



May 21, 2014

TO: Nadia Barrera, Project Manager, Public Works Department
Chad Crager, Project Manager, Public Works Department
Chuck Lesniak, Executive Liaison, Environmental Board
Marilla Shepherd, Staff Liaison, Environmental Board
Sara Hensley, Executive Liaison, Parks and Recreation Board
April Shaw, Staff Liaison, Parks and Recreation Board
Planning Commission

FROM: Urban Forestry Board

SUBJECT: Urban Trails Master Plan Recommendations

The UFB supports trails in our city and agrees with the need to expand out trail system.

The focus of the UTMP (Urban Trails Master Plan) is to provide an active transportation network in greenways to allow Austin residents to commute by alternative modes. This proposed new “mini-road” system, utilizing 12 ft. wide concrete roads, by its very nature is of intense concern. Such a massive endeavor has the potential to negatively impact our urban forests and natural areas, the very part of Austin that makes it unique.

Our primary concern is that the protection and preservation of trees and the natural environment shall be the predominant issue in the implementation of the UTMP.

Environmental impact should be equally weighted in the priority criteria. We also feel that 12 ft. wide concrete trails constitute significant development that does not belong in some sensitive areas. We have included a no-build option in our recommendations.

We have also included additional public meetings for those who live within 500ft of a sensitive area where a trail is proposed.

We have made recommendations we feel are critical in the protection and preservation of the urban forest and should be included in the UTMP. Although some of our recommendations may already be present in the current UTMP draft document, their possible future omission make their inclusion on our list necessary.

Sincerely,

Chris Kite, UFB Board Chair
Peggy Maceo, UFB Board Vice-Chair
Ryan Fleming, UFB Board Member
Nick Classen, UFB Board Member

Len Newsom, UFB Board Member
Keith Brown, UFB Board Member
Patrick Brewer, UFB Board Member

CC: Angela Hanson, UFB Executive Liaison
Robert Clawson, UFB Staff Liaison
Pat Fuller, UFB Ex-Officio Board Member
John Clement, UFB Ex-Officio Board Member
Michael Embesi, UFB Ex-Officio Board Member