

# 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.



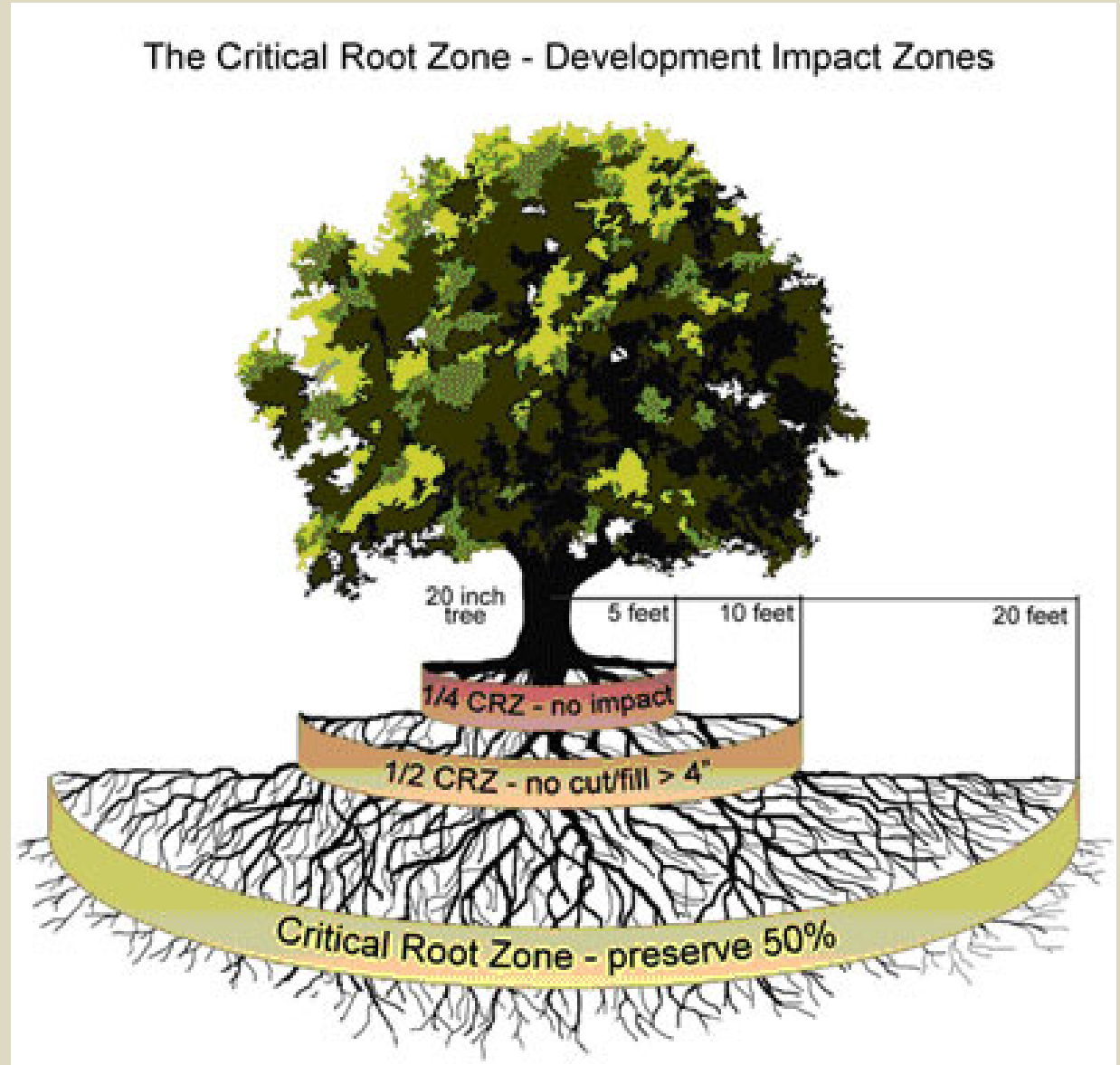
# Urban Trail Goals for Austin

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**.



