

APPENDIX A



URBAN FOREST GRANT PROGRAM

PROJECT PROPOSAL APPLICATION FORM*

PROJECT TITLE: S290 and William Cannon Heritage Tree Transplanting (Taco Bell tree)

BUDGET CATEGORY: (see page 3) Tree Planting and Transplanting

Does the project meet the required basic criteria:

Within the Austin city limits.....	<u>YES</u> or NO
On public property or Civic areas as defined in 25-2-6(A) within the Land Development Code, or within 15 feet of these areas.....	<u>YES</u> or NO
For public benefit.....	<u>YES</u> or NO
Adhere to the Land Development Code criteria	<u>YES</u> or NO

Will the project occur without UFGP award..... YES or NO or UNSURE

INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

ATTACHMENT
(description not to exceed one page)

APPROACH AND METHODS

ATTACHMENT
(description not to exceed two pages)

BUDGET

ATTACHMENT
(description not to exceed one page)

PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS

ATTACHMENT

PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION

(name, phone number, email address, and mailing address)

ATTACHMENT

* Applicants are to submit three copies (including attachments) to Austin Community Foundation (See CONTACTS section for addresses).

INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

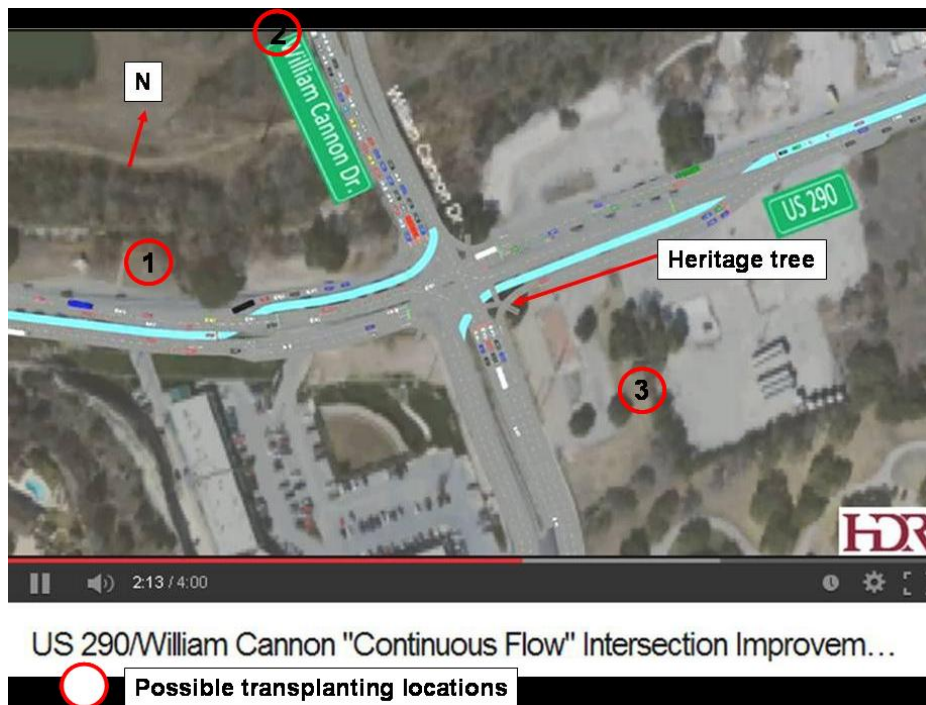
This is a grant application for \$59,000, the maximum allowed without City Council approval, from the Urban Forest Fund for the Austin Heritage Tree Foundation (AHTF) to hire Environmental Design to transplant a healthy 43.6 inch live oak tree located at the SE intersection of S290 and William Cannon Dr. in South Austin. TxDot is expanding the intersection and will remove the heritage tree on October 31, 2013 (or earlier should the transplanting option fail for any reason). Environmental Design is the only qualified company in Austin that can transplant large trees. They have reduced the cost of transplanting this tree from \$100,000 to \$75,000 plus the additional cost of traffic control, lane closures, post care, etc. AHTF will raise the remaining balance of \$16,000 (and other expenses) from the community.

