mud, sandy mud, gravel and cobble. Considered intolerant of reservoirs (Randklev et al. 2010; Howells 2010o; Randklev et al. 2014b,c; Randklev et al. 2017a,b). [Mussels of Texas 2019]

Federal Status: PT State Status: T SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G1 State Rank: S2

**Texas Pimpleback** *Cyclonaias petrina* 

Occurs in medium-size streams to large rivers primarily in riffles and runs. Often found in substrates composed of sand, gravel, and cobble, including mud-silt or gravel-filled cracks in bedrock slabs. Considered intolerant of reservoirs (Howells 2010m; Randklev et al. 2017b).

[Mussels of Texas 2019]

Federal Status: PE State Status: T SGCN: Y

#### **DISCLAIMER**

### **MOLLUSKS**

Endemic: Y Global Rank: G1 State Rank: S1

### **REPTILES**

common garter snake Thamnophis sirtalis

Terrestrial and aquatic: Habitats used include the grasslands and modified open areas in the vicinity of aquatic features, such as ponds, streams or marshes. Damp soils and debris for cover are thought to be critical.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: N
Endemic: Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S2

eastern box turtle Terrapene carolina

Terrestrial: Eastern box turtles inhabit forests, fields, forest-brush, and forest-field ecotones. In some areas they move seasonally from fields in spring to forest in summer. They commonly enters pools of shallow water in summer. For shelter, they burrow into loose soil, debris, mud, old stump holes, or under leaf litter. They can successfully hibernate in sites that may experience subfreezing temperatures.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: N Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S3

### plateau spot-tailed earless lizard Holbrookia lacerata

Terrestrial: Habitats include moderately open prairie-brushland regions, particularly fairly flat areas free of vegetation or other obstructions (e.g., open meadows, old and new fields, graded roadways, cleared and disturbed areas, prairie savanna, and active agriculture including row crops); also, oak-juniper woodlands and mesquite-prickly pear associations (Axtell 1968, Bartlett and Bartlett 1999).

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: GNR State Rank: S2

### slender glass lizard Ophisaurus attenuatus

Terrestrial: Habitats include open grassland, prairie, woodland edge, open woodland, oak savannas, longleaf pine flatwoods, scrubby areas, fallow fields, and areas near streams and ponds, often in habitats with sandy soil.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: N Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S3

### Texas garter snake Thamnophis sirtalis annectens

Terrestrial and aquatic: Habitats used include the grasslands and modified open areas in the vicinity of aquatic features, such as ponds, streams or marshes. Damp soils and debris for cover are thought to be critical.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G5T4 State Rank: S1

### **DISCLAIMER**

### **REPTILES**

Texas horned lizard Phrynosoma cornutum

Terrestrial: Open habitats with sparse vegetation, including grass, prairie, cactus, scattered brush or scrubby trees; soil may vary in texture from sandy to rocky; burrows into soil, enters rodent burrows, or hides under rock when inactive. Occurs to 6000 feet, but largely limited below the pinyon-juniper zone on mountains in the Big Bend area.

Federal Status: State Status: T SGCN: Y
Endemic: N Global Rank: G4G5 State Rank: S3

Texas map turtle Graptemys versa

Aquatic: Primarily a river turtle but can also be found in reservoirs. Can be found in deep and shallow water with sufficient basking sites

(emergent rocks and woody debris).

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G4 State Rank: SU

western box turtle Terrapene ornata

Terrestrial: Ornate or western box trutles inhabit prairie grassland, pasture, fields, sandhills, and open woodland. They are essentially terrestrial but sometimes enter slow, shallow streams and creek pools. For shelter, they burrow into soil (e.g., under plants such as yucca) (Converse et al. 2002) or enter burrows made by other species.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: N Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S3

### **PLANTS**

arrowleaf milkvine Matelea sagittifolia

Most consistently encountered in thornscrub in South Texas; Perennial; Flowering March-July; Fruiting April-July and Dec?

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: N Global Rank: G3 State Rank: S3

basin bellflower Campanula reverchonii

Among scattered vegetation on loose gravel, gravelly sand, and rock outcrops on open slopes with exposures of igneous and metamorphic rocks;

may also occur on sandbars and other alluvial deposits along major rivers; flowering May-July

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G2 State Rank: S2

bracted twistflower Streptanthus bracteatus

Shallow, well-drained gravelly clays and clay loams over limestone in oak juniper woodlands and associated openings, on steep to moderate slopes and in canyon bottoms; several known soils include Tarrant, Brackett, or Speck over Edwards, Glen Rose, and Walnut geologic formations; populations fluctuate widely from year to year, depending on winter rainfall; flowering mid April-late May, fruit matures and foliage withers by early summer

Federal Status: C State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G1 State Rank: S1

### **DISCLAIMER**

### **PLANTS**

**Buckley tridens** Tridens buckleyanus

Occurs in juniper-oak woodlands on rocky limestone slopes; Perennial; Flowering/Fruiting April-Nov

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: Y Global Rank: G3G4 State Rank: S3S4

canyon bean Phaseolus texensis

Narrowly endemic to rocky canyons in eastern and southern Edwards Plateau occurring on limestone soils in mixed woodlands, on limestone

cliffs and outcrops, frequently along creeks.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G2 State Rank: S2

canyon mock-orange Philadelphus texensis var. ernestii

Usually found growing from honeycomb pits on outcrops of Cretaceous limestone exposed as rimrock along mesic canyons, usually in the shade

of mixed evergreen-deciduous canyon woodland; flowering April-June, fruit dehiscing September-October

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: N Global Rank: G3T3 State Rank: S3

canyon sedge Carex edwardsiana

Dry-mesic decidous and deciduous-juniper woodlands in canyons and ravines, usually in clay loams very high in calcium on rocky banks and slopes just above streams and stream beds. Carex edwardsiana usually grows near C. planostachys. Fruiting spring (Ball, Reznicek, and 2003).

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: Y Global Rank: G3G4 State Rank: S3S4

Correll's false dragon-head Physostegia correllii

Wet, silty clay loams on streamsides, in creek beds, irrigation channels and roadside drainage ditches; or seepy, mucky, sometimes gravelly soils along riverbanks or small islands in the Rio Grande; or underlain by Austin Chalk limestone along gently flowing spring-fed creek in central

Texas; flowering May-September

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: N Global Rank: G2 State Rank: S2

**Engelmann's bladderpod** Physaria engelmannii

Grasslands and calcareous rock outcrops in a band along the eastern edge of the Edwards Plateau, ranging as far north as the Red River (Carr

2015).

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: N Global Rank: G4 State Rank: S3

**glandular gay-feather** Liatris glandulosa

Occurs in herbaceous vegetation on limestone outcrops (Carr 2015)

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G3 State Rank: S2

### **DISCLAIMER**

### **PLANTS**

Glass Mountains coral-root Hexalectris nitida

Apparently rare in mixed woodlands in canyons in the mountains of the Brewster County, but encountered with regularity, albeit in small numbers, under Juniperus ashei in woodlands over limestone on the Edwards Plateau, Callahan Divide and Lampasas Cutplain; Perennial; Flowering June-Sept; Fruiting July-Sept

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: N Global Rank: G3 State Rank: S3

Essentially restricted to frequently-scoured gravelly alluvial beds in creek and river bottoms; Perennial; Flowering June-Nov; Fruiting June-Oct

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Brickellia dentata

Endemic: Y Global Rank: G3G4 State Rank: S3S4

**Greenman's bluet**Houstonia parviflora

Grass pastures. Feb- Apr. (Correll and Johnston 1970).

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G3 State Rank: S3

Heller's marbleseed Onosmodium helleri

Occurs in loamy calcareous soils in oak-juniper woodlands on rocky limestone slopes, often in more mesic portions of canyons; Perennial;

Flowering March-May

gravelbar brickellbush

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G3 State Rank: S3

low spurge Euphorbia peplidion

Occurs in a variety of vernally-moist situations in a number of natural regions; Annual; Flowering Feb-April; Fruiting March-April

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G3 State Rank: S3

narrowleaf brickellbush Brickellia eupatorioides var. gracillima

Moist to dry gravelly alluvial soils along riverbanks but also on limestone slopes; Perennial; Flowering/Fruiting April-Nov

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G5T3 State Rank: S3

net-leaf bundleflower Desmanthus reticulatus

Mostly on clay prairies of the coastal plain of central and south Texas; Perennial; Flowering April-July; Fruiting April-Oct

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G3 State Rank: S3

### DISCLAIMER

### **PLANTS**

Plateau loosestrife Lythrum ovalifolium

Banks and gravelly beds of perennial (or strong intermittent) streams on the Edwards Plateau, Llano Uplift and Lampasas Cutplain; Perennial;

Flowering/Fruiting April-Nov

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: N Global Rank: G3G4 State Rank: S3S4

plateau milkvine Matelea edwardsensis

Occurs in various types of juniper-oak and oak-juniper woodlands; Perennial; Flowering March-Oct; Fruiting May-June

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G3 State Rank: S3

rock grape Vitis rupestris

Occurs on rocky limestone slopes and in streambeds; Perennial; Flowering March-May; Fruiting May-July
Federal Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: N Global Rank: G3 State Rank: S1

scarlet leather-flower Clematis texensis

Usually in oak-juniper woodlands in mesic rocky limestone canyons or along perennial streams; Perennial; Flowering March-July; Fruiting May-

July

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: Y Global Rank: G3G4 State Rank: S3S4

spreading leastdaisy Chaetopappa effusa

Limestone cliffs, ledges, bluffs, steep hillsides, sometimes in seepy areas, oak-juniper, oak, or mixed deciduous woods, 300-500 m elevation;

Perennial; Flowering (May) July-Oct

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: Y Global Rank: G3G4 State Rank: S3S4

**Stanfield's beebalm** *Monarda stanfieldii* 

Largely confined to granite sands along the middle course of the Colorado River and its tributaries; Perennial
Federal Status:
State Status:
SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y
Global Rank: G3
State Rank: S3

sycamore-leaf snowbell Styrax platanifolius ssp. platanifolius

Rare throughout range, usually in oak-juniper woodlands on steep rocky banks and ledges along intermittent or perennial streams, rarely far from

some reliable source of moisture; Perennial; Flowering April-May; Fruiting May-Aug.

