

City of Austin Urban Trails Master Plan

Urban Forestry Board
May 21, 2014



Existing Urban Trail Related Policies



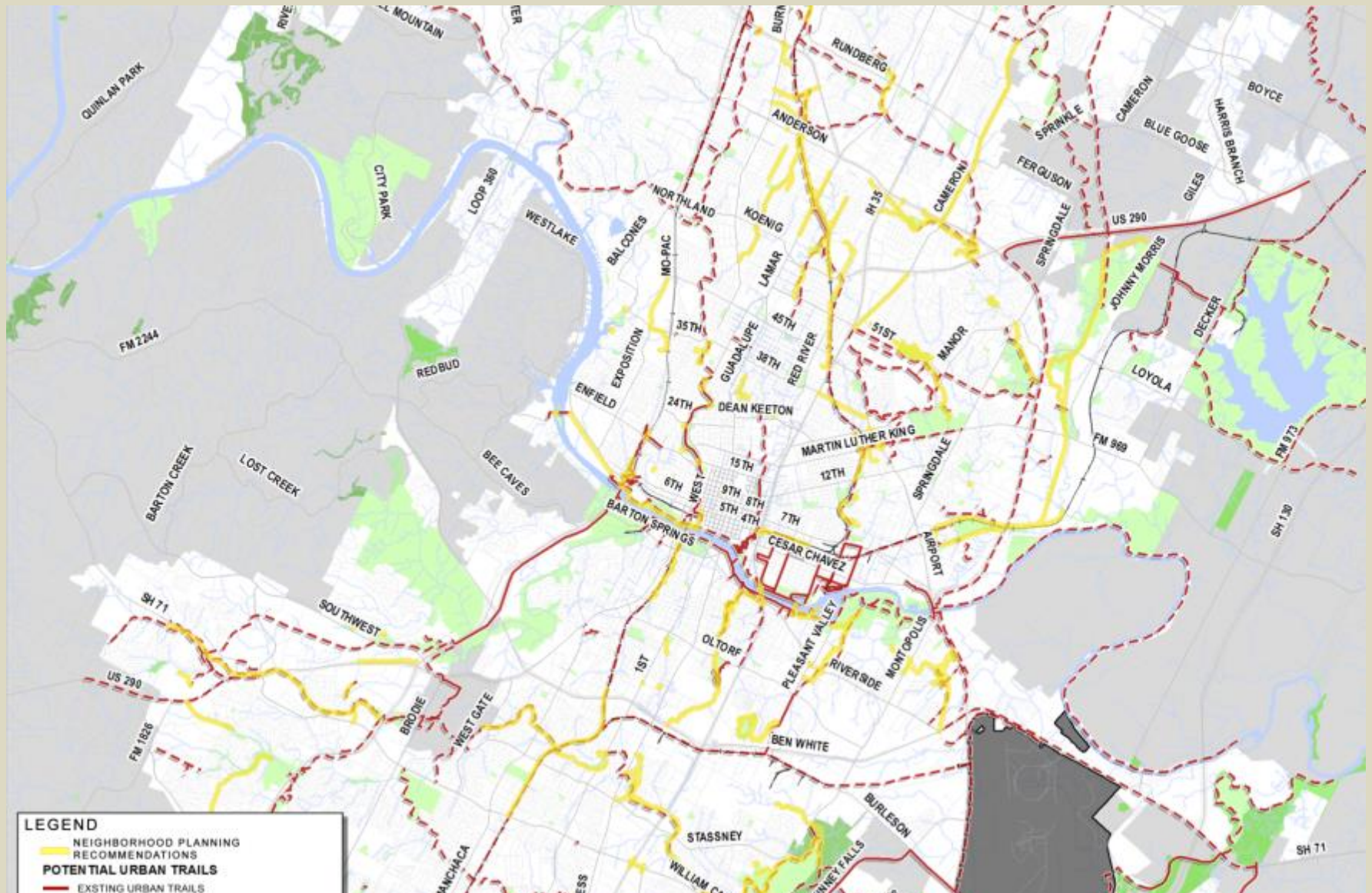
Catalyst to the UTMP:

Resolution 20080424-064:

- PWD and PARD to develop comprehensive, interconnected trail plan.
- Coordinate with other Departments (AWU, AE, ARR, WPD) to implement trail plan.
- Provide:
 - Interdepartmental consultation and coordination ,
 - Development of map, and
 - Identification of other processes/plans that would aid implementation.



