



Parks & Recreation Department
Public Works Department
Transportation Department

Late Backup



Greater Austin Trails Program

Follow-Up on Council Resolution 20080424-64

March 26, 2009



Why are We Here?



- ➡ Overview
- ➡ Trails Master Plan
- ➡ Process Changes
- ➡ Organizational Changes
- ➡ Advantages of the Proposed Approach
- ➡ Interactive Map
- ➡ Report on Working Group Accomplishments
- ➡ Follow-Up/Next Steps
- ➡ Questions



Overview – Resolution 2008-0424-64



➡ *What was the Council's Concern?*

- Provide an integrated and inclusive approach to planning trails that served both recreational and multi-modal transportation needs.

➡ *To whom were the concerns addressed?*

- Parks and Recreation
- Public Works
- Transportation

➡ *What did the Council ask us to do?*

- Adopt a comprehensive approach to trails planning.
- Coordinate with other stakeholders.
- Develop implementation strategies.
- Provide a report on completion of these tasks prior to presentation of the Bicycle Master Plan and Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan.



Trails Master Plan



- ➡ **Vision**
- ➡ **Purpose**
- ➡ **Structure**
- ➡ **Inclusive**
- ➡ **Processes for Revising and Updating the Plan**
- ➡ **Potential Funding Mechanism**
- ➡ **Reporting and Accountability**



Trails Master Plan Vision



To create an interconnected non-motorized network of on-road routes and off-road trail corridors that provide both single and multi-use purposes that include recreation, environmental and historic preservation, transportation, and socialization and health benefits.



Trails Master Plan Purpose



Provide a platform to enhance multi-jurisdictional and interdisciplinary planning for regional execution and implementation with the following objectives:

- **Assure new development or redevelopment does not interrupt proposed or planned trail routes or otherwise hinder efficient public access to or from the trail.**
- **Develop the mechanisms necessary to require land or public easement.**
- **Assure current and future code regulations and policies do not conflict or impede with future trail implementation.**
- **Assure resources for sustainable design, construction, and maintenance of the trails network through Capital Improvement Projects, operating budgets, and other funding sources.**



Trails Program "Inclusivity"



- ➡ Plan will be prepared transparently with full public participation
- ➡ "Owning" Departments
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Public Works
 - Transportation
- ➡ Stakeholder Organizations
 - Watershed Protection and Development Review
 - Austin Water Utility
 - Austin Energy
 - Real Estate
 - Neighborhood Planning & Zoning
 - Texas Department of Transportation
 - Travis County
 - Others



