



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Jorge Morales, P.E., CFM, Director
Watershed Protection Department

DATE: January 16, 2020

SUBJECT: Lower Shoal Creek Slope Failure Update, January 2020

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with an update on the Lower Shoal Creek slope failure per Council direction on Agenda Items # 21 and 22 (June 19, 2019). For additional background, please refer to updates previously sent on [May 7](#), [May 18](#), [July 11](#), [November 5, 2018](#), [April 15](#), [June 11](#), and [July 30, 2019](#).

Background

On June 19, 2019, Council authorized staff to negotiate and execute a design-build contract with Hayward Baker, Inc. (HBI) to repair the Shoal Creek Landslide. After five months of effort, negotiations were suspended, due to Hayward Baker's inability to agree to the City's minimum insurance requirements.

Current Effort

The end of negotiations with HBI provided staff the opportunity to re-assess the physical conditions of the slope and to further identify options to remedy public health and safety concerns to the greatest extent practicable.

The first phase of City projects, including the reroute of the storm drain system along Wooldridge Drive, was completed in October 2019. Staff has identified a second drainage solution that will allow the City to remediate the elevated flood risk currently posed by the landslide blocking Shoal Creek. The second drainage solution will restore flood conveyance to Shoal Creek, prevent further new erosion of Pease Park, and retain the stability of the failed soil mass on City property. This project will include partial removal of debris from Shoal Creek, excavation of parkland adjacent to Shoal Creek and temporary shoring of Shoal Creek streambanks. This solution will require staff's ongoing monitoring and maintenance, should additional material slide into the creek. Pending final engineering analysis, staff expects to have construction plans, cost estimates, and contracts in place by March 1, 2020.

The proposed solution will not require further Council action, as staff is proceeding under existing contracts with current appropriations that do not require property acquisition.

Additional projects are recommended to achieve the objectives outlined in the original design-build solution. City departments have identified the following projects necessary to restore public services that were disrupted by the landslide:

- Construction of a new, permanent wastewater line outside of Shoal Creek to replace the line damaged by the landslide.
- Construction of a new segment of the hike and bike trail to replace the 500 ft. segment made impassable by the landslide.

Staff will seek community input for the relocation of the hike and bike trail and will begin the development of work plans and cost estimates for these projects. In addition, staff will provide updates to Mayor and Council prior to project execution.

Should you have questions, please contact Mike Kelly, P.E., WPD Managing Engineer at (512) 974-6591 or by email at mike.kelly@austintexas.gov.

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