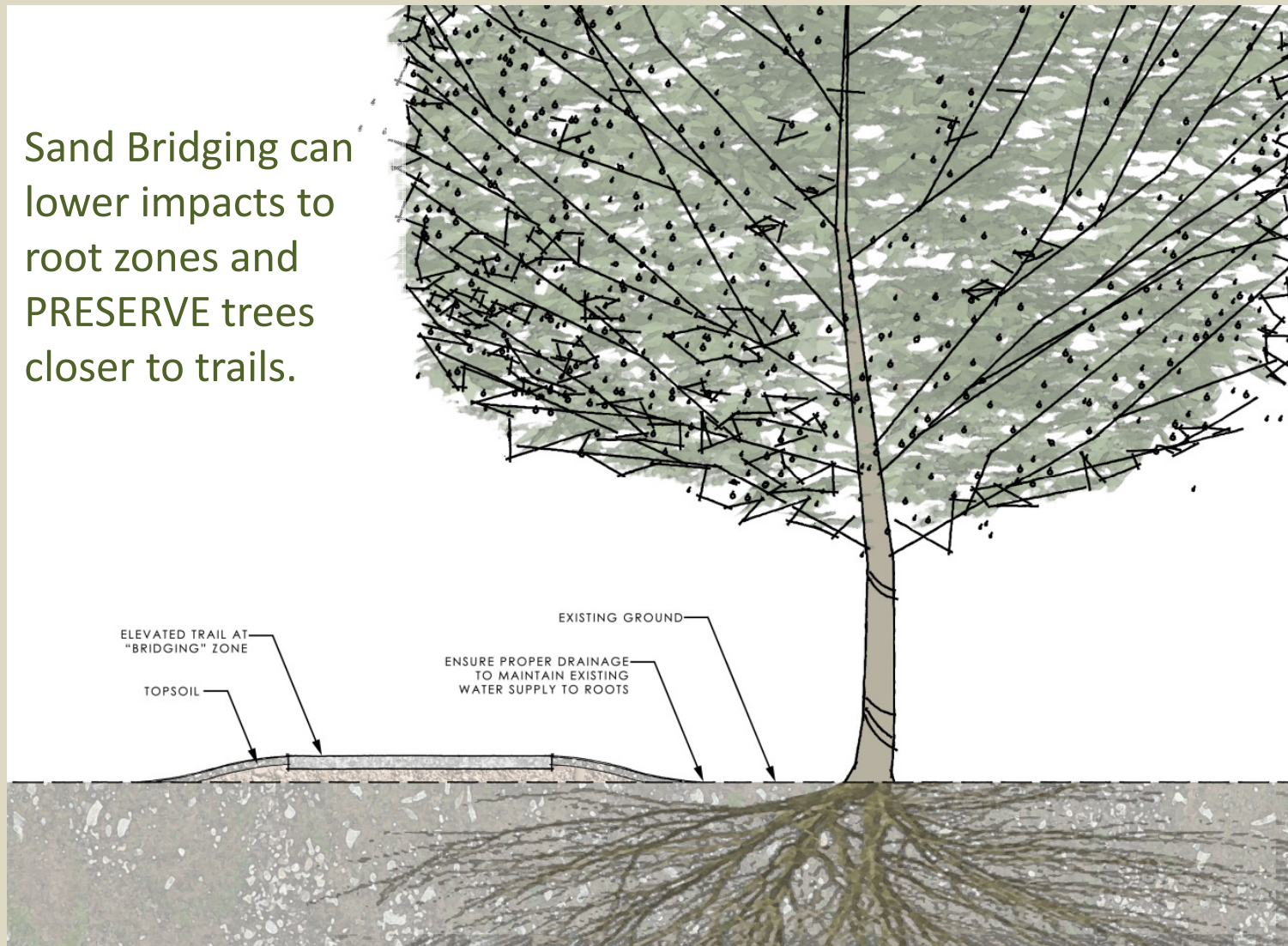
# There's an APP for that

- **A**void
- **P**reserve
- **P**rotect



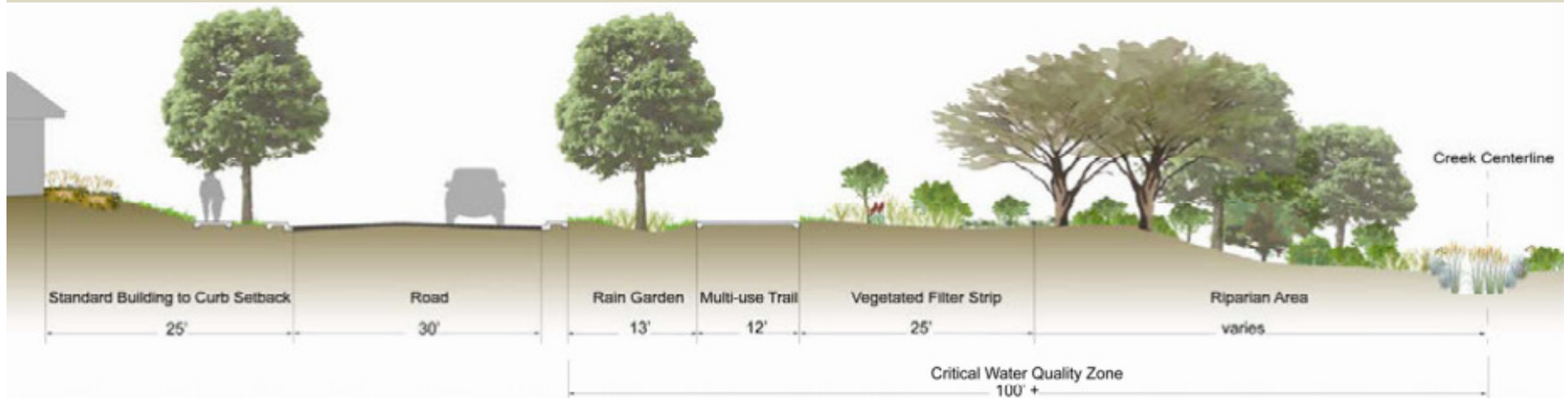
# Preserve: Sand Bridging Technique

Sand Bridging can lower impacts to root zones and PRESERVE trees closer to trails.





# Protect: Critical Water Quality Zone



- Well-designed hard surface trails allow for **diffuse** run-off as opposed to concentrated run-off.
- Well-designed creek crossings **as needed**.
- Use passive **green infrastructure**: informal **rain gardens** and **vegetated filter strips**.
- Include **Protective Works** as needed to reduce the **Erosion Hazard Zone**.