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G3T3 State Rank: S3

**Texabama croton** Croton alabamensis var. texensis

### **DISCLAIMER**

### **PLANTS**

In duff-covered loamy clay soils on rocky slopes in forested, mesic limestone canyons; locally abundant on deeper soils on small terraces in canyon bottoms, often forming large colonies and dominating the shrub layer; scattered individuals are occasionally on sunny margins of such forests; also found in contrasting habitat of deep, friable soils of limestone uplands, mostly in the shade of evergreen woodland mottes; flowering late February-March; fruit maturing and dehiscing by early June

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G3T2 State Rank: S2

Texas almond Prunus minutiflora

Wide-ranging but scarce, in a variety of grassland and shrubland situations, mostly on calcareous soils underlain by limestone but occasionally in sandier neutral soils underlain by granite; Perennial; Flowering Feb-May and Oct; Fruiting Feb-Sept

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: Y Global Rank: G3G4 State Rank: S3S4

Texas amorpha Amorpha roemeriana

Juniper-oak woodlands or shrublands on rocky limestone slopes, sometimes on dry shelves above creeks; Perennial; Flowering May-June;

Fruiting June-Oct

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: N Global Rank: G3 State Rank: S3

**Texas barberry** Berberis swaseyi

Shallow calcareous stony clay of upland grasslands/shrublands over limestone as well as in loamier soils in openly wooded canyons and on creek

terraces; Perennial; Flowering/Fruiting March-June

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: Y Global Rank: G3 State Rank: S3

**Texas fescue** Festuca versuta

Occurs in mesic woodlands on limestone-derived soils on stream terraces and canyon slopes; Perennial; Flowering/Fruiting April-June

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: N Global Rank: G3 State Rank: S3

Texas milk vetch Astragalus reflexus

Grasslands, prairies, and roadsides on calcareous and clay substrates; Annual; Flowering Feb-June; Fruiting April-June

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G3 State Rank: S3

Texas seymeria Seymeria texana

Found primarily in grassy openings in juniper-oak woodlands on dry rocky slopes but sometimes on rock outcrops in shaded canyons; Annual;

Flowering May-Nov; Fruiting July-Nov

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G3 State Rank: S3

### **DISCLAIMER**

### **PLANTS**

tree dodder Cuscuta exaltata

Parasitic on various Quercus, Juglans, Rhus, Vitis, Ulmus, and Diospyros species as well as Acacia berlandieri and other woody plants; Annual;

Flowering May-Oct; Fruiting July-Oct

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: N Global Rank: G3 State Rank: S3

turnip-root scurfpea Pediomelum cyphocalyx

Grasslands and openings in juniper-oak woodlands on limestone substrates on the Edwards Plateau and in north-central Texas (Carr 2015).

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y

Endemic: Y Global Rank: G3G4 State Rank: S2S3

Warnock's coral-root Hexalectris warnockii

In leaf litter and humus in oak-juniper woodlands on shaded slopes and intermittent, rocky creekbeds in canyons; in the Trans Pecos in oak-pinyon-juniper woodlands in higher mesic canyons (to 2000 m [6550 ft]), primarily on igneous substrates; in Terrell County under Quercus fusiformis mottes on terrraces of spring-fed perennial streams, draining an otherwise rather xeric limestone landscape; on the Callahan Divide (Taylor County), the White Rock Escarpment (Dallas County), and the Edwards Plateau in oak-juniper woodlands on limestone slopes; in Gillespie County on igneous substrates of the Llano Uplift; flowering June-September; individual plants do not usually bloom in successive years

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: N Global Rank: G2G3 State Rank: S2

Wright's milkvetch Astragalus wrightii

On sandy or gravelly soils; April (Diggs et al. 1999).

Federal Status: State Status: SGCN: Y
Endemic: Y Global Rank: G3 State Rank: S3

## **Attachment B: Hazardous Materials**

Proposed OHP Change	ID of Nearby Sites of Greatest Environmental Concern <sup>1</sup>	Description	Address	Approximate Distance from Proposed OHP Change	2017 Potential to Impact Project <sup>1</sup>	Change in Potential to Impact Project <sup>2</sup>
DC-01	4	LPST	6820 W. Highway 290 Austin, TX 78735	0.16 miles	Yes	No change
	6	LPST	6812 W. Highway 290 Austin, TX 78735	0.21 miles	Yes	No change
	23	LPST	7136 Highway 71 Austin, TX 78735	0.23 miles	Yes	No change
	35	VCP	7748 W. Highway 290 Austin, TX 78736	0.60 miles	Not Likely	No change
DC-03	0	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
DC-07	0	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
DC-08	20	LPST	7912 W. Highway 290 Austin, TX 78736	1.40 miles	Yes	No change
DC-09	0	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Based on October 2017 Hazardous Materials Technical Report (Appendix M of DEIS)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Based on 2021 Proposed OHP Changes

## **Attachment C: Water Resources**





### Oak Hill Parkway Waters of the US Memo

To: Christiana Astarita (christiana.astarita@txdot.gov)

From:	Ryan Hill	Email:	Ryan.Hill@atkinsglobal.com
Date:	01 December 2021	Phone:	512-342-3363
Ref:	CSJ #s: 0113-08-060, 0700-03- 077	cc:	Jon Geiselbrecht (jon.geiselbrecht@txdot.gov)

Subject: Oak Hill Parkway Water Resources Reevaluation #3

Thirteen potentially jurisdictional waters of the United States (WOTUS) were identified within the project area in the Oak Hill Parkway (OHP) Water Resources Technical Report for Reevaluation 2 (TxDOT 2019). These waters consisted of one intermittent stream at two crossings (Williamson Creek), ten unnamed ephemeral tributaries, and one emergent wetland. All surveyed waters, except for the wetland, are linear waters. Representative photographs of all surveyed waters are available in **Attachment A**. Reevaluation 2 determined that 0.5838 acre and 2,677 linear feet of waters would potentially be impacted. Attached **Table 1** shows the summary of impacts to WOTUS as given in Reevaluation 2.

Several recently legislative changes had occurred to the definition of WOTUS, particularly with regard to the jurisdictional status of ephemeral streams and wetlands adjoining ephemeral streams. Prior to 2020, ephemeral streams (i.e. streams that exhibit flowing water only during, and for a short duration after, precipitation events) were considered jurisdictional, per the 2015 Clean Water Rule. On June 22, 2020, the Navigable Waters Rule removed ephemeral streams from regulatory jurisdiction (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [USEPA] and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE] 2020). In response to a recent order from a U.S. District Court vacating and remanding the Navigable Waters Protection Rule in the case of Pascua Yagui Tribe v. U.S. Environmental protection Agency, the USEPA and USACE have halted implementation of the 2020 Navigable Waters Rue. As of August 30, 2021, the definition of jurisdictional WOTUS is interpreted in consistency with the pre-2015 regulatory regime, which recognizes ephemeral streams as iurisdictional waters (USEPA 2021). Therefore, none of the recent design changes, nor the most recent regulatory changes, will affect the amount of potentially jurisdictional waters previously determined to be impacted in Reevaluation 3. The total amount of impacts will remain at 2,677 linear feet of waters. However, due to the fill of Wetland 1 that had occurred in 2021, the total area of impacts to waters is now 0.5763 acres. The impact to Wetland 1 has been removed from the calculation since it had been filled in from an unknown source. The impacts to Wetland 1 are discussed in more detail below.

The impacts to waters at S-1, S-2, S-3, S-4, S-6, S-7, and S-12 would need to be authorized through Nationwide Permit (NWP) 14, as part of Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA; USEPA 1972). A Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) in addition to NWP-14 would be necessary for waters at S-2 and S-3 because the loss of WOTUS would exceed either the 1/10-acre or 300 linear feet threshold for notification. Since the proposed project is anticipated to require authorization under NWP 14, Best Management Practices (BMPs) that incorporate erosion control, sediment control, and post-construction total suspended solids (TSS) control will need to be implemented into the construction plan per TCEQ's conditional Section 401 certification requirements (TCEQ 2017).





This project is federally funded and was originally expected to involve construction in a wetland. However, the emergent wetland (Wetland 1) identified to occur in the project area in Reevaluation 2 was recently filled in during 2021; however, the exact date and the responsible party for the filling is unknown. Any impacts to Wetland 1 that have occurred recently are not the result of activities affiliated with the OHP project. Because Wetland 1 was recently impacted and is no longer present, the project will no longer be subject to Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands (42 F.R. 26961), which requires federal agencies to minimize destruction, loss, or modification of wetlands. However, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has the final authority to assert jurisdictional status of potential WOTUS presented within this report. If the USACE finds that Wetland 1 has jurisdictional status, documentation of alternative analysis demonstrating that there are no practicable alternatives to the wetland impact would be included in the USACE Section 404 consultation. The potential for any impacts to the wetland would be minimized through permanent (post-construction) BMPs, and through regular inspection and proactive maintenance of the BMPs.





Table 1 - Evaluated Aquatic Features within the OHP Corridor in Reevaluation 3 (2019 & 2021)

Aquatic Resource ID	Description	Approx. OHWM (feet)	Acreage/ Linear Feet within Project Area	Acreage/ Linear Feet of Potential Impacts	Potential Permitting Requirements Determined in 2019	Potentially Jurisdic- tional? 2019
Wetland 1 <sup>1</sup> Emergent Wetland		NA	0.0322/NA	0.0075/NA <sup>1</sup>	_1	Yes
Wetland 2 <sup>2</sup>	Emergent Wetland adjacent to S-11	NA	-	_	_	_
S-1	Ephemeral Stream to Scenic Brook Tributary- Unnamed Tributary	3	0.0026/37	0.0019/28	NWP 14	Yes
S-2	Ephemeral Stream – Unnamed Tributary to Wheeler Branch	2	0.0350/760	0.0195/426	NWP 14 with a PCN	Yes
S-3	Ephemeral Stream - Wheeler Branch	11	0.4258/1770	0.4258/1770	NWP 14 with a PCN	Yes
S-4	Ephemeral Stream - Scenic Brook Tributary to Williamson Creek	19	0.0865/202	0.0820/195	NWP 14	Yes
S-5	Intermittent Stream, perennial pools - Headwaters of Williamson Creek at SH 71 bridge	6	0.0389/264	0.0/0.0	_	Yes
S-6	Intermittent Stream - Williamson Creek	15	1.6406/4723	0.0244/12	NWP 14	Yes
S-7	Ephemeral Stream - Unnamed Tributary to Williamson Creek	5	0.0294/255	0.0123/171	NWP 14	Yes
S-8	Ephemeral Stream - Unnamed Tributary to Williamson Creek	4	0.0066/71	0.0/0.0	-	Yes
S-9	Ephemeral Stream - Unnamed Tributary to Williamson Creek	4	0.0093/103	0.0/0.0	_	Yes
S-10 <sup>2</sup>	Ephemeral Stream - Unnamed Tributary to Williamson Creek	2	-	_	_	-
S-11 <sup>2</sup>	Intermittent Stream - Unnamed Tributary to Williamson Creek (SH 71 detention pond)	10	-	-	-	_
S-12	Ephemeral Stream – Braided channel along Unnamed Tributary to Williamson Creek (Bee Cave detention pond)	8	0.3132/1670	0.0104/75	NWP 14	Yes
S-13	Ephemeral Stream - Unnamed Tributary to Williamson Creek (Bee Cave detention pond)	4	0.0245/266	0.0/0.0	-	Yes
S-14	Ephemeral Stream – Devil's Pen Creek	14	0.1935/160	0.0/0.0	-	Yes
Open Water 1 <sup>2</sup>	Excavated Pond on channel of S-11	NA	-	-	-	-
Open Water 2 <sup>2</sup>	Excavated Pond on channel of S-11	NA	-	-	_	-
Total Within the Project Area in 2019			2.8381/ 10,280	0.5763 / 2,677		

<sup>1</sup>Wetland 1 was reported to have been impacted/filled in in 2021. The impact did not result from the OHP Project. It is not known who is responsible for the impact to wetland 1 in 2021. The total acreage of impacts in the Project Area in Reevaluation 3 do not incorporate the acreage of impacts previously measured at Wetland 1.

Note: The impact calculations are based on the schematic design and are not based on actual limits of construction, as this level of detail is not available at this point in project development. Therefore, the calculations are an estimated value that assume complete loss for waters that occur within or beneath at-grade improvements. The calculations have not accounted for the removal of waters contained within existing culverts, as this information was not available at the time of report production.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>These crossings were identified within the survey area in 2019 but have been determined not to lie within the Reevaluation #2 project limits.





