

WPD Staff Briefing on the Colorado River Corridor Study

Austin City Council approved an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Austin, Travis County and the Lower Colorado River Authority to develop a long range comprehensive plan for the development of the Colorado River Corridor extending from Austin and the Travis/Bastrop county line. A DRAFT plan has been completed with assistance from the planning firm Bosse and Associates, Inc, and a copy of the Draft Plan is attached.

The purpose of the Corridor Plan is to coordinate regional and local planning and private sector investment to facilitate the preservation and enhancement of valuable environmental, economic, recreational, and cultural resources of the plan area over the next twenty-five to thirty years. The Corridor Plan includes objectives for improved protection of local bio-diversity, preservation and restoration of floodplains and natural areas; the creation of parks, open spaces and greenways; enhancement of Corridor quality of life through the long-term restoration and reclamation of mined sites; and enhancement of mobility through capital project development and new design alternatives.

Plan implementation requires private sector and intergovernmental cooperation since multiple government entities are responsible for the various aspects of transportation, natural resource conservation, and environmental protection in the Corridor. The Corridor Plan is designed to improve collaboration at the regional and local level, and to enhance the knowledge and understanding of the valuable resources of the Colorado River.

Two public meetings have been held to seek input on the Plan, one in January 2011, and a second meeting in September 2011. Based on this input, Travis County, the City of Austin, and the LCRA are in the process of finalizing the draft Plan, which is now available for public review.. WPD staff recommends that a briefing on the plan be provided to the Environmental Board and Planning Commission, and to City Council. The project consultant, Bosse Pharis, has prepared a power point presentation that presents the findings and recommendations of the report, and will be available to give this presentation at the City's public meetings. At the request of the Planning Commission, this briefing will also be provided to the Waterfront Overlay Board, the Parks Board and the Zoning and Platting Commission. Travis County will take the final plan back to the Commissioner's Court upon its completion in the fall.

A link to the Travis County Web page for this report is provided below. This link allows access to the draft document, as well as information on public meetings and comments.

<http://www.co.travis.tx.us/tnr/crcp/default.asp>