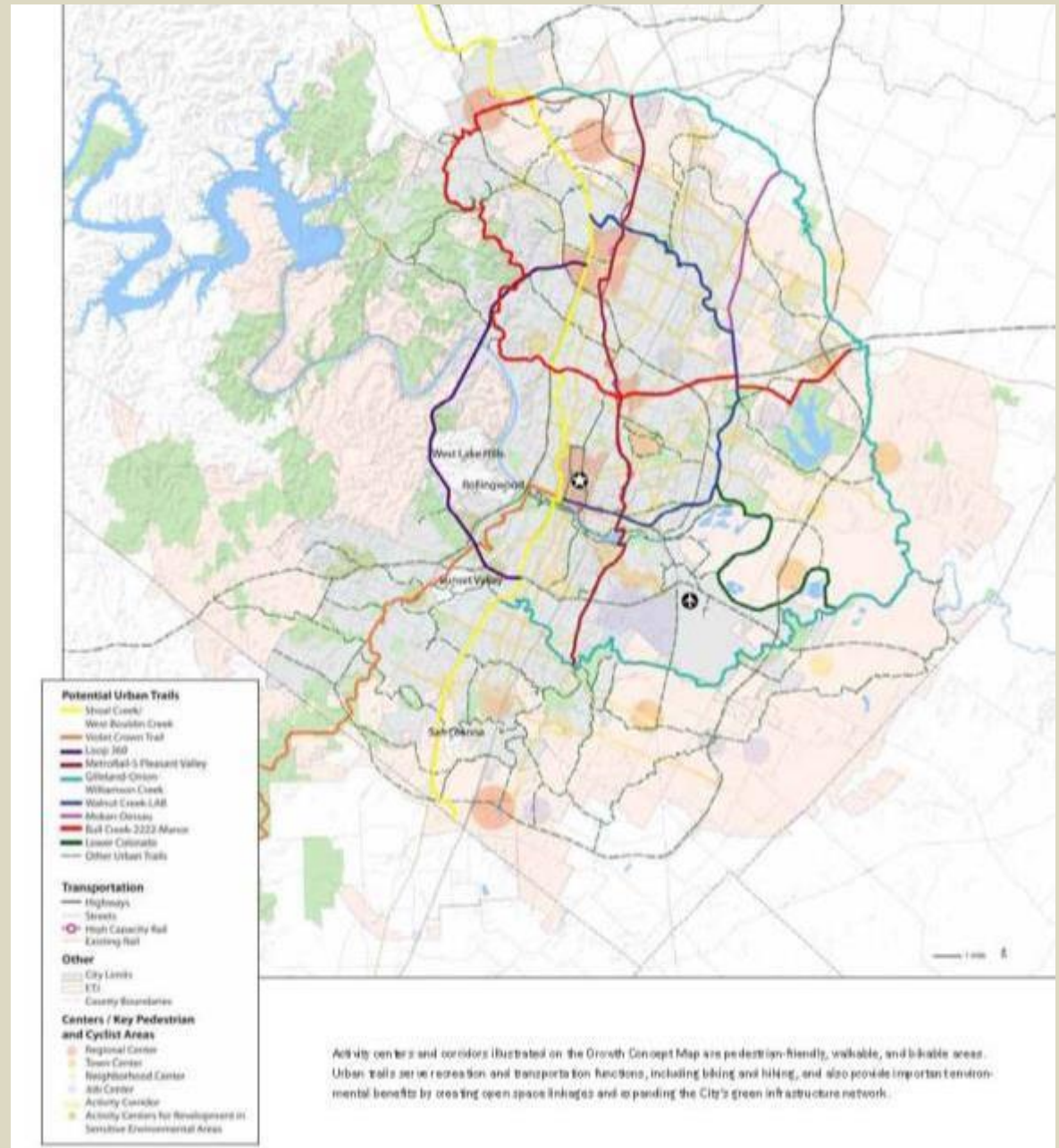
Small Area Plan Recommendations



Imagine Austin

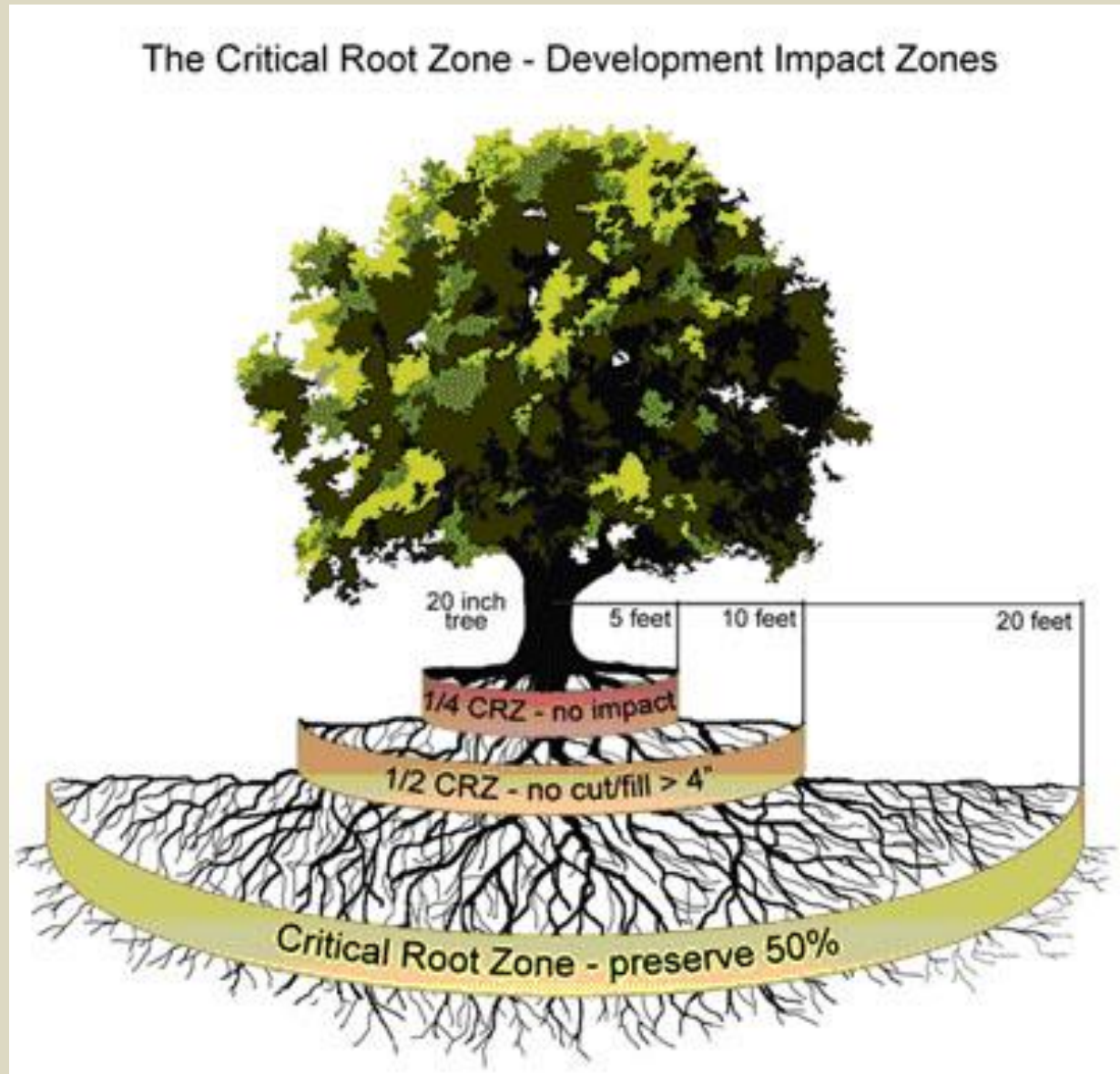
“Urban trails serve recreation and transportation functions, including biking and hiking, and also provide important environmental benefits by creating open space linkages and expanding the City of Austin’s green infrastructure network.”