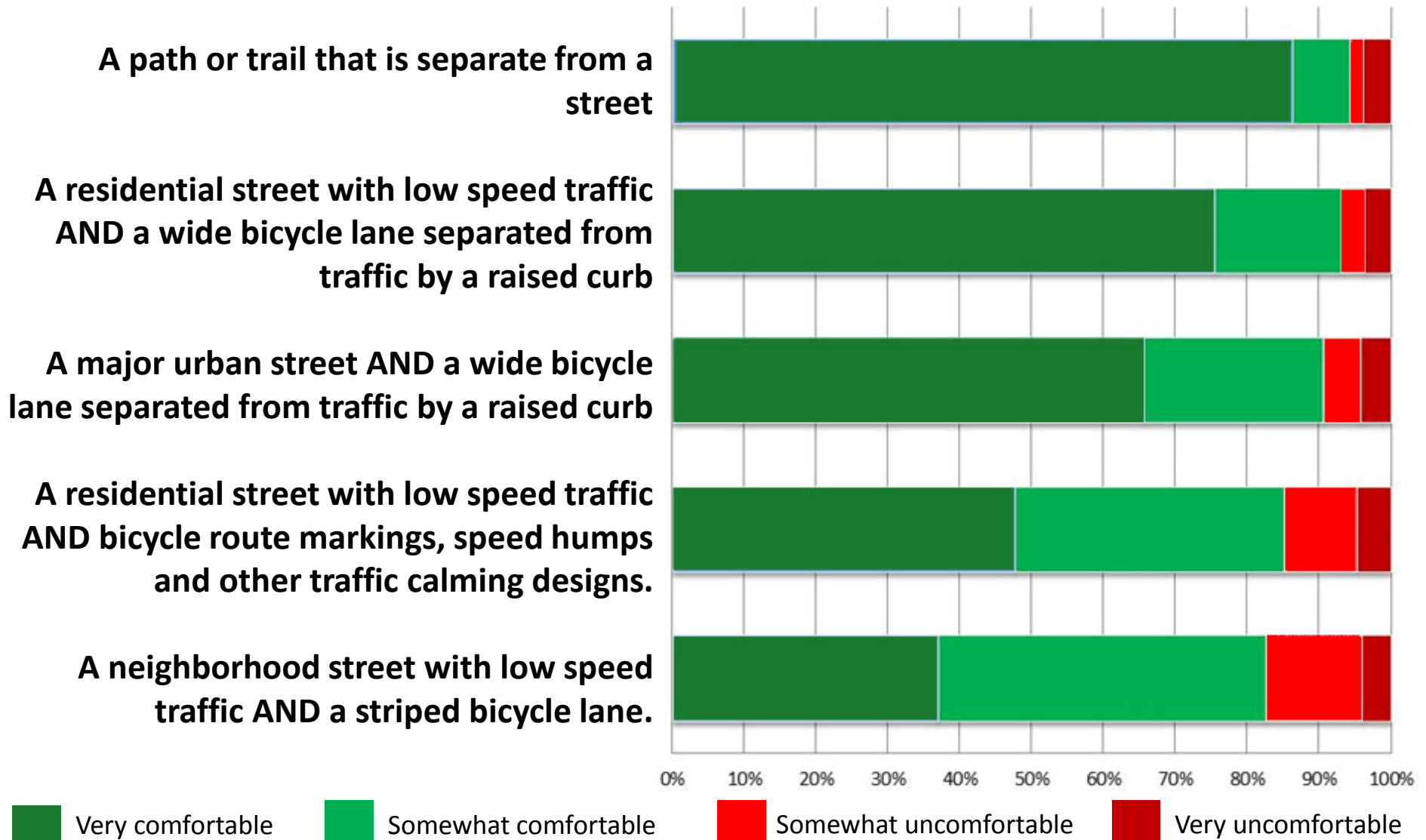
# Public Input

- 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
Standard Width	12'
Standard Shoulder	2'
Standard Vertical Clearance	10'
Maximum Cross Slope	2%
Maximum Grade	5% (8.25 % with handrails)