### References

- Executive Order No. 11900. 1977. 3 CFR 42 FR 26961. <a href="https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/11990.html">https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/11990.html</a>. (accessed 2021).
- TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality). 2017. 401 Water Quality Certification Letter and Conditions for Nationwide

  Permits. <a href="https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/permitting/assess/401cert/Final\_NWP\_2017">https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/permitting/assess/401cert/Final\_NWP\_2017</a>
  17 crt2.pdf. (accessed 2020).
- Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). 2019. *Oak Hill Parkway Water Resources Technical Report Addendum #2*. Prepared by Cox | McLain Environmental Consulting. May 2019.
- USEPA (US Environmental Protection Agency). 1972. Clean Water Act. Section 404. 33 U.S.C. 1344. <a href="https://www.epa.gov/cwa-404/overview-clean-water-act-section-404">https://www.epa.gov/cwa-404/overview-clean-water-act-section-404</a>. Accessed December 2021.
- USEPA. 2021. Current Implementation of Waters of the United States.

  <a href="https://www.epa.gov/wotus/current-implementation-waters-united-states">https://www.epa.gov/wotus/current-implementation-waters-united-states</a>. Accessed December 2021.
- USEPA and USACE (US Environmental Protection Agency and US Army Corps of Engineers). 2020. The Navigable Waters Protection Rule: Definition of "Waters of the United States." Federal Register 85 FR 22250. Vol. 85, No. 77. Accessed August 2021.





## Attachment A: Representative Photographs





**Photo 1**: Typical upstream view of stream S-1, an ephemeral unnamed tributary that flows into the Scenic Brook Tributary.



**Photo 2:** Typical downstream view of Stream S-1, an ephemeral unnamed tributary that flows into the Scenic Brook Tributary.



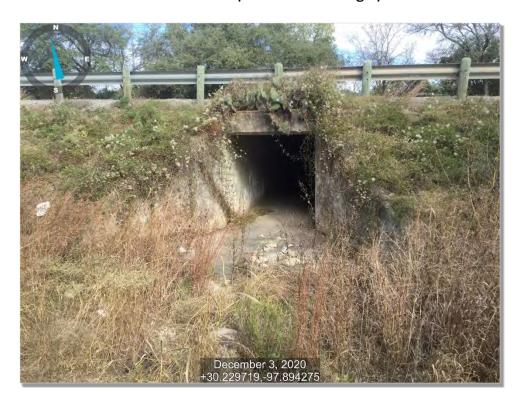


**Photo 3:** Typical view of Wetland 1, a palustrine emergent wetland near Boling Drive.



**Photo 4:** Typical view of Wetland 1, a palustrine emergent wetland near Boling Drive.





**Photo 5:** Typical upstream view of stream S-2, an unnamed ephemeral tributary to Wheeler Branch.



**Photo 6:** Typical downstream view of stream S-2, an unnamed ephemeral tributary to Wheeler Branch.



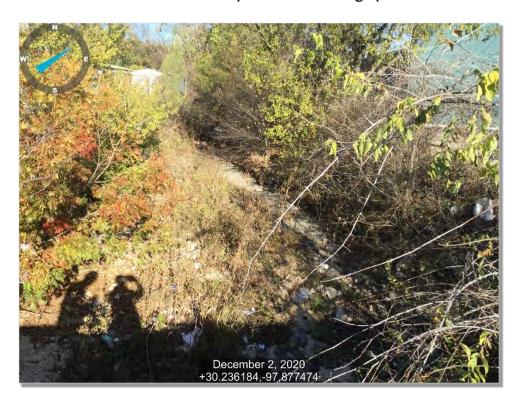


**Photo 7:** Typical upstream view of stream S-3, an ephemeral stream named Wheeler Branch.



**Photo 8:** Typical downstream view of stream S-3, an ephemeral stream named Wheeler Branch.





**Photo 9:** Typical downstream view of stream S-4, an ephemeral stream named Scenic Brook Tributary that flows into Williamson Creek.



**Photo 10**: Typical downstream view of stream S-4, an ephemeral stream named Scenic Brook Tributary that flows into Williamson Creek.





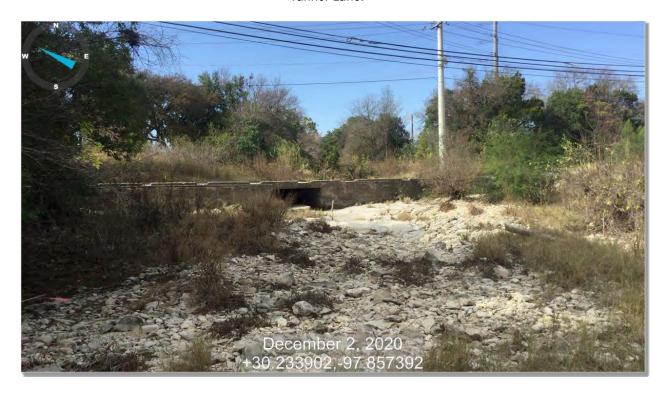
**Photo 11**: Typical upstream view of stream S-5, the headwaters of Williamson Creek at the SH 71 bridge.



**Photo 12**: Typical downstream view of stream S-5, the headwaters of Williamson Creek at the SH 71 bridge.

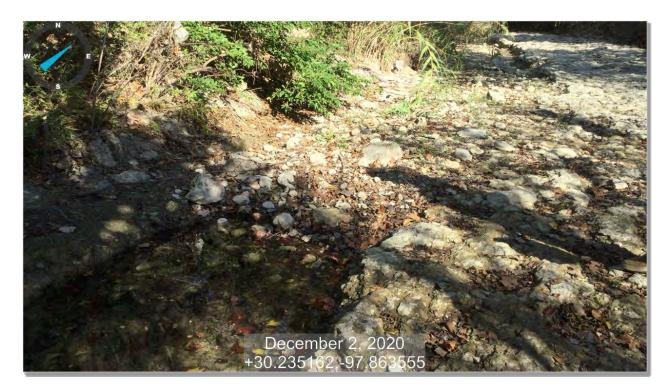


**Photo 13**: Typical downstream view of stream S-6, an intermittent stream named Williamson Creek near Joe Tanner Lane.



**Photo 14:** Typical upstream view of stream S-6, an intermittent stream named Williamson Creek at Joe Tanner Lane.



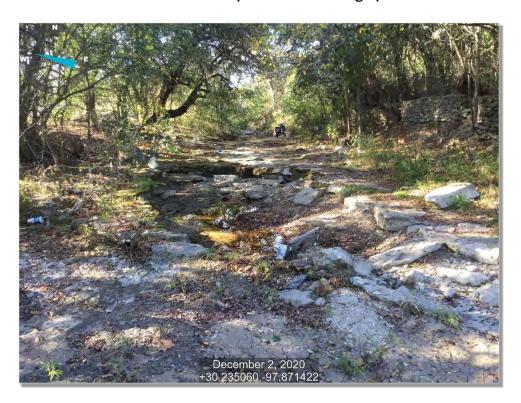


**Photo 15:** Typical view of a point of recharge within stream S-6, Williamson Creek.



**Photo 16:** Typical downstream view of stream S-6, an intermittent stream named Williamson Creek at Old Bee Cave Road.





**Photo 17:** Typical upstream view of stream S-6, an intermittent stream named Williamson Creek at Old Bee Cave Road.



**Photo 18**: Typical upstream view of stream S-7, an ephemeral unnamed tributary to Williamson Creek.





**Photo 19:** Typical downstream view of stream S-7, an ephemeral unnamed tributary to Williamson Creek.



**Photo 20**: Typical upstream view of stream S-8, an ephemeral unnamed tributary to Williamson Creek.





**Photo 21**: Typical downstream view of stream S-8, an ephemeral unnamed tributary to Williamson Creek.



Photo 22: Typical upstream view of stream S-9, an ephemeral unnamed tributary to Williamson Creek.





Photo 23: Typical downstream view of stream S-9, an ephemeral unnamed tributary to Williamson Creek.



**Photo 24:** Typical upstream view of stream S-10, an ephemeral unnamed tributary to Williamson Creek. upstream





Photo 25: Typical downstream view of stream S-10, an ephemeral unnamed tributary to Williamson Creek.



**Photo 26**: Typical upstream view of stream S-12, an ephemeral unnamed tributary to Williamson Creek (Bee Cave detention pond).





**Photo 27:** Typical downstream view of stream S-12, an ephemeral unnamed tributary to Williamson Creek (Bee Cave detention pond).



**Photo 28:** Typical view of the Bee Cave detention pond at stream S-13, an unnamed ephemeral tributary to Williamson Creek.





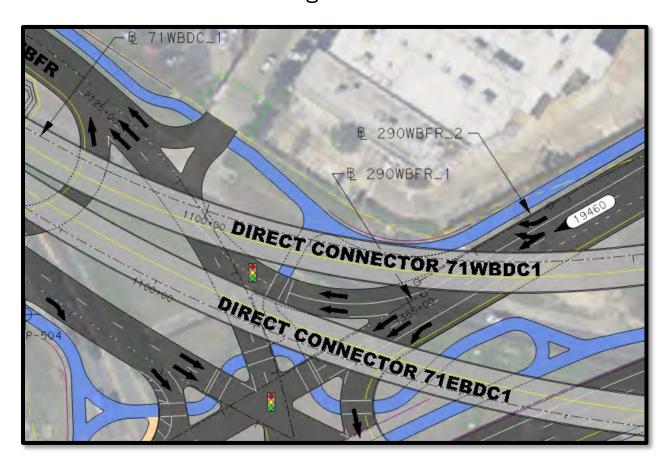
**Photo 29:** Typical upstream view of stream S-14, an ephemeral stream named Devil's Pen Creek.



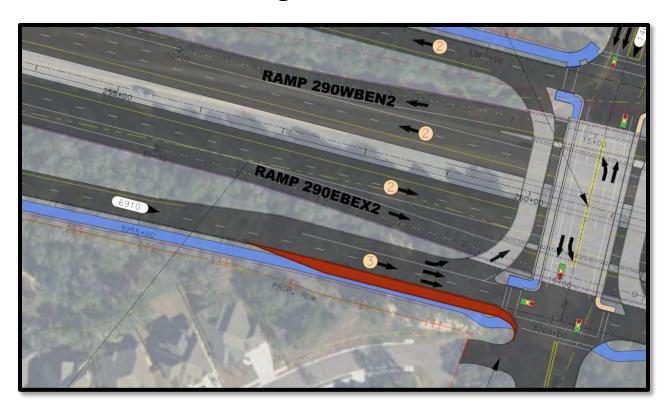
**Photo 30:** Typical downstream view of stream S-14, an ephemeral stream named Devil's Pen Creek.