- Imagine Austin



Heritage Tree Ordinance

Urban trails will avoid heritage trees and will use applicable techniques to protect and preserve trees of all sizes.



Watershed Protection Ordinance

"Explore opportunities to **encourage a development pattern** that better protects public and private property, preserves floodplains, creeks and open spaces, and **provides access and connectivity with green ways and trails.**"

- Watershed Protection Ordinance



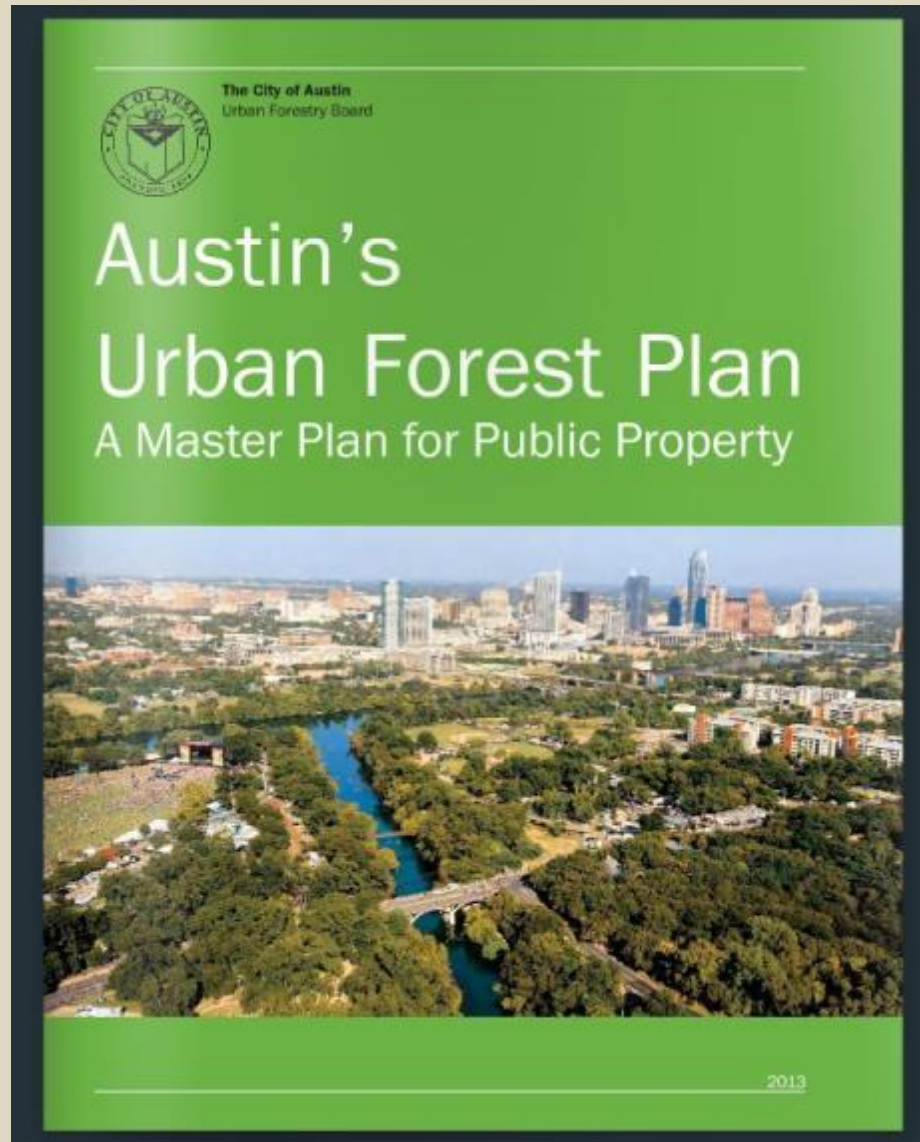
Austin's Urban Forest Plan

Community

Voices:

“Plan trees by
bicycle paths.”