The grant will be paid directly by the grant administrator to the contractor upon successful completion of the tree relocation. The transplanting will not start unless the full \$75,000 plus additional expenses has been raised. In the event that AHTF does not raise the remainder of the money, TXDOT will remove the tree at the end of October and the grant will not apply. There is no risk to the grant under these conditions.

AHTF has informed the City Arborist of this proposal. TxDot would like the City of Austin to sponsor the project, which means for the City to be involved. AHTF asked the City Arborist to support this project. Michael Embesi offered his assistance to TXDOT with any decisions to be made about the project.

Removal of this heritage tree would have required a heritage tree removal variance from the Environmental Board and Planning Commission. However, Austin's Heritage Tree Ordinance does not apply to state projects. TxDot is building a continuous flow intersection at the intersection of S290 and William Cannon Dr. to improve traffic temporarily, for 5 years, until a final design for the Oak Hill Parkway is completed. An animation of the continuous flow intersection is shown at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=soRw9vqAM-k&feature=youtu.be>

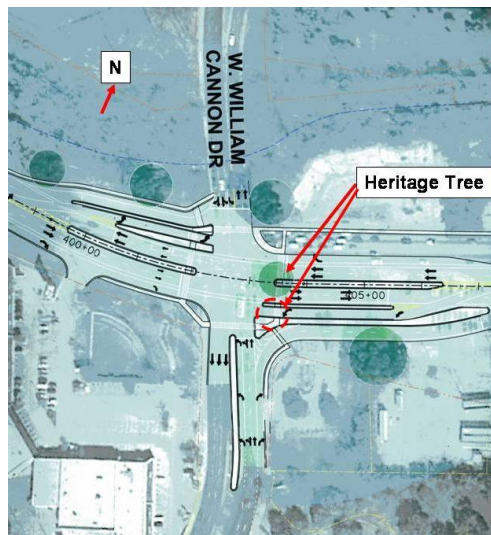
The continuous flow intersection is supposed to improve traffic flow by 30% to 50% but it is only a temporary solution. Nevertheless, a large 43.6 inch (diameter measured at DBH) healthy live oak heritage tree at the SE corner of this intersection will be removed because it is located where the construction will be (see picture below). There was no public input about removing this tree.



APPROACH AND METHODS



Transplanting a heritage tree requires coordination of the project schedule with utility removals and lane closures, and it is best to include the tree relocation at the very beginning of the project. It is not good to be in a rush to meet deadlines to save this heritage tree by transplanting it, but it was unavoidable in this case. AHTF was not aware of the removal of this healthy tree until last June. TxDot presented a design of the intersection improvement at the February Oak Hill Parkway meeting, but they did not mention that this large tree would be removed. The plan shown at the meeting included such a large area that large heritage trees showed as small circles. It was not clear from the plan (shown below) that this large heritage tree would be removed. In addition, the tree was shown in the wrong location (the correct location is shown with the red dashed circle in the picture below).



Last June, the AHTF was alerted of the future removal of this heritage tree. Since then, we tried to find out a contact person for this TXDot project with no success. Luckily, we met the Environmental Manager for the project in late August, who was very supportive of anyone transplanting this tree since it could not be incorporated into the design. In an effort to save the tree, AHTF immediately proposed to raise money from the community and apply for a grant, and asked TXDot for 2 months to transplant the tree. TXDot had planned to remove the tree at the end of September, but gave us an additional month. We have kept in contact updating TXDot of our progress.