# Attachment D: Schematics for Design Changes

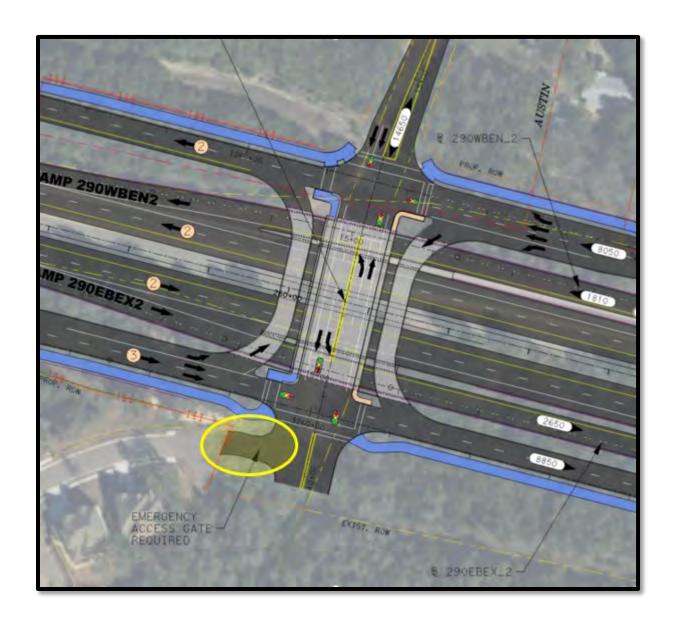
Revise WB US 290 to WB SH 71 access to a signalized dual right turn



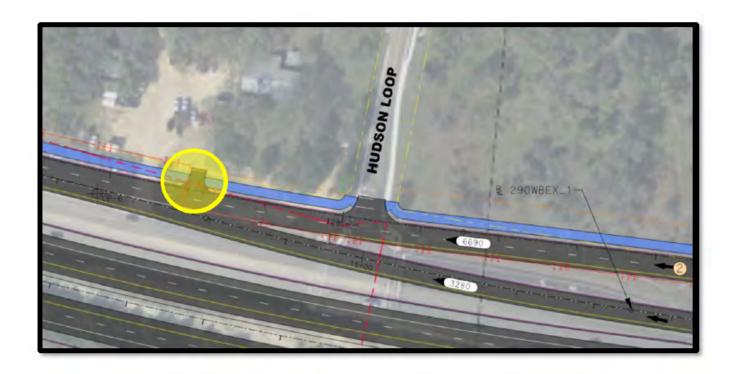
Add a 200-foot-long right-turn deceleration lane on the US 290 eastbound frontage road at Scenic Brook Drive



Add emergency access to Scenic Brook Drive



Shift the Parcel 22 driveway west and add channelization



Prevent left turns from the service road west of South View Road to westbound US 290

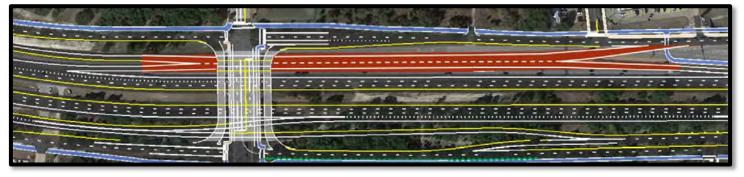


# Eliminate the westbound ramp braid at Convict Hill by adding collector-distributor road

#### Schematic Design

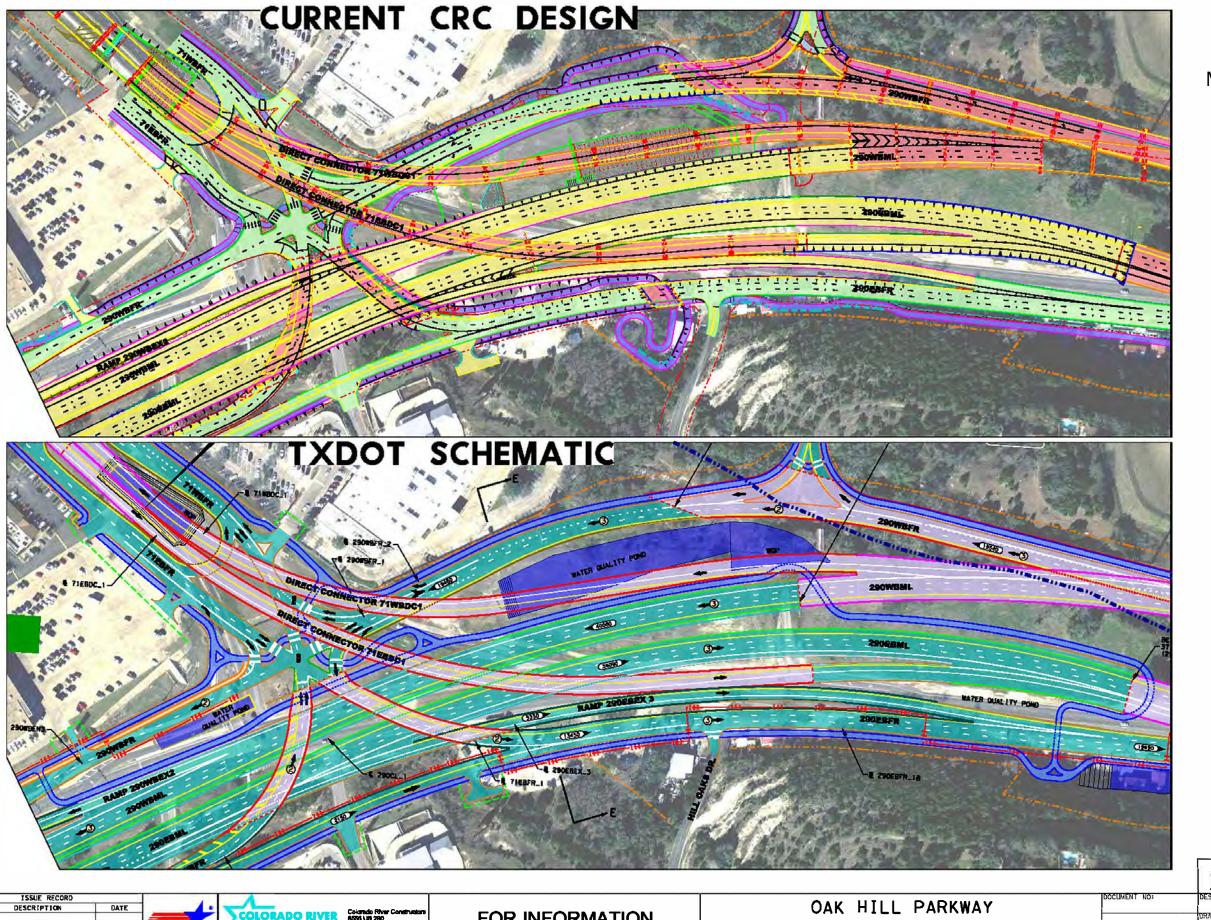


Requested Change Design

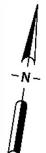


Eliminate the westbound entrance ramp east of Scenic Brook Drive by adding a collector-distributor road





Modification of Shared Use Path (SUP) around Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI)



0' 100' 20

Texas Department of Transportation

© 2021

DESIGNED FED. RD. FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO. HIGHWAY NO.

DRAWN 6 STP US290

CHECKED TEXAS AUS TRAVIS

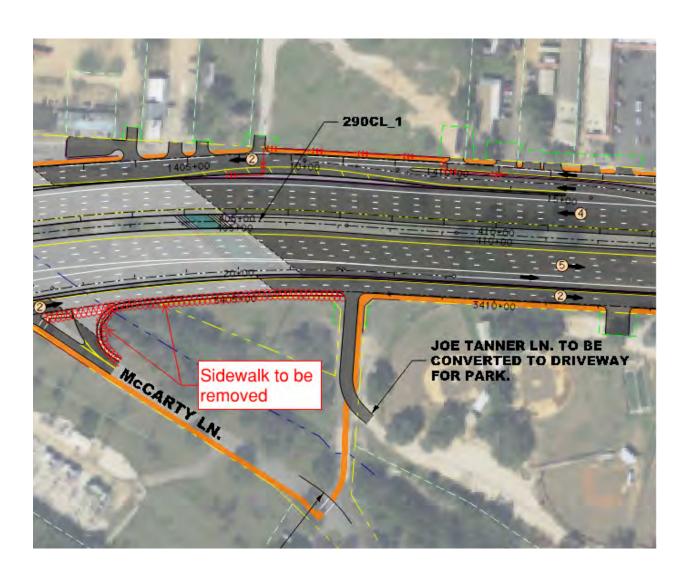
APPROVED CONT SECT JOB EXHIBIT 1

FOR INFORMATION PURPOSE ONLY

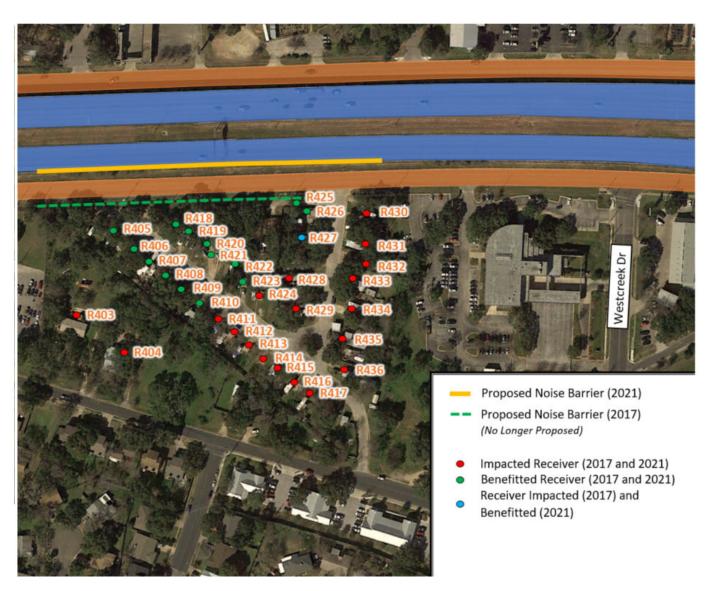
CRC VS TXDOT SCHEMATIC

EXHBIT 1

# Eliminate the sidewalk along the eastbound frontage from McCarty Lane to Joe Tanner Lane



Changes to Noise Barrier (NB) 4 / Soundwall (SW) 1105 located along the eastbound US 290 roadway between Old Fredericksburg Road and Westcreek Drive



# Attachment E: MAPO PI Notes

# Public Information Oak Hill Parkway (US 290/SH 71) EIS Reevaluation 3 CSJ 0113-08-060, 0700-03-077



#### SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Texas Department of Transportation distributed a letter (Appendix A) to the property owners along the US 290 service road as well as the Austin Waldorf School on January 13, 2021. The letter notified the recipients (Appendix B) that TxDOT would change the two-way US 290 service road from South View Road extending 1600 feet to the west, to serve local eastbound traffic only. An exhibit of how to access the road from any direction was provided in the mailing.

Correspondence occurred between the team and many of the owners, and a series of Meetings with Adjacent Property Owners (MAPOs) were held with the following owners: Mr. Fred Hardaway, January 19, 2021; Blue Frog School of Music, January 21, 2021; Automotive Specialists, January 26, 2021; Austin Waldorf School, January 28, 2021; and Mr. Gary Foster, January 29, 2021. Meeting minutes can be located in Appendix C. In summary, property owners were in opposition to this change.

Due to these discussions, TxDOT decided to allow the service road to remain two-way while adding a raised concrete barrier in the median of westbound US 290 near the west end of the service road. A second letter dated May 20, 2021 (Appendix D) was mailed to an updated property owner list (Appendix E). The letter informed recipients of the new change. An exhibit with all the available turning movements was also enclosed in this second mailing.

# **APPENDIX A**

January 2021 Letter to Stakeholders



January 13, 2021

Blue Frog School of Music c/o Sonora Lee and Norma Kay Lee 8649 Highway 290 W Austin, TX 78736

RE: Oak Hill Parkway

Changes to the US 290 Service Road

Dear Ms. Lee:

The Texas Department of Transportation will soon begin construction of the Oak Hill Parkway project along US 290 and SH 71. The Oak Hill Parkway project will accommodate future growth by adding US 290 travel lanes, removing traffic signals on the mainlanes, and including flyovers between US 290 and SH 71.