- Austin Urban
Forest Plan



Why an Urban Trail Master Plan?



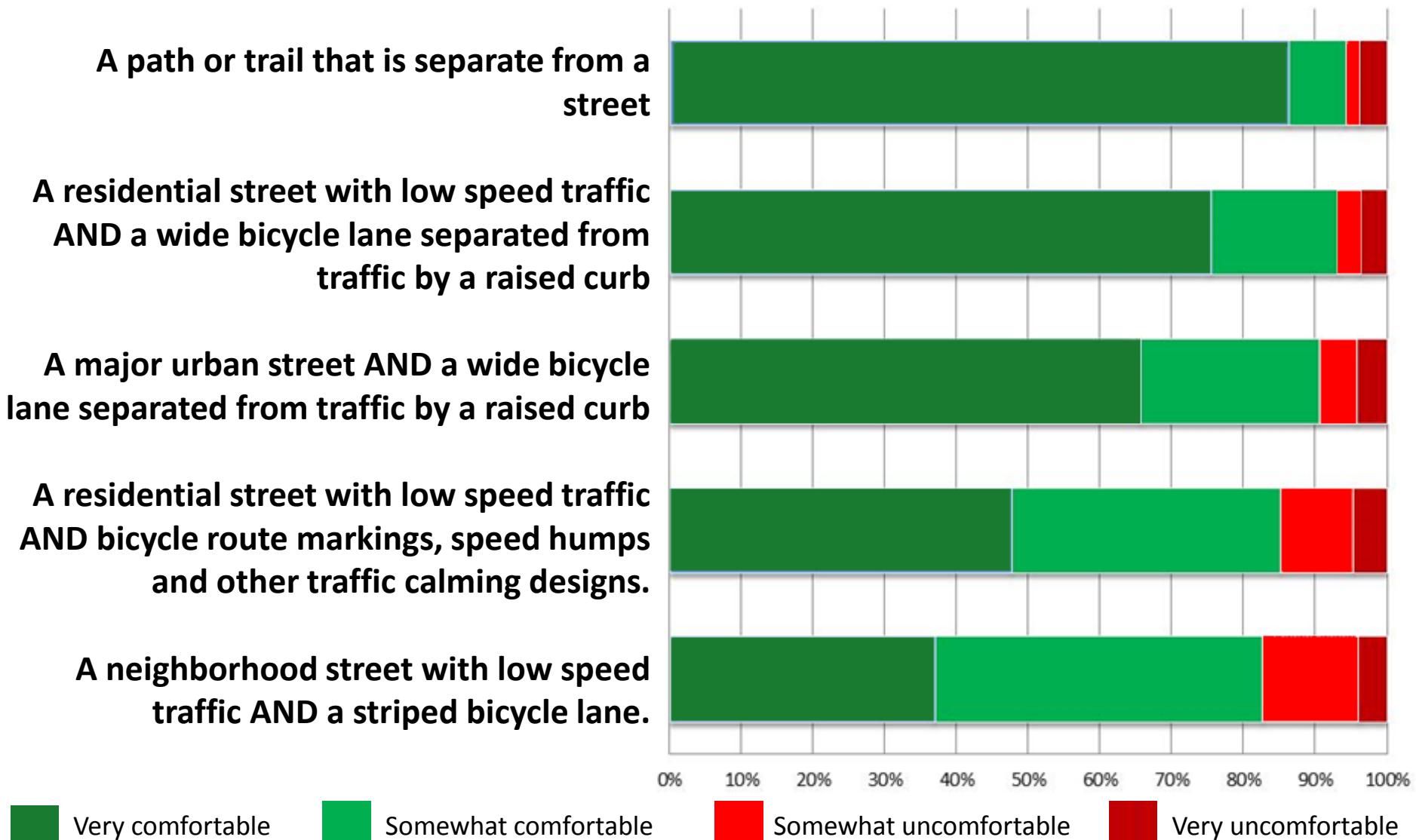
Why an Urban Trail Master Plan?

