

# City of Austin Urban Trails Master Plan

April 2014



# Definition of an Urban Trail

A citywide network of non-motorized, multi-use pathways that are used by bicyclists, walkers and runners for both transportation and recreation purposes.

- Included in 2009 Bicycle Master Plan,
- Follows Imagine Austin,
- Considers definitions used by other communities, and
- Confirmed by Citizen Advisory Group and Technical Advisory Group.



# Urban Trail Goals for Austin

1. Provide **easy access** to urban trails for both transportation and recreation users.
2. **Connect** urban trails to the on-street bicycle network, sidewalk network, transit stops and bike share stations.
3. Ensure **adequate trail width** to accommodate both recreation and transportation uses.
4. Incorporate **trail amenities** and **features** that create unique, whimsical greenways.
5. Provide adequate funding and resources for **maintenance** and **operations**.
6. Ensure that all urban trails are **context-sensitive** and **environmentally sustainable**.



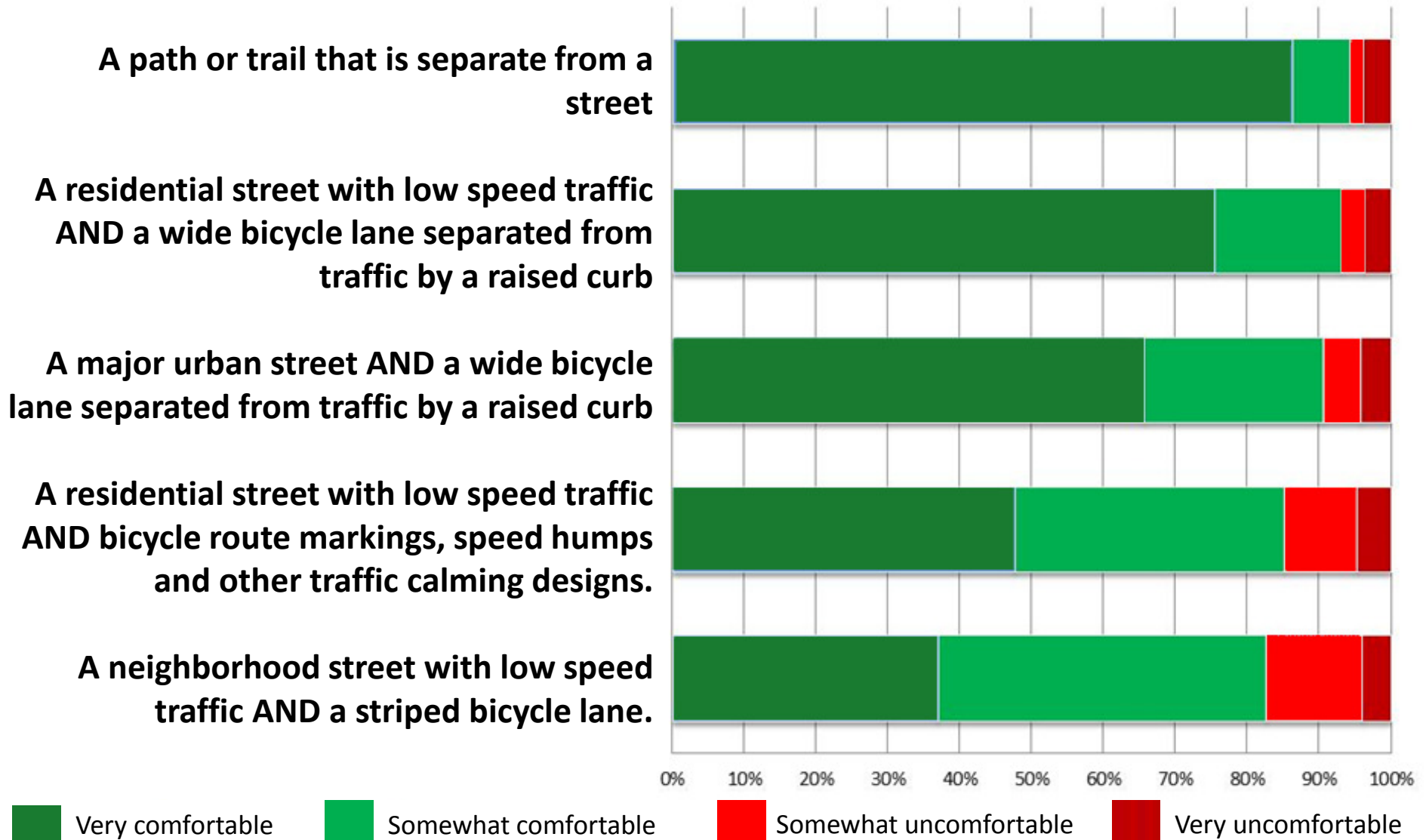
# Public Input on Urban Trails

- Telephone survey (statistically relevant survey): 603 respondents
- Austin Urban Trail User survey: 189 respondents
- Online survey: 2,392 respondents
- 5 public meetings
  - Questionnaire: 105 respondents
  - Online Open House survey: 66 respondents



# Public Input

## Scenario Preferences





# Public Input on Urban Trails

## Most Important Potential Improvements



# The Austin Urban Trail



Southern Walnut Creek Trail

	Criteria
Minimum Width	12'
Minimum Shoulder	2'
Min. Vertical Clearance	10'
Maximum Cross Slope	2%
Maximum Grade	5% (8.25 % with handrails)





# Dual Track Urban Trail



Source: American Trails



Source: American Trails

	Criteria
Minimum Width	8' for pedestrian side 10' for bicyclist side
Minimum Shoulder	5' user separation 2' shoulder
Vertical Clearance	10'
Maximum Cross Slope	2%
Maximum Grade	5%





# Urban Trail Design Considerations

- Install **lighting** where appropriate.
- Design for **environmental preservation**:
  - Preserve trees & vegetation close to the trail.
- Plan for security presence & **emergency access**
- **Location Markers & Wayfinding**
  - Orientation, distance, and travel time,
  - Provide safety information & trail etiquette.
- **Promote and provide incentives** for development of Urban Trail segments and connections
- **Create a sense of place** by engaging local community



# Urban Trail Corridors – Prioritization Criteria

Criteria	Level of Importance (Weighting)
▪ Environmental considerations	3x
▪ Citizen support	2x
▪ Constructability	2x
▪ Corridor availability	2x
▪ Connectivity to Active Transportation Network	2x
▪ Connectivity to transit	2x
▪ Connectivity to local destinations/neighborhoods	2x
▪ Scenic qualities	1x
▪ Area population density	1x
▪ Helps overcome gap or barrier	1x
▪ First in its area of the City	1x

- Uses a point system.
- Criteria are weighted to emphasize importance.