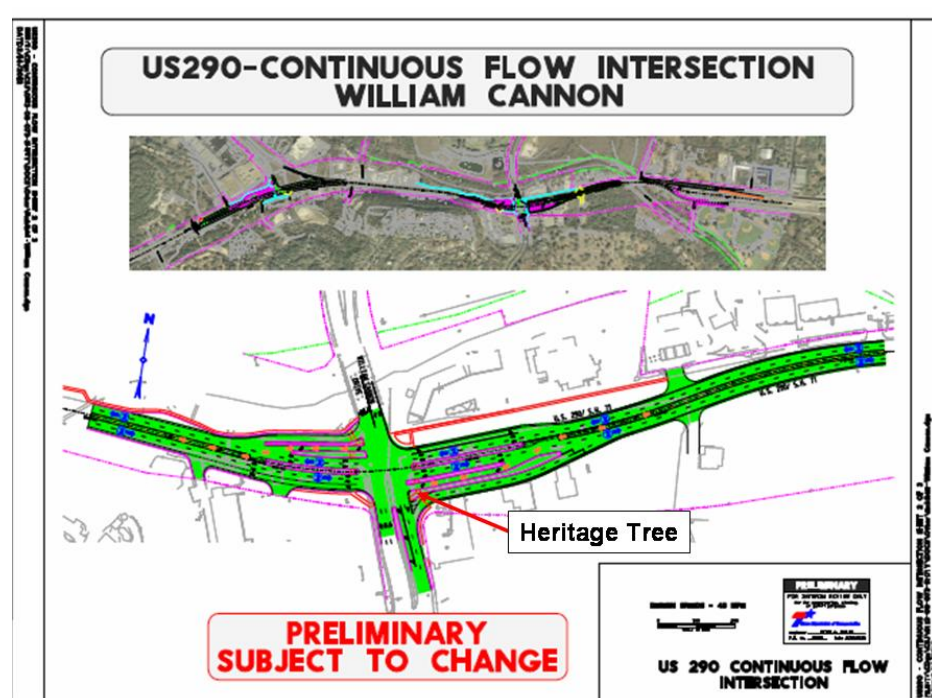
AHTF has obtained only 1 bid because there is only one qualified contractor in Austin to transplant a large heritage tree. Environmental Design is a nationwide firm that has worked with the City of Austin and several developers to transplant several heritage trees (the heritage trees at Bowie St. and Rainey St., and most of the other trees that have been transplanted in Austin). Environmental Design is very experienced and knowledgeable, and has a success rate of 98% for their transplants provided that appropriate post-care (irrigation, monitoring by irrigator and certified arborist, pest control) is provided for at least 5 years.

There are 3 possible locations to transplant the tree, as shown in the picture in page 2. One location is in TXDot ROW, northwest of the intersection across the road, next to the Grandmother Oak that will be preserved with the design of the Oak Hill Parkway. There is plenty of room there, but this option requires the tree to be moved across S290, which has high traffic, even at night. The road would need to be closed for 1 hr. at night to move the tree.

A second location is on Freescale property. The tree would be safe there and away from road construction. Freescale has some space in the ROW along William Cannon. This option will also require the tree to be moved across the road.

A third location is within TxDot ROW, about 100 ft. southeast from the intersection. The Central Tx Mobility group has confirmed that this location will not be affected by any of the possible Oak Hill Parkway designs. This location will eliminate the need to move the tree across the road, simplifying the project.

The intersection plan was modified as shown below. It is not feasible to modify the design to incorporate the tree. The only alternative would be to eliminate the continuous flow intersection going west from S290 turning south into William Cannon, but that is one of the main purposes of that project.



BUDGET

Grant: \$59,000 to hire Environmental Design to transplant the 43.6 inches live oak at William Cannon Dr. and S290, to be paid directly by the grant administrator to the contractor upon successful completion of tree relocation. Transplanting will only start if the full sum is obtained.