Part of the project includes a change to the US 290 Service Road that is located on the south side of US 290 beginning at South View Road and extending 1,600 feet to the west. This service road serves both residents and local businesses. Your property has been identified as one of the properties that is serviced by this road. You may be aware that the Oak Hill Parkway design has shifted over the years regarding this road, and the most recent design maintains your access to and from US 290 and South View Road.

To improve safety and mobility for local and through traffic, TxDOT is implementing a change to the Oak Hill Parkway project design where the service road will serve local eastbound traffic only. In other words, it will become a one-way eastbound service road restricted to local access. This change is anticipated to go into effect at the conclusion of construction. Further information and access route maps are enclosed with this letter.

In addition, during the anticipated five years of construction, there may be temporary adjustments in access due to lane shifts and detours that are separate from this design change. We will be working closely with the community to keep you informed of construction activity, lane closures and detours. As with any construction project, we ask for your patience with the disruptions that will inevitably occur. Expect noise, dust, detours and lights for nightwork.

You may have already seen activity along the corridor including the addition of tree protection fencing in anticipation of crews widening US 290. Minor activity along the corridor should be expected over the next few months in advance of groundbreaking as crews prepare for major construction. You can learn more about the Oak Hill Parkway project and sign up for updates at OakHillParkway.com.

If you have any questions about the changes to US 290 Service Road or the Oak Hill Parkway project, please do not hesitate to call me at (512) 342-3281 or email Elizabeth. Story@atkinsglobal.com.

Thank you for your patience as we construct a better way to travel on US 290 and SH 71.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Story

Oak Hill Parkway Project Representative
On Behalf of the Texas Department of Transportation

(512) 342-3281

**Enclosures** 

CC: Christiana Astarita, P.E., TxDOT Austin District, Oak Hill Parkway Design-Build Project Manager

# **Changes to the US 290 Service Road**

As part of the Oak Hill Parkway project, TxDOT is implementing a change to the US 290 Service Road that is located on the south side of US 290 beginning at South View Road and extending 1,600 feet to the west. The US 290 Service Road serves both residents and local businesses.



To improve safety and mobility for local and through traffic, TxDOT is implementing a change to the Oak Hill Parkway project design where the service road will serve local eastbound traffic only.

In other words, it will become a one-way eastbound service road, restricted to local access.

■ Location map of the US 290 Service Road.

This change will adjust your access to the US 290 Service Road and to US 290.

Further information and route maps can be found on the following pages.

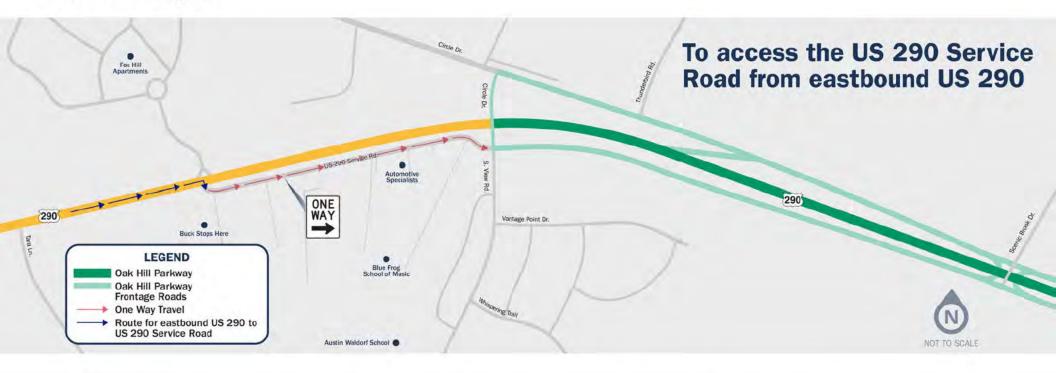
# Why is TxDOT making this change?

The approved Oak Hill Parkway design changes the way drivers on Circle Drive and South View Road will access US 290. When the project is complete, if you are (a) driving northbound South View Road or (b) driving southbound Circle Drive, you will not be able to turn onto westbound US 290. Your new route would be to head eastbound on the US 290 frontage road to access a non-signalized turnaround at Scenic Brook Drive, and then enter the US 290 westbound mainlanes.

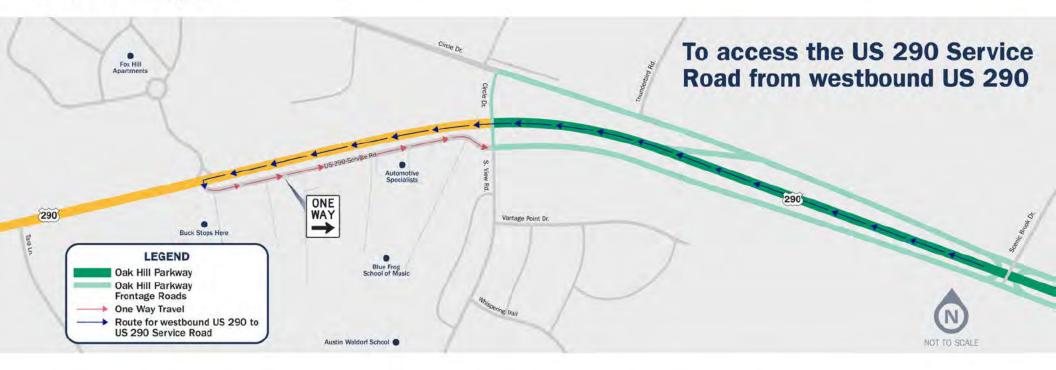
As such, traffic engineers have identified a safety and mobility concern regarding this design. This additional travel, while similar in timing to waiting at the light, may feel like an inconvenience, and prompt drivers to take the US 290 Service Road and make an unprotected left on US 290 across fast-moving traffic. This is an unsafe movement for drivers and could result in an increase in crashes. Therefore, it was recommended that TxDOT re-designate the US 290 Service Road as eastbound one-way traffic and to serve only local access.

The project team has coordinated with the Oak Hill Fire Department regarding how access will shift as a result of the project design. We sought feedback, and they did not have any concerns about their ability to respond swiftly to emergency situations. As is standard practice for first responders, they have identified access points for use in emergency situations.

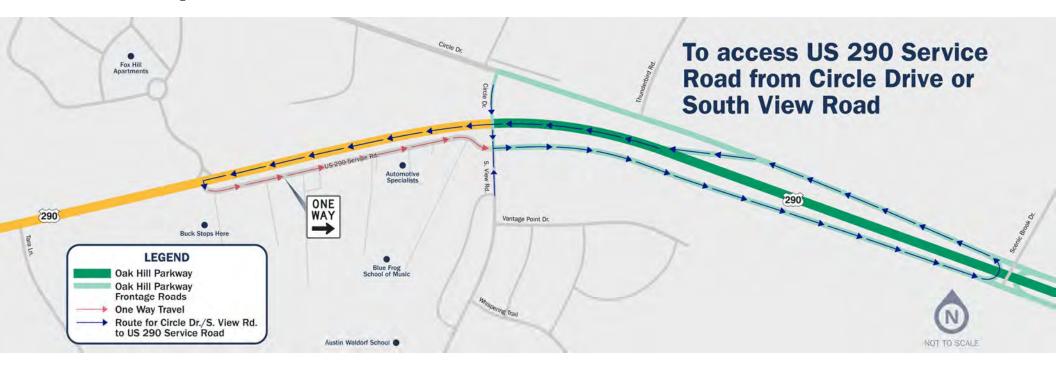
This change is anticipated to go into effect at the conclusion of construction.



ROUTE: Like current access today, drivers will turn right onto the US 290 Service Road just west of Circle Drive.



ROUTE: Drivers on westbound US 290 mainlanes will turn left just west of Circle Drive onto the US 290 Service Road.



#### **ROUTE:**

- From South View Road, drivers will head eastbound on the US 290 frontage road to the non-signalized turnaround at Scenic Brook Drive and enter the westbound US 290 mainlanes. Drivers will then turn left just west of Circle Drive onto the US 290 Service Road.
- From Circle Drive, drivers will cross over the US 290 mainlanes and then follow same route as noted above.



**ROUTE:** Drivers would head east along the US 290 Service Road and onto the eastbound frontage road. Drivers will use the non-signalized turnaround at Scenic Brook Drive and enter the westbound US 290 mainlanes.

# **APPENDIX B**

January 2021 Mailing List

First Name	Last Name	Mail Owner Name	Tax Billing Address	Tax Billing City & State	Tax Billing Zip	Property ID
	Property Owner	J & J MAINTENANCE INC				312236, 312238, 312245
	Property Owner	JLV MARITAL TRUST				312237
Mary and Gary	Foster	MARY K & GARY E FOSTER				785531
Julia	Foster	JULIA A FOSTER				312239
Gary	Foster	GARY EUGENE FOSTER				312248
Fred	Hardaway	FRED E HARDAWAY				312247
Sonora	Lee	Blue Frog School of Music c/o Sonora Lee and Norma Kay Lee				312240
Leslie	Oglesby	LESLIE P OGLESBY				312246
Larry	Peel	LARRY PEEL C/O 290 PARK CIRCLE LLC				312242, 312243
Jonathan	Silver	AUSTIN WALDORF SCHOOL INC				315425, 509442
Mark	Lord	MARK LORD				315427
	Property Owner	J & J WORLDWIDE HOLDINGS LLC				510282

# **APPENDIX C**

**Meeting Minutes** 

# **Meeting Minutes**

## **Oak Hill Parkway**

with Blue Frog School of Music

**Date**: January 4, 2021 **Time**: 12 Noon

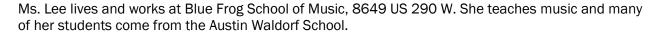
**Location**: Microsoft Teams

#### Participants:

Blue Frog School of Music: Sonora Lee (owner)

• TxDOT: Christiana Astarita

• Atkins: Jerel Rackley, Tracy Schell



Ms. Lee has concerns about how the parents of her students will access her school with the roadway design change taking the now two-way small service road to an eastbound only.

Jerel explained the new travel pattern vehicles would take to get to her school with the new configuration. Ms. Lee thought it way silly. Jerel explained the rationale for the decision. TxDOT does not want this service road to be used as a cut-through for Ridgeview or anyone else using it to travel west on US 290. It is a very narrow street. Jerel explained that "Local access only" signage would discourage some drivers from using as a cut-through, but human behavior shows that some will still cut-through.

Ms. Lee reported that the property west of her is for sale and less than ten acres. Her thought is that it might be developed into multi-family or businesses. She said what is developed there should make a big impact on TxDOT's decision to change the service road to a one-way.

Ms. Lee is very concerned with the safety of her clients. Crossing a two-lane highway even with a left turn lane looks scary to her with traffic moving at a fast speed.

Another issue: How will EMS make that sharp turn and get to her? Jerel explained that we have had a discussion with Oak Hill Fire Department, and they did not see an issue in reaching her. Trucks would use the apartment road on the north side of US 290 or travel west on the service road.

Jerel agreed to speak with the Fosters concerning the fencing they have up that makes the turn sharp.

Ms. Lee was concerned about the state of the service road currently. Christiana said the road maintenance is assigned to the TxDOT South Travis Area Office and we can speak with them about light maintenance like potholes. We also discussed that the US 290 mainlanes would be at a lower grade in her area and that the movement north on South View Road would be over a bridge to get to the other side of US 290.