# Dual Track Urban Trail



Source: American Trails

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



Source: American Trails



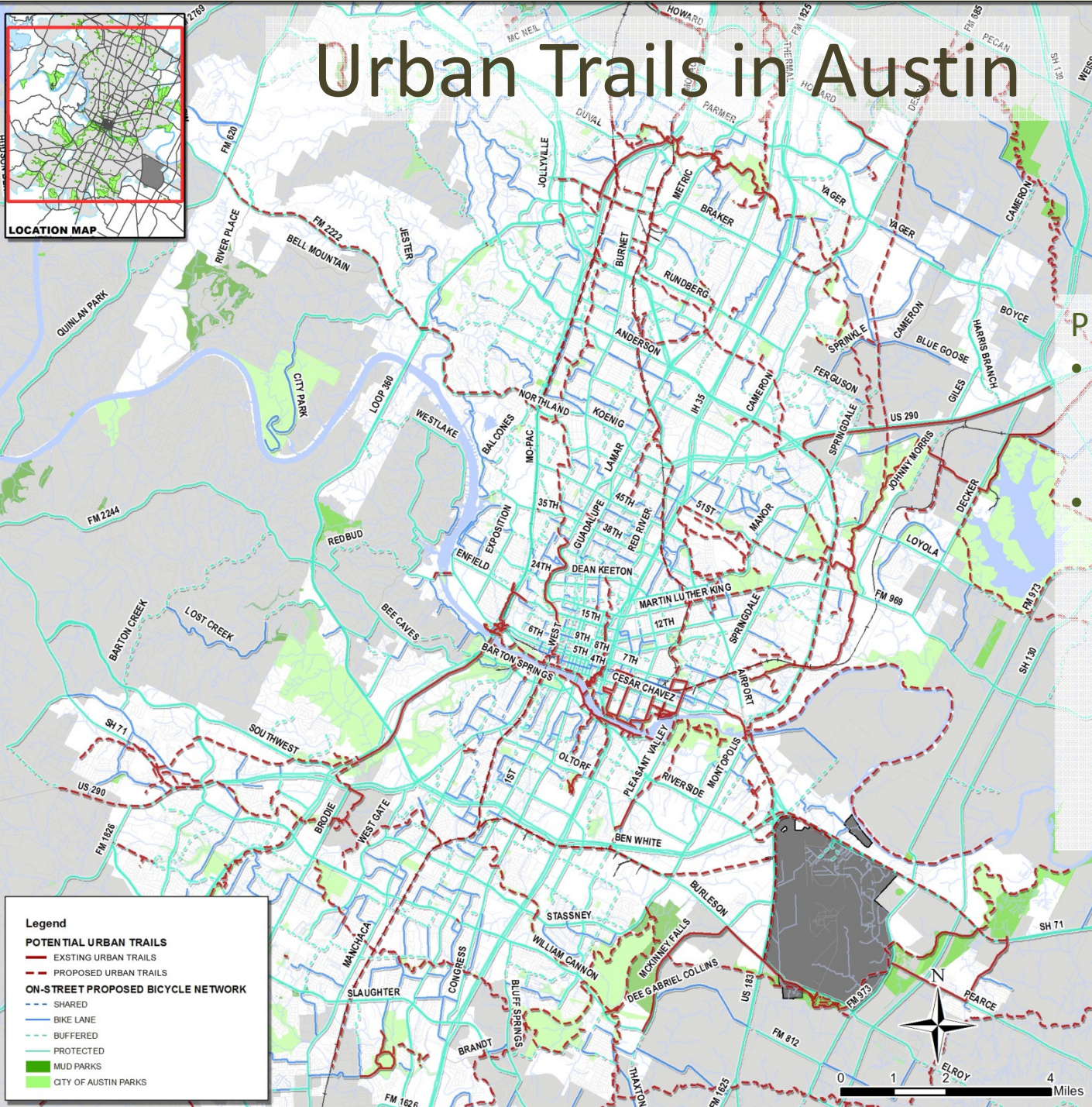
# Urban Trail Design Considerations

- 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 Trails in Austin



## PLEASE NOTE:

- This map depicts a conceptual plan for route connectivity.
- Trails will be built dependent upon:
  - environmental feasibility,
  - stakeholder support, and
  - available funding.



# Urban Trail Corridors – Prioritization Criteria

Criteria	Max. Points	Original Weight	Revised Weight (Multiplier)	Max. Score
Environmental Considerations	3	1x	3x	9
Citizen support	3	1x	3x	9
Corridor availability – City owned?	2	2x	2x	6
Surrounding population density	3	1x	2x	6
Constructability	2	1x	2x	4
Connectivity (schools, parks, retail/entertainment, etc)	2	2x	2x	4
Connectivity to on-street network	2	2x	2x	4
Connectivity to regional transit	2	2x	2x	4
Unique aesthetic qualities of the corridor	2	1x	1x	2
First in its area of the City	2	1x	1x	2

# Plan Implementation

- Incorporate Priorities into annual Capital Improvement Plan.
- Includes Trail Criteria Guidelines
  - Standard Rule Posting Process with public input and internal feedback/approval.
  - Guidelines will eventually become the Trail Criteria Manual.
- Work with CodeNEXT for development agreements.
- Interdepartmental Agreement with PARD and WPO for maintenance.

# Next Steps

- April 8 – East ANC and Urban Transportation Commission
- April 14 – Land, Facilities, and Programs Committee (Parks and Recreation Board)
- April 15 –Bicycle Advisory Council
- April 16 – Environmental Board & Urban Forestry Board
- April 22 – Parks and Recreation Board
- May 1 – City Council (set public hearing)
- May 13 – Planning Commission
- May 22 – City Council (conduct public hearing)

Questions?