- Implement existing plans/policies,
- Address existing issues,
- Create Urban Trail design criteria, and
- Plan for and implement appropriate Urban Trail maintenance.



Public Input

Scenario Preferences



What is an Urban Trail?



What is an Urban Trail

- Hard surface,
- All-weather,
- Accommodates bicycles, pedestrians, rollerbladers, skateboarders, and those with disabilities.



Urban Trail Design Considerations



The Typical Urban Trail



Southern Walnut Creek Trail

| | Criteria |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Standard Width | 12' |
| Maintained Vegetated Shoulder | 2' |
| Standard Vertical Clearance | 10' |

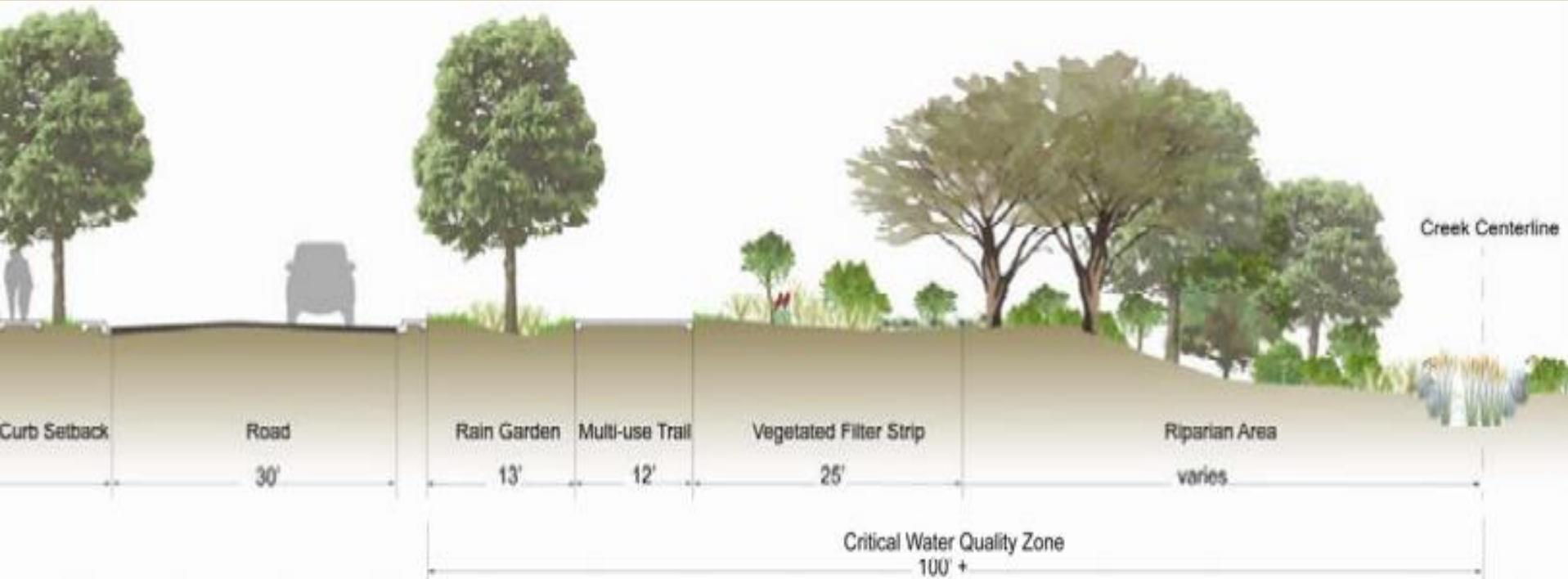
The Dual-Track Urban Trail



| | Criteria |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Standard Width | 5' for pedestrian side 10' for bicyclist side |
| Maintained Vegetated Shoulder | 5' user separation 2' shoulder |
| Standard Vertical Clearance | 10' |



Critical Water Quality Zones



- **Diffuse** run-off as opposed to concentrated run-off.
- Creek crossings **as needed**.
- Informal **rain gardens** and **vegetated filter strips**.