Christiana explained that between the small service road and the highway improvements there will be a retaining wall with concrete traffic barrier on top. Ms. Lee thought she would like that because it may mean less noise for her.







# **Oak Hill Parkway**

The action items promised to Ms. Lee:

- 1. Let her know the outcome of the discussions with the Fosters.
- 2. Can we see about the speed limit on the small service road?
- 3. Can we look into maintenance of the small service road?
- 4. What is the zoning for the property west of her currently on the market?

Email:

Phone: 512-736-6159

# **Meeting Minutes**

## **Oak Hill Parkway**

with Automotive Specialists

**Date**: January 26, 2021 **Time**: 5:00 p.m.

**Location**: 8645 E US 290 W

Participants:

• Automotive Specialists: Leslie Oglesby (owner)

• TxDOT: Christiana Astarita

• Atkins: Jerel Rackley, Tracy Schell



The Oak Hill Parkway representatives met with Mr. Oglesby at his shop located at 8645 E US 290 W in Austin 78736. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the change from a two-way to a one-way service road at the west end of the project.

Mr. Oglesby test drives several cars daily and he said it would be difficult to not have a two-way street in front of his business. The test drive routes would add time to his workday.

He also expressed real concerns about the amount of traffic and the high speed of traffic on the road from 7:30-8:30 a.m. and also at pick up time for the Austin Waldorf School. Vehicles are speeding to get to work or drop off on time. Mr. Oglesby has put out speed bumps, cones, and even driven his truck slowly in front of the drivers and he has experience quite negative reactions including calling the sheriff to report him.

Mr. Oglesby does not believe that a Local Access Only sign will deter driving behavior. He thinks the traffic volume on the service road will increase with new multi-family development, and residents of Ridgeview and Granada Hills using the cut-through.

Jerel showed the schematic on his computer and had a virtual drive through with Mr. Oglesby. Jerel explained why the one-way decision was made and spoke about alternatives that were considered. Jerel made sure to note that the project staff understands, through conversations with service road property owners, the need to have a connection to South View Road and that unfortunately there cannot be an exit ramp to serve the property.

Christiana talked about the retaining wall. CRC surveyors had been there that day to mark where the wall will be built. Christiana also noted a pinch point with one of the Automotive Specialists buildings.

Mr. Oglesby commented about how so many of the movements in that area are so dangerous. The only safe way to navigate in the area is to use the light at South View Road and US 290.

Jerel also mentioned that EMS has no issue with the conversion.

In concluding the meeting, Mr. Oglesby considers the current design to "be a mess." He wants the project to consider doing it the right way. He believes the right way is for TxDOT to buy land from the landowners and make the frontage road a safe, two-way street. Mr. Oglesby did say several times that he would like to be bought out.

No action items at this time. Continue to keep Mr. Oglesby informed of project activity.

Phone: 512-288-1111

## 21-0119 call with Mr. Fred Hardaway

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 10:02 AM

Meeting Date: 1/19/2021 10:00 AM Location: Lives at 8651 US 290 W Link to Outlook Item: click here

**Invitation Message** 

**Participants** 

<u>Schell, Tracy</u> (Meeting Organizer) <u>Jerel.Rackley@atkinsglobal.com</u>

Fred Hardaway

<u>Elizabeth.Story@atkinsglobal.com</u> (Tentative in Outlook)

#### **Notes**

Mr. Hardaway was concerned about the left turn from westbound US 290 onto the Service Road. Jerel explained the project is constructing a center turn lane for this movement and Mr. Hardaway said that was what he needed.

Mr. Hardaway asked about the volume of traffic that will be using the service road - it will make a good cut-through for South View and Circle Drive. Jerel explained the road would be signed for Local Access Only.

The Service Road intersection with South View was discussed. There will be a stop sign on the service Road and no stop signs on South View. Mr. Hardaway said that that should not be a problem.

Mr. Hardaway explained that the fence at the SE corner of the Service Road and the road to his property was set back to allow turns to and from the east. He is concerned because the fence at the southwest corner is not set back and asked if this could be set back. Jerel said this would be an adjustment onto the property on that corner. Mr. Hardaway said that is the Foster's and maybe they would be willing to allow the fence adjustment. Jerel said he would discuss this with the Fosters.



#### Action Items:

Jerel to discuss the fence adjustment with the Fosters.

# **Meeting Minutes**

## **Oak Hill Parkway**

with Austin Waldorf School

**Date**: January 28, 2021 **Time**: 10:00 a.m.

**Location**: Microsoft Teams





#### Participants:

- Austin Waldorf School: Mike Sekel (Chair Board of Directors,) Ben Sorrell (real estate team,) Dan Foster (attorney,) K.C. Willis, Dr. Jonathan Silver (Head of School,) Michelle Lemberger, Gareth Pollard (Facilities Manager,) Elsa Oiloa
- TxDOT: Christiana Astarita, Lizeth Sandoval
- Atkins: Aaron Autry, Jerel Rackley, Elizabeth Story, Tracy Schell
- Office of the Attorney General: Greg Walls

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the conversion of the short two-way US 290 frontage road that feeds into South View Road. A letter was sent to the school before the meeting to notify them of the change from two-way to one-way eastbound.

Elizabeth started with participant introductions. Then, Jerel took us through the dangers of having a 12-foot wide two-way frontage road with traffic projections increasing for the future. The project cannot reconstruct the frontage road and it will be signed "Local access only."

This change has implications for the school for parents and students travelling to the school in the morning and afternoon. Jerel demonstrated the new routes to take to access the school if travelling westbound on US 290. The eastbound movement to reach the school from US 290 will not change. The school reported to us that currently, there are 32 families that live west of South View Road.

Jerel talked about the bridge to be built from South View Road over US 290 to Circle Drive. The mainlanes will be lowered by 20-25 feet in that area.

The school has plans to double in size going from 300 to 600 students in the next few years. They are purchasing 8721 and 8739 E US 290 W and the intent is to use these parcels for sports facilities and possibly portables. There was concern expressed about the safety of the buses of visiting teams travelling westbound on US 290 and using the left turn lane to enter the service road.

Jerel also explained the conversion is slated to occur at the end of the project in 2024 or 2025. Also, the Oak Hill Fire Department, specifically, Chief Wittig, was consulted about the change and there was not an issue in emergency services taking longer to reach the frontage road structures or the school in the case of an emergency.

Ben Sorrell expressed an interest in having a traffic signal for the school and Fox Hill Apartments to use. Aaron explained there are real issues with having a freeway pointed directly at a traffic signal. It was noted that Foxhill residents will have the same travel pattern with a right in and a right out.

K.C. Willis called the change a "recipe for disaster."

#### **Oak Hill Parkway**

Michelle Lemberger asked about barriers separating the westbound and eastbound roadway. Jerel said it would be concrete. Also, the retaining wall to be built on the US 290 short frontage road will be 3-feet tall and it will have a gradual slop down instead of an abrupt stop at the ends.

Jerel's discussion about the dedicated left turn-lane on westbound US 290 included that it is currently about 400 feet, but the project has flexibility to extend the lane if cars back up waiting to turn left.

Bicycle and pedestrian accommodations were discussed. Jerel used the schematic to show the shared use path and sidewalks corridor-wide as well as how it continues down South View Road toward the school.

A question was raised about a CapMetro bus stop in the area. The project team is unaware of one.

There was a discussion on the southbound Circle Drive movement, turning left to enter the US 290 frontage road along with the amount of traffic travelling north on South View Drive turning right onto US 290 eastbound frontage road. The peak morning time especially, may provide a terrible back up.

A question was asked about the barrier on the bridge spanning US 290 between South View Road and Circle Drive. Jerel reported that it would be 42 inches tall. The school wondered aloud how they would use signage to show drivers where to turn for the school.

The meeting was concluded by a promise to keep Austin Waldorf School updated as the project progresses.

# **Meeting Minutes**

## **Oak Hill Parkway**

with Mr. Gary Foster

**Date**: January 29, 2021

Time: 2:00 p.m.

**Location: 8703 W US290** 

Participants:

Mr. Gary Foster

• TxDOT: Christiana Astarita

Atkins: Jerel Rackley, Tracy Schell



The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the one-way eastbound US 290 service road conversion to happen near the end of the project.

Mr. Gary Foster lives at 8703 W US 290 and also runs a gun sales and repair operation on the property. He has a concern about UPS and FedEx trucks travelling eastbound on the US 290 service road. He receives supplies about three times a week. He will need to reconfigure the gated entrance to his property for large trucks to enter. He also mentioned that he would need to remove trees on his property for trucks to enter.

Jerel explained that safety was the reason to make the two-way service road one-way eastbound. Jerel also talked about the dedicated left turn lane from westbound US 290 onto the service road and talked about the three-foot barrier on the service road that will be built on the service road. The entrance will be signed Local Access Only. Jerel explained about the removal of the signal light at South View Road and US 290. The road will be lowered 20' to 25' feet at that location, so a bridge will be built across US 290 connecting South View Road and Circle Drive.

Jerel discussed that Oak Hill Fire Department was consulted with the change and they do not foresee any issues reaching Mr. Fosters property should an emergency arise.

Mr. Foster showed two markers TxDOT installed on his property about a year ago. Christiana said she would see about having those removed. Mr. Foster's property marker is actually in the middle of the service road.

Jerel asked if Mr. Foster would move a corner of his western fence so Ms. Lee and Mr. Hardaway could access their property without such a sharp right turn. He agreed.

Christiana floated the idea of Mr. Foster selling a strip of his land for widening to ensure safety. He agreed to talk about it.

Action items from this meeting:

- 1. TxDOT to review markers on Mr. Foster's property.
- 2. Keep Mr. Foster informed.
- 3. Talk about moving his fencing on the western corner when the time comes.
- 4. Reminder for Mr. Foster to reangle his eastern entrance fence when road becomes one-way.

Phone: 512-288-2324

Email:

# **APPENDIX D**

May 2021 Letter to Stakeholders



May 20, 2021

Mary K & Gary E Foster 8703 Highway 290 W Austin, TX 78736

**RE:** Oak Hill Parkway

NEW UPDATE regarding changes to the US 290 service road

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Foster:

This is an update to our previous communications in early 2021 about changes to the US 290 service road as part of the Oak Hill Parkway project.

For reference, the US 290 service road is located on the south side of US 290 beginning at South View Road and extending 1,600 feet to the west. This service road serves both residents and local businesses. Your property has been identified as one of the properties that is serviced by this road. You may be aware that the Oak Hill Parkway design has shifted over the years regarding this road.

Thank you for your input as TxDOT has reviewed this design, looking for the best way to maintain mobility and safety. We heard you, and the Oak Hill Parkway design will permanently include two-way travel along the US 290 service road.

To address the concerns about non-local traffic using the service road, TxDOT will install a raised concrete barrier in the median of US 290 near the west end of the service road. This barrier will keep drivers from turning left onto westbound US 290 from the service road. All other existing movements will be allowed at the US 290 service road and South View Road. A map is enclosed for further clarity.

When Oak Hill Parkway is complete, the following movements will be available:

#### ACCESS THE SERVICE ROAD

- Drivers traveling on westbound US 290 will be able to turn left on to the US 290 service road using a dedicated-turn lane.
- Drivers traveling on eastbound US 290 will be able to turn right on to the US 290 service road.
- Drivers on South View Road from either direction will be able to access the US 290 service road.

