



## COMMUNITY INPUT Update for the Austin City Council August 14, 2012

This report provides public comments and input on the bond development process provided via email sent to [bonddevelopment@austintexas.gov](mailto:bonddevelopment@austintexas.gov) and voicemails left on the bond phone hotline (512) 539-0060 between the last Community Input Update for City Council on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 and August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Staff organized the public comments below, based on the following categories: Bond Package Development, Affordable Housing, City Facilities, Parks & Open Space, Transportation/Mobility, Community-Based Projects, and Other Comments.

### Bond Package Development

- No comments received.

### Affordable Housing – related comments

- No comments received.

### Parks & Open Space – related comments

- As past president of FBSP that worked with the board to get the Barton Springs Pool Master Plan adopted by Council I would like to say a few words about why I support including funding for the BSP Bathhouse restoration into this years bond election. The Friends of Barton Springs Pool and a group of active transportation, parks & open space advocates have been honored to work with the City and the Bond Election Advisory Task Force to inform and help shape the parks and open space as well as family-friendly sidewalk, bikeway & trail measures for the November ballot. We are very pleased with the proposed tax-neutral proposal for the whole package. But, as Austin chooses to lead the way in providing for active and passive recreation parks, bike and pedestrian trails, and the protection and conservation of our natural resources and water quality, we know support for the bond measure will significantly increase if park, open space and active transportation projects are added to it. We've received results from a June poll that shows high levels of support for the Parks and Open Space component in the bond package, up to 75% support when the respondent realizes the bond package does not raise taxes. The poll also shows majority support for the Barton Springs Bathhouse, the Violet Crown Trail, and all other proposed park projects specifically surveyed by the pollsters. The results show stronger support for Parks & Open Space compared to the other components of the package. There are very important reasons for restoring the \$2.25 million Barton Springs Pool Bathhouse project back into the \$385 million bond package. We believe there are many projects in the staff-recommended package that are scalable in size and scope with budgets that can be slightly reduced to accommodate the BSP Bathhouse. The Barton Springs Pool Master Plan's short-term projects are coming to completion by late next year. The next priority step in implementation is to finish the bathhouse renovations, now that completion of the roof and plumbing and ADA improvements (2011) and lawn, deck, and landscaping improvements (2/2013) are occurring. With the average bond cycle of 6 years and 6 long-term projects left to complete from the master plan, it is a modest step forward for Council to get at least one project, the bathhouse, to move forward. We ask for your strong support on this matter.

### Why should the Bathhouse renovation project be funded?

- The existing entrance setup to the pool is unfit for the crowds and continued popularity of BSP
- The interior of the bathhouse has degraded since its dedication in 1947 and the available space functions poorly.
- As a vivid and iconic display to users from everywhere and all walks of life, doesn't this historic bath house deserve some significant restoration?
- The project was high on the PARD needs assessment and matches up with priorities to focus on renovation over new construction
- Improves the capacity for much needed aquatic facilities in this growing city without adding new maintenance costs
- It is in a council approved master plan.



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-The Bathhouse restoration project makes sense now since the short term rehabilitation of the bathhouse was just completed and the exterior landscaping around the bathhouse will be done in late 2013.

City Facilities - related comments

- No comments received.

Transportation/Mobility - related comments

- I live in Old West Austin in zip code 78703. I have been trying to get the city to install sidewalks, overhead lighting, crosswalks and signage since moving into the area on New Year's Eve. I basically want to make the city a more pedestrian/bicycle friendly I am hoping you can assist me. I walk daily on 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Street and find that there are too many gaps in sidewalks or they are nonexistent. I find that I use the bike line most of the time because there isn't enough room for me and some else to walk on it together. I am hoping you can plead to my cause. Remember Car Free Day is September 22, 2012 and 151 people are moving to Austin daily. On July 19th, Cap Metro had a bus stop pole moved on Walsh & 5th Street. Now more than one person can walk on the sidewalk after I made a request along with a picture of the bus stop pole.

Community Projects

- No comments received.

Other Comments

- No comments received.