Sand Bridging Technique

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



Sand Bridging Technique



Lighting where appropriate



Design with nature



Wildlife Considerations

“For urban wildlife, trails are about connectivity too – corridors for movement through the urban landscape especially since our trails mostly follow waterways which are natural corridors through the city.”

– Dr. Kevin Anderson,
City of Austin
Wildlife Biologist



Security & emergency access



Wayfinding



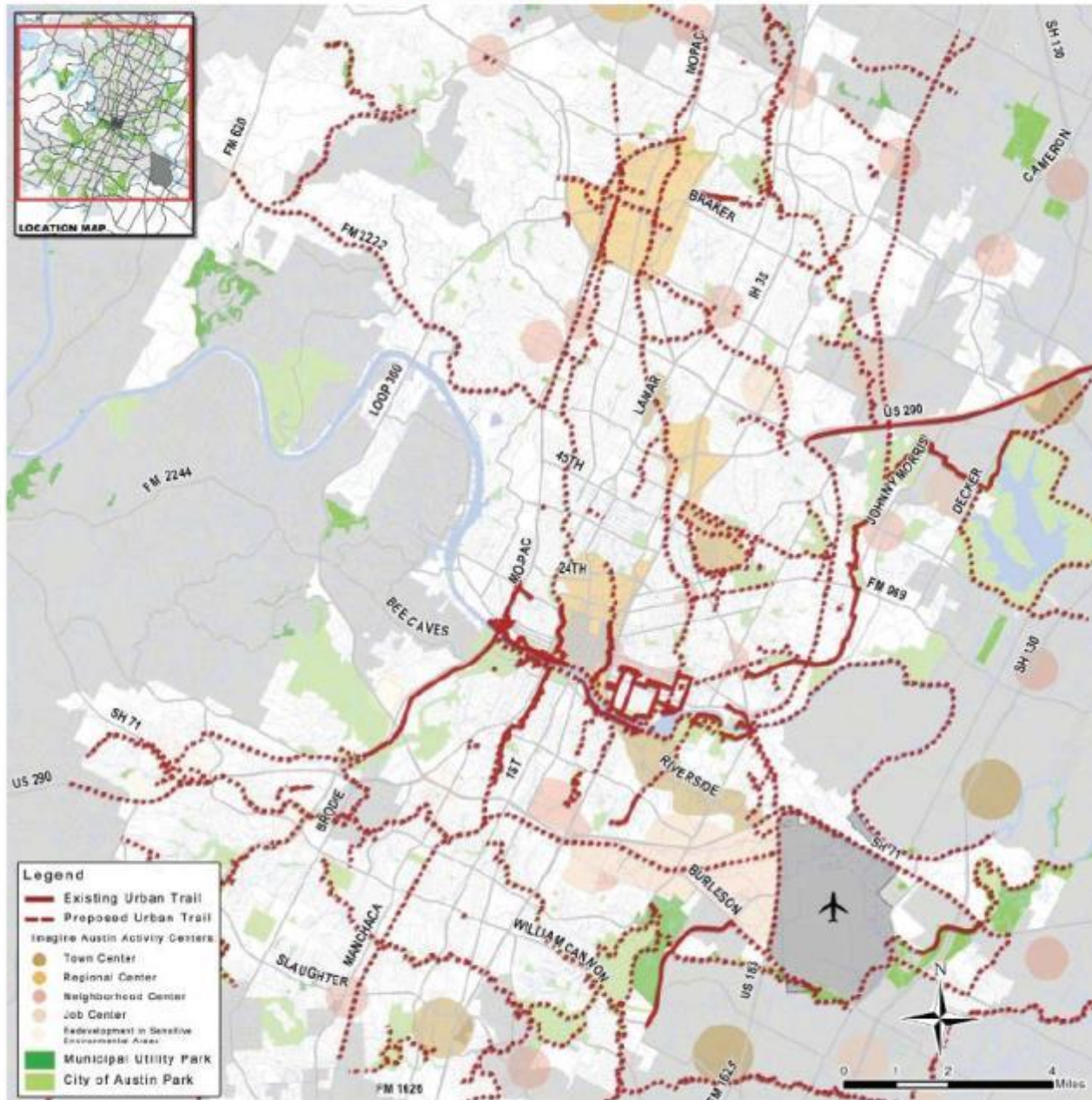
Promote developer incentives



Create a sense of place



AUSTIN URBAN TRAILS



- This map depicts a conceptual plan for route connectivity.
- Routes may be modified dependent upon:
 1. environmental feasibility,
 2. stakeholder input, and
 3. available funding.