Matching funds: \$16,000 (and additional costs for traffic control and lane closures)
+ \$3,500/year post care for 5 years
+ volunteer work to be determined (as needed)

The contractor's bid is for \$75,000 plus the additional cost of traffic control, lane closures, post care, etc. AHTF will raise the remainder \$16,000 (and additional costs) from the community.

AHTF commits to provide the 5 yr. post care for this tree with funds to be obtained from the community. This is estimated to be \$3,500 per year for 5 years for quarterly visits from a certified arborist, monthly visits from an irrigator to check irrigation and soil moisture, periodic visits for pest control, soil fertilization and initial soil aeration.

AHTF also commits to provide any volunteer work needed to care for this heritage tree, including monitoring, testing soil humidity, watering and mulching as applicable.

AHTF has chosen Environmental Design because of their extensive experience transplanting large trees, and because this is the only contractor (tree mover) in Austin qualified for such a large job.

TXDot plans to remove the tree in October 31, 2013 if it is not transplanted. Due to the shortness in time, only the email pasted below from Mr. Jon Hillis, Environmental Design, with the \$75,000 cost to transplant the tree is included in this application. A formal bid will be provided in a few days.

From: jonhillis12@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2013 7:42 AM
Subject: Re: URGENT: tree at S290

I could do the job for \$75k - plus traffic control and road closures, etc.

-Jon

PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS

The Austin Heritage Tree Foundation (AHTF) operates under the 503c umbrella of the Austin Parks Foundation. We have a fiduciary account with APF. We have been operating since July 2009, as a non-profit formed to preserve, protect, maintain and advocate for heritage trees. Our web site is at www.austinheritagetreefoundation.com.

Michael Fossum, MBA, is the AHTF Executive Director. Michael is an Urban Forest Steward, trained by PARD Forestry (2010), and a NWF Habitat Steward (2011). He is also trained in Low Impact Design (2012). Michael has an Executive Master in Business Administration and a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Texas At Austin. He has over 25 years experience managing various businesses and corporate experience in project management, business communication and leadership.

AHTF has over 200 members, over 500 tree advocate contacts, and a pool of at least 50 volunteers. AHTF is contacted often by the community with various tree issues. AHTF has been very successful at preserving trees and resolving tree issues with the City and the community.

AHTF participated actively with the maintenance of heritage trees. AHTF has provided over two thousand hours of volunteer work actively caring for heritage trees at Zilker Metropolitan Park, Barton Springs Pool, Norwood House, Battle Bend Park, Heritage Oaks Park (Parker Lane), Walsh Landing, St. Martins Park (private park), etc. In Summer 2011, PARD Forestry and AHTF watered over 500 heritage trees at the Polo Fields resulting in not losing a single heritage tree in spite of the severe drought, in an area where over 100 trees died in the previous years. In contrast, 56 trees died in Summer 2012, as a result of the 2011 drought, in the area in the Polo Fields that AHTF did not water.

AHTF partnered with PARD to care for the BSP and Polo Fields (Zilker) heritage trees in 2010-2013 and with PARD Forestry for the 2010 Zilker Tree Rescue Project. AHTF secured grants from APF, KAB and the Urban Forest grant for many heritage trees at BSP and Zilker.

AHTF has donated over \$60,000 in grants and professional tree work to PARD. This includes donations and arranging donations of:

- Numerous technical consultations with certified arborists and professional irrigators from 2010 to 2013.
- Over \$25,000 for root mapping of the BSP Tree Court in 2010.
- Compost for 91 heritage trees in the Zilker Tree Rescue project (grant) in 2010.
- Additional 40 cubic yards of compost from the vendor to complete that project in 2010.
- Tree pruning of over 30 public trees at the Austin Nature Center and Botanical Garden by a private contractor in 2011.
- Compost and mulch (grant) for the Rock Gardens heritage trees in 2012.
- Tree pruning of 19 heritage trees (grant) by the BSP bath house in 2012.
- Compost and mulch (grant) for the Polo Fields heritage trees in 2013.

PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION

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