#### ACCESS US 290 FROM THE SERVICE ROAD

• To access eastbound US 290 from the service road, vehicles can either head to the western end of the service road and turn right on to eastbound US 290 or vehicles can head east and cross South View Road to continue on to the new US 290 frontage road where they can enter the US 290 mainlanes via a ramp near RM 1826.

 To access westbound US 290 from the service road, drivers will head east on the service road, cross South View Road to continue on the new eastbound US 290 frontage road, make a U-turn near Scenic Brook Drive and head westbound to access US 290 east of Thunderbird Road. For safety reasons, no left turn will be permitted from the western end of the service road onto the westbound US 290 mainlanes and this movement will be blocked by a concrete median.

Both ends of the US 290 service road will be signed "Local Access Only."

In addition, during the anticipated five years of construction, there may be temporary adjustments in access due to lane shifts and detours that are separate from this design change. We will be working closely with the community to keep you informed of construction activity, lane closures and detours. As with any construction project, we ask for your patience with the disruptions that will inevitably occur. Expect noise, dust, detours and lights for nightwork.

If you have any questions about the changes to US 290 service road or the Oak Hill Parkway project, please do not hesitate to call me at (512) 342-3281 or email Elizabeth. Story@atkinsglobal.com.

Thank you for your patience as we construct a better way to travel on US 290 and SH 71.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Story

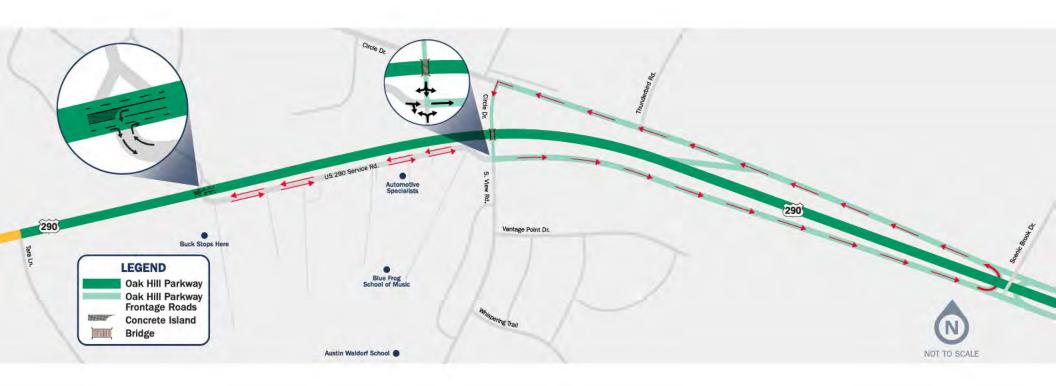
Oak Hill Parkway Project Representative

On Behalf of the Texas Department of Transportation

(512) 342-3281

**Enclosures** 

CC: Christiana Astarita, P.E., TxDOT Austin District, Oak Hill Parkway Design-Build Project Manager



# **APPENDIX E**

May 2021 Mailing List

First Name	Last Name	Mail Owner Name	Tax Billing Address	Tax Billing City & State	Tax Billing Zip	Property
						ID
	Property Owner	J & J MAINTENANCE INC				312236,
				·		312238,
						312245
	Property Owner	JLV MARITAL TRUST				312237
Mary and Gary	Foster	MARY K & GARY E FOSTER				785531
Julia	Foster	JULIA A FOSTER				312239
Gary	Foster	GARY EUGENE FOSTER				312248
Fred	Hardaway	FRED E HARDAWAY				312247
Sonora	Lee	Blue Frog School of Music c/o Sonora				312240
		Lee and Norma Kay Lee				
Leslie	Oglesby	LESLIE P OGLESBY				312246
Larry	Peel	LARRY PEEL C/O 290 PARK CIRCLE LLC				312242,
						312243
		AUSTIN WALDORF SCHOOL INC				315425,
					·	509442
Mark	Lord	MARK LORD				315427
	Property Owner	J & J WORLDWIDE HOLDINGS LLC				510282
		J&J WORLDWIDE HOLDINGS LLC				312236,
						312238,
						312245
		AUSTIN WALDORF SCHOOL INC				510282

# Attachment F: Noise Barrier Revote Letter with Ballot & Noise Memorandum



125 EAST 11TH STREET, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-2483 | 512.463.8588 | WWW.TXDOT.GOV

November 23, 2021

Vans Holiday Park, LLC 8701 Research Boulevard, Ste E Austin, TX 78758-6495

Voter ID #: E127 Vans Holiday Park Proposed Noise Barrier #4

Dear Property Owner,

On November 19, 2019, a noise workshop was held by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to discuss the potential noise wall for proposed improvements on the Oak Hill Parkway project in Travis County, TX. As the landowner to property located adjacent to the potential noise wall, you were notified via certified mail and regular mail and invited to the noise workshop. You were asked to vote either for or against the potential noise barrier and you voted for the barrier as it was presented at that time.

However, during final design of the noise barrier in question (Noise Barrier #4), it was found that the location of the barrier conflicted with multiple subsurface utilities in addition to above ground utilities. Conflicts include;

- 1) 8" gas line utility
- 2) 12" water main
- 3) Buried fiber optic cabling
- 4) Twenty-three (23) specific above ground utility conflicts within the length of Noise Barrier #4 (NB4).

Since the relocation of the utilities in conflict proved to be cost prohibitive, NB4 is no longer reasonable and feasible and, therefore, will not be built as originally proposed along the right-of-way line (see Attachment A). It is TxDOT's assertion that based upon the utility conflicts with the original alignment that the relocation of NB4 is warranted.

TxDOT's current proposal is the relocation of the noise barrier to between the eastbound mainlanes and eastbound frontage road (see Attachment A). Due to the relocation of NB4, the proposed length of the barrier would increase from 667 feet as identified in the original 2017 noise study to approximately 815 feet. The barrier height would decrease from 19 feet as identified in the 2017 noise study to 13 feet. The total number of benefited receivers (BRs) would increase by one from 14 BRs in the previous noise studies to 15 BRs in the current reevaluation.

In accordance with TxDOT's Guidelines for Analysis and Abatement of Highway Traffic Noise (March 2011), the proposed noise barrier cannot be constructed without the approval of the owner of the property adjacent to the proposed barrier. The opportunity to vote "for" or "against" constructing the proposed noise barrier is limited to just the immediate adjacent property owners to the proposed barrier. No barrier will be built unless a 50% majority in favor of is received from all affected property owners. A brochure

entitled Building Barriers to Traffic Noise is enclosed and also available online at: <a href="https://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/env/toolkit/730-01-bro.pdf">https://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/env/toolkit/730-01-bro.pdf</a>.

TxDOT would like your confirmation on either for or against the proposed new location of NB4 by completing the enclosed voting ballot. If you need additional information or would like to schedule a time a to meet, please contact Jon Geiselbrecht at (512) 832-7218. We are also available to meet at your property at your convenience.

The final decision regarding the construction of the proposed noise barrier will be based on the outcome of your ballot. Please complete the ballot within ten calendar days and return it by mail, scan and return to jon.geiselbrecht@txdot.gov or mail to;

TxDOT - Austin District Environmental Section Attn: Mr. Jon Geiselbrecht PO Box 15426 Austin, TX 78761-5426

Each ballot is pre-numbered for validation purposes. Each ballot must be signed by the property owner and have your name printed on it in order for it to count. If you should misplace this ballot, please contact us and we will provide a duplicate ballot with your number at the meeting.

Sincerely,

— DocuSigned by: Christiana Astarita

Christina Astarita, P.E.
TxDOT Project Manager
TxDOT Austin District

cc: Mr. Jon Geiselbrecht, Environmental Specialist Aaron Autry, P.E., GEC Project Manager

# NOISE BARRIER BALLOT Oak Hill Parkway Noise Barrier 4 Re-Vote

In conjunction with the proposed improvements to Oak Hill Parkway (US 290/SH 71: From SL 1 (MoPac) to RM 1826 and SH 71 to Silvermine Drive), TxDOT proposes to construct a noise barrier within the right-of-way on the south side of US 290 in the proximity of Vans Holiday Park. However, the proposed noise barrier cannot be constructed without the approval of the <u>adjacent property owner</u>.

1.	Do you own property adjacent to the right-of-way of proposed Oak Hill Parkway known as <b>Vans Holiday Park at 5801 W Highway 290, Austin, TX 78735</b> ? <i>Voter ID #: E127</i>
	YES NO
2.	FULL NAME (please print) William Van Shellenbeck
	ADDRESS 8701 Presearch Blvd., Sutte E
	Austin, +X 78758
	TELEPHONE NO. (512) 657-9902
3.	Are you for or against the construction of the proposed noise barrier within the right-of-way on south side of US 290 in the proximity of Vans Holiday Park?
	FOR AGAINST This vote is final.
4.	Comments (use reverse if necessary):
SIC	SNATURE (required) William DATE 11/29/2021
	The ballot must be completed and signed by the property owner of record.  Please send your completed and signed ballot within ten (10) days (must be postmarked no later than December 3, 2021) to:
	TxDOT - Austin District Environmental Section Attn: Mr. Jon Geiselbrecht

PO Box 15426

Austin, TX 78761-5426

#### **MEMORANDUM**

OAK HILL PARKWAY PROJECT
US 290 / STATE HIGHWAY 71 WEST FROM STATE LOOP 1 (MOPAC)
TO RANCH-TO-MARKET 1826 AND STATE HIGHWAY 71 TO
SILVERMINE DRIVE
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
(CSJ Nos: 0113-08-060 AND 0700-03-077)

#### **NOISE BARRIER 4 REEVALUATION**

June 21, 2021

#### Introduction

The purpose of this memorandum is to address changes to the noise environment resulting from design modifications to the improvements along United States (US) Highway 290 / State Highway (SH) 71 West from State Loop 1 (Mopac) to Ranch-to-Market (RM) 1826 and SH 71 to Silvermine Drive, Travis County, Texas (CSJ Nos: 0113-08-060 and 0700-03-077). This memorandum addresses changes to a proposed noise barrier (identified as Noise Barrier (NB) 4) previously proposed for incorporation into the project and located along the eastbound US 290 frontage road right-of-way (ROW) between Old Fredericksburg Road and Westcreek Drive. The project design modifications in the vicinity of NB 4 (Sound Wall (SW) 1105) that affects the noise analysis include:

1) Relocation of NB 4 from the ROW to a location between the US 290 eastbound mainlanes and eastbound frontage road. After relocation, NB 4 would be located on the outside edge of the eastbound mainlanes along retaining wall (RW) 170. NB 4 was moved due to utility conflicts along the ROW.

#### Methodology

The traffic noise reevaluation process focused on the relocation of NB 4 and how the relocation could potentially affect the traffic noise assessment for the project. As part of the traffic noise assessment process, the following project information was reviewed:

- 1. Previous traffic noise technical report for the project as contained in the October 2017 Noise Analysis Technical Report for the US 290 Oak Hill Parkway Project including noise receiver locations in the vicinity of proposed NB 4,
- 2. The original Traffic Noise Model (TNM) files including noise barrier models,
- 3. Latest project schematics / profiles and electronic files showing SW 1105 and RW 170 designs, and

 A current assessment of land use near the proposed design modification area focusing on changes to land use classifications and noise sensitive receiver locations as identified in the October 2017 Noise Analysis Technical Report.