Alignments shown are conceptual, and are intended to show geographic connectivity. More detailed routing, environmental evaluations and area connections will be developed for each corridor as funding is identified. Pending a more detailed analysis and adjacent, adequate bicycle/pedestrian facilities, a "no-build" option may be appropriate.

Urban Trail Corridors – Prioritization Criteria



Attractors/Destinations



Population Within .5 Mile



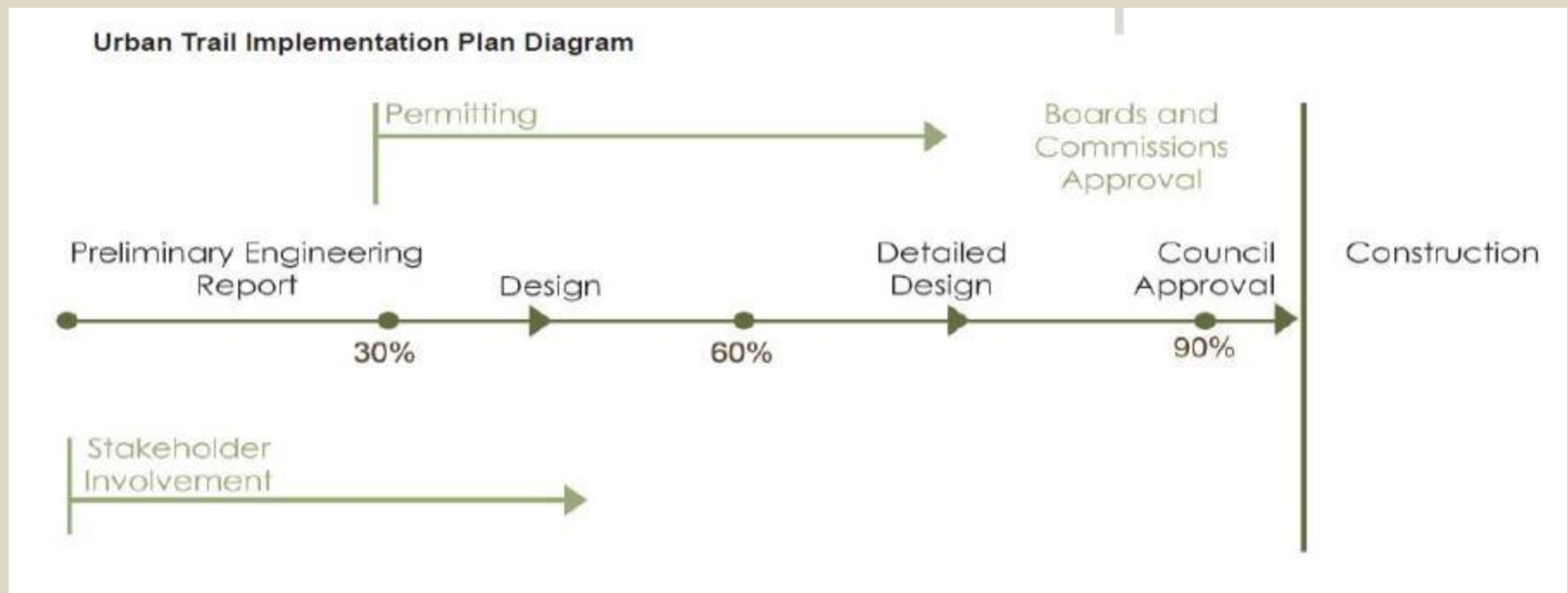
Connectivity



Community Support

Next Steps:

- Develop Trail Criteria Manual through the rule posting process.
- Work with CodeNEXT to codify development agreements.
- Interdepartmental Maintenance Agreement with PARD and WPO for maintenance.



Questions?