Trails Master Plan Structure



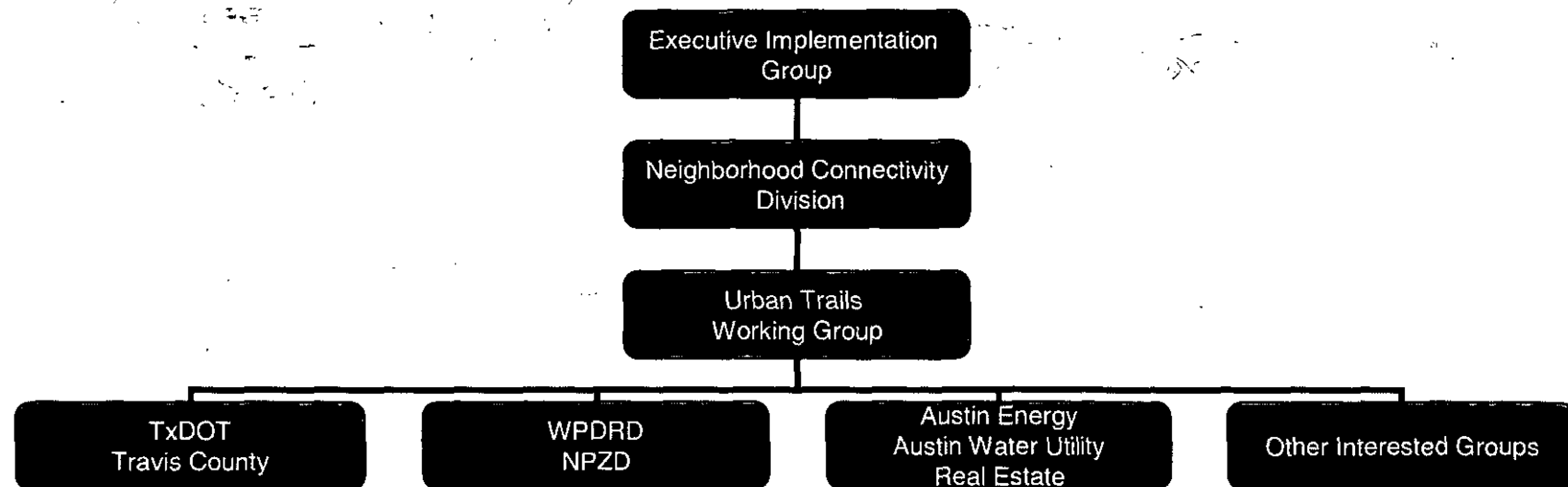
- ➡ **Vision Statement**
- ➡ **Purpose**
- ➡ **Current and Future Trails Inventory**
 - **Geospatial Database**
 - **Interactive Map**
- ➡ **Process for Updating and Revising the Plan**
 - **Integrated with Parks and Recreation Master Plan**
 - **Connectivity with Sidewalks and Bicycle Plans**
- ➡ **Funding and Development Strategy**
 - **Cost Estimates**
 - **Prioritization Mechanism**
- ➡ **Reporting and Accountability Mechanism**



Implementation – Organizational Changes



- ➔ **Executive Implementation Group: PARD-PWD-ATD**
- ➔ **Conversion of Bicycle & Pedestrian Programs Office and Child Safety Program to Neighborhood Connectivity Division in PWD**
 - **Ownership of Bicycle, Sidewalk, and Trails Master Plans**
 - **“Open Platform” model – supports all three Departments**
 - **Administrative control of Urban Trails Working Group**





Implementation – Process Changes



- ➔ **Neighborhood Connectivity Division supports multiple agencies.**
- ➔ **Integrated Planning/Decentralized Execution**
 - Individual Departments budget for their responsibilities
- ➔ **Incorporate trails planning into the Development Review process.**
- ➔ **Distinguish among types of trails and assign responsibility/accountability.**

Type of Trail	"Owner"	Responsibilities
Nature/Recreation	PARD	Planning, Engineering*, Construction, Maintenance
Urban/Commuter	ATD PWD	Planning, Engineering*, Construction and Maintenance