#### **Modeling Assumptions**

TNM model files from the 2017 noise study were used in the noise reevaluation analysis. The NB 4 noise barrier model applicable for the proposed noise barrier located between Old Fredericksburg Road and Westcreek Drive was reviewed. Noise receivers in the area of NB 4 were also reviewed for any changes to land use classifications and locations. No changes were noted. No changes were made to model traffic input data or roadway files with the exception of the roadway elevations for mainlane roadways between Old Fredericksburg Road and Westcreek Drive were updated to be consistent with the latest US 290 roadway profiles. Existing terrain data between the eastbound mainlanes and frontage road was also incorporated into the noise reevaluation model.

#### **Noise Barrier 4 Reevaluation**

Traffic noise impacts for the NB 4 reevaluation analysis were evaluated in accordance with the most current Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) policy and procedures, and the TxDOT (FHWA approved) 2019 Procedures for Analysis and Abatement of Roadway Traffic Noise and Construction Noise.

For this noise reevaluation analysis, NB 4 has been moved from the ROW to a location between the US 290 eastbound mainlanes and eastbound frontage road. The relocation was necessary due to utility conflicts along the ROW. After relocation, NB 4 would be located on the outside edge of the eastbound mainlanes along RW 170.

#### **Modeling Scenario 1**

In Modeling Scenario 1, the location of NB 4 in the noise reevaluation model is consistent with the limits of NB 4 as shown in the 2017 noise study. The NB 4 barrier extends along RW 170 between the eastbound mainlanes and eastbound frontage road from approximately STA 431+00 to STA 437+70, an approximate distance of 726 feet. Since the noise barrier would be constructed on RW 170 and would be located closer to the primary mainlane noise source, the height of the barrier would be 11 feet above the RW 170 retaining wall. A total of seven first and second ROW noise receivers would be benefited under this scenario, R405-R407 and R418 – R421 (see map in **Attachment A** for receiver locations). For comparison purposes, the length of the barrier along the ROW as identified in the 2017 noise study was approximately 667 feet and the height was 19 feet. A total of 14 noise receivers were benefited in the 2017 noise study (see **Table 1**).

#### **Modeling Scenario 2**

In Modeling Scenario 2, the location of NB 4 in the noise reevaluation model was extended to the east an additional 100 feet to mitigate traffic noise at residences located at the east end of the community. The proposed barrier height was also increased in order to benefit all receivers that were previously benefited in the 2017 noise study. Under this scenario, NB 4 extends along RW 170 between the eastbound mainlanes and eastbound frontage road from approximately STA 431+00 to STA 439+00, an approximate distance of 827 feet. The height of the barrier would be 13 feet above the RW 170 retaining wall. All receivers that were previously benefited in the 2017 noise study remain benefited under this scenario. One additional receiver (R427) that was not previously benefited in the 2017 noise study would be benefited under this scenario (see **Table 1** and Attachment A).

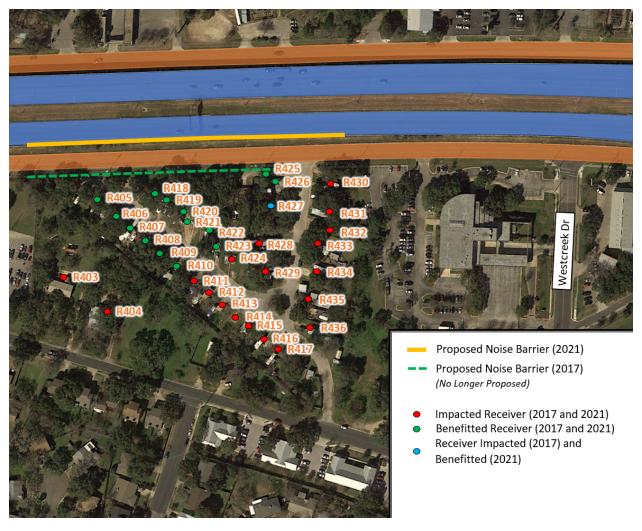
Table 1: Comparison of Proposed Noise Barrier 4 between 2017 Noise Analysis and 2021 Noise Barrier 4 Reevaluation Analyses			
Barrier	Total Benefited	Length (feet)	Height (feet)
2017 US 290 Traffic Noise Impact Assessment (Barrier at ROW)			
4	14	667	19
2021 Noise Barrier 4 Reevaluation (Scenario 1 - Barrier between Mainlanes and Frontage Road)			
4	7	726	11
2021 Noise Barrier 4 Reevaluation (Scenario 2 – Extended Barrier between Mainlanes and Frontage Road)			
4	15	827	13

The approximate location of NB 4 and modeled receiver locations from the 2017 noise analysis is shown on the **Noise Barrier 4 Location Map** in **Attachment A**).

# ATTACHMENT A NOISE BARRIER 4 LOCATION MAP

#### **Attachment A**

## Oak Hill Parkway Noise Barrier 4 Design Change



Impacted Receiver - Noise levels that approach, equal, or exceed the Noise Abatement Criteria for the future build condition.\*

Benefited Receiver - Noise reduction at or above the minimum threshold of 5 dB(A).\*

\* TxDOT's Guidelines for Analysis and Abatement of Highway Traffic Noise (March 2011)

#### **ATTACHMENT B**

**NOISE BARRIER 4 Cost Assessment Worksheet** 

## Cost Assessment Per Plan adjacent to the Right of Way

#### **Alternate Barrier Cost Assessment Worksheet**

Before utilizing the following worksheet, be certain that the barrier being proposed meets the acoustic feasiblity and reasonableness criteria in the FHWA-approved TxDOT Noise Policy

#### Module 1: Standard Barrier Cost Assessment

<u> </u>	
Total Length of Proposed Barrier (ft)	667
Average Height of Proposed Barrier (ft)	19
Benefited Receivers	14
Standard Barrier Cost Total	443555
Square Footage Per Benefiter	905.2142857
Cost Per Benefited Receiver	\$31,683
Current FHWA-approved cost	\$35
Current FHWA-approved square footage per benefited	
receiver	1500
Current FHWA-approved cost per benefited receiver	\$52,500
BARRIER IS COST REASONABLE. PROCEED	WITH
ALTERNATE COST ASSESSMENT	

#### Module 2: Alternate Barrier Cost Assessment

Estimated costs of additional design elements necessary to accommodate unusual topographic features due to the construction of this barrier. Estimated costs of drainage features directly associated with construction of THIS noise barrier. Estimated costs of additional design elements directly associated with THIS noise barrier (describe below)	\$92,259 \$35,007 \$1,003,513 \$0 \$23,800
Estimated costs for ROW clearing for permanent placement and construction access to THIS noise barrier. Estimated costs of utility adjustments directly associated with construction of THIS noise barrier. Estimated costs of additional design elements necessary to accommodate unusual topographic features due to the construction of this barrier. Estimated costs of drainage features directly associated with construction of THIS noise barrier. Estimated costs of additional design elements directly associated with THIS noise barrier (describe below)	\$35,007 \$1,003,513 \$0
and construction access to THIS noise barrier. Estimated costs of utility adjustments directly associated with construction of THIS noise barrier. Estimated costs of additional design elements necessary to accommodate unusual topographic features due to the construction of this barrier. Estimated costs of drainage features directly associated with construction of THIS noise barrier. Estimated costs of additional design elements directly associated with THIS noise barrier (describe below)	\$1,003,513
Estimated costs of <b>utility adjustments</b> directly associated with construction of <b>THIS</b> noise barrier.  Estimated costs of <b>additional design elements</b> necessary to accommodate unusual topographic features due to the construction of this barrier.  Estimated costs of <b>drainage features</b> directly associated with construction of <b>THIS</b> noise barrier.  Estimated costs of <b>additional design elements</b> directly associated with <b>THIS</b> noise barrier (describe below)	\$1,003,513
construction of <b>THIS</b> noise barrier.  Estimated costs of <b>additional design elements</b> necessary to accommodate unusual topographic features due to the construction of this barrier.  Estimated costs of <b>drainage features</b> directly associated with construction of <b>THIS</b> noise barrier.  Estimated costs of <b>additional design elements</b> directly associated with <b>THIS</b> noise barrier (describe below)	\$0
Estimated costs of additional design elements necessary to accommodate unusual topographic features due to the construction of this barrier.  Estimated costs of drainage features directly associated with construction of THIS noise barrier.  Estimated costs of additional design elements directly associated with THIS noise barrier (describe below)	\$0
accommodate unusual topographic features due to the construction of this barrier. Estimated costs of <b>drainage features</b> directly associated with construction of <b>THIS</b> noise barrier. Estimated costs of <b>additional design elements</b> directly associated with <b>THIS</b> noise barrier (describe below)	
construction of this barrier. Estimated costs of drainage features directly associated with construction of THIS noise barrier. Estimated costs of additional design elements directly associated with THIS noise barrier (describe below)	
Estimated costs of <b>drainage features</b> directly associated with construction of <b>THIS</b> noise barrier. Estimated costs of <b>additional design elements</b> directly associated with <b>THIS</b> noise barrier (describe below)	
construction of <b>THIS</b> noise barrier. Estimated costs of <b>additional design elements</b> directly associated with <b>THIS</b> noise barrier (describe below)	\$23,800
Estimated costs of <b>additional design elements</b> directly associated with <b>THIS</b> noise barrier (describe below)	\$23,800
associated with <b>THIS</b> noise barrier (describe below)	
Estimated costs of Alternate Barrier Cost	
Estimated costs of Alternate Barrier Cost	\$0
Estimated costs of Alternate Barrier Cost	
	1,598,134
Benefited Receivers	14
Project Total Per Benefited Receiver	\$114,152
Current FHWA-approved Alternate Barrier Cost Per Benefited	
Receiver Cannot Exceed	\$105,000

#### Cost Assessment Proposed adjacent to Main Lanes

#### **Alternate Barrier Cost Assessment Worksheet**

Before utilizing the following worksheet, be certain that the barrier being proposed meets the acoustic feasiblity and reasonableness criteria in the FHWA-approved TxDOT Noise Policy

#### Module 1: Standard Barrier Cost Assessment

Total Length of Proposed Barrier (ft)	804
Average Height of Proposed Barrier (ft)	13
Benefited Receivers	14
Standard Barrier Cost Total	365820
Square Footage Per Benefiter	746.5714286
Cost Per Benefited Receiver	\$26,130
Current FHWA-approved cost	\$35
Current FHWA-approved square footage per benefited	
receiver	1500
Current FHWA-approved cost per benefited receiver	\$52,500
BARRIER IS COST REASONABLE. PROCEED	WITH
ALTERNATE COST ASSESSMENT	

#### Module 2: Alternate Barrier Cost Assessment

Standard Barrier Cost Total (from Module 1)	\$365,820
Estimated costs of any additional ROW (including	
easements) needed to construct the <b>THIS</b> noise barrier.	\$0
Estimated costs for ROW clearing for permanent placement	
and construction access to THIS noise barrier.	\$0
Estimated costs of utility adjustments directly associated	
with construction of THIS noise barrier.	\$0
Estimated costs of additional design elements necessary to	
accommodate unusual topographic features due to the	
construction of this barrier.	\$0
Estimated costs of drainage features directly associated with	
construction of THIS noise barrier.	\$0
Estimated costs of additional design elements directly	
associated with THIS noise barrier (describe below)	
	\$50,049
Describe issues	
Estimated costs of Alternate Barrier Cost	\$415,869
Benefited Receivers	14
Project Total Per Benefited Receiver	\$29,705
Current FHWA-approved Alternate Barrier Cost Per	
Benefited Receiver Cannot Exceed	\$105,000
BARRIER IS COST REASONABLE.	