***PWD provides project management for collaborative projects**



Advantages



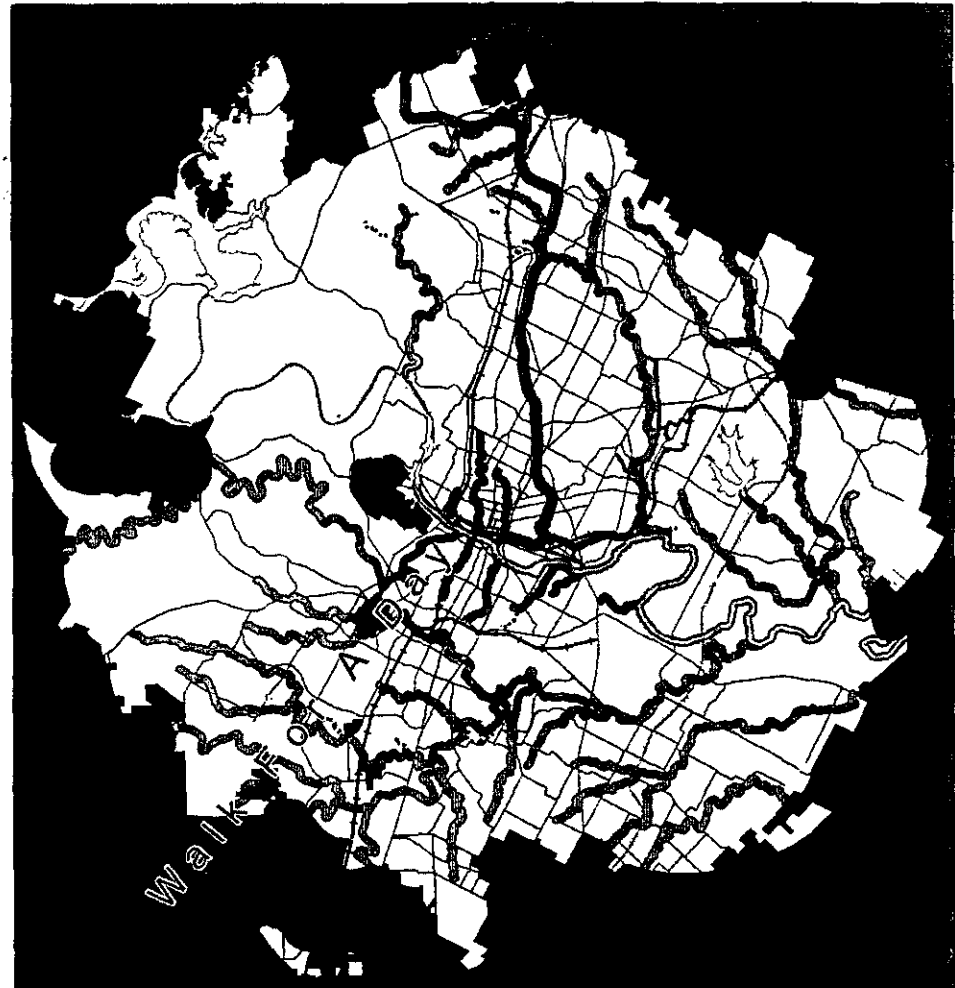
- ➡ **Unified vision for Urban Trails program**
 - Cross-departmental
 - Integration into development review process
- ➡ **Executive level commitment**
- ➡ **Collaboration across multiple programs to promote trails implementation**
- ➡ **Clear delineation of responsibilities among Departments**
- ➡ **Single point of contact for management/administration**
 - Integration with bicycle and sidewalk plans
 - Efficient use of resources
 - Comprehensive approach to funding: CIP, O&M, Grants, Transportation Funds, Other Sources



Interactive Map



- ➡ WPDRD has ownership of the database and map
- ➡ *Trails Navigator* to be integrated with sidewalk and bicycle versions





Greenbelts with
Existing Trails



WALK FOR A DAY

Extensive
Opportunities
For Trails



Working Group Accomplishments



- ➡ Heightened awareness among City Departments and partner agencies.
- ➡ Identified process and organizational changes.
- ➡ Cross-referenced Trails, Sidewalks, and Bicycle Plans.
- ➡ Coordinated regional trails planning efforts.
- ➡ Created map and geospatial database integrated among bicycle, sidewalk, and parks master plans.
- ➡ Researched local and national jurisdictions with relation to best practices in trails planning and network integration.



Report back to Council



➡ Resolution 20080424-64 required:

- ✓ PARD, PWD, and ATD collaborate to adopt a comprehensive and unified interdepartmental vision and coordinated plan.
- ✓ Direct other City departments with related assets and management responsibilities to participate and lend necessary resources to the creation of the coordinated plan.
- ✓ Develop implementation strategies including, but not limited to:
 - ✓ Interdepartmental consultation and coordination
 - ✓ Development of a map to guide implementation of the coordinate plan.
 - ✓ Identify any additional City departmental plans or processes into which the Trails Plan should be integrated
 - ✓ Identify any required organizational and process changes
- ✓ Provide a report to the Council on completion of these tasks prior to presentation of the Bicycle Master and PARD Long Range Plan update.



Next Steps



- **Incorporate trails planning, construction, and maintenance into 2010 budget and work plans.**
- **Initiate comprehensive master planning effort.**
- **Seek alternative funding sources:**
 - **Operating funds**
 - **Bond funds**
 - **Federal programs (Potential Stimulus Funding)**
 - **Transportation programs**
 - **Partnerships**
- **Provide status update to Land Use and Transportation Subcommittee in November.**



Questions



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