



REDBUD TRAIL BRIDGE PROJECT [PROJECT ID: 5873.012]

The Redbud Trail Bridge Project will construct a new bridge to replace the existing Emmett Shelton Bridge. This project has been years in the making and is the result of increasing strains on the bridge due to flooding, population growth, the number of vehicles on the road and heightened use. Built in 1948, the bridge was not designed with today's traffic in mind and has insufficient bicycle and pedestrian paths. It is also nearing the end of its operational life and is considered a "low-water" bridge, which places it within the 100-year floodplain.

The new bridge will be designed to handle current vehicular traffic and to increase multi-modal transportation options for bicyclists and pedestrians. A public open house in the summer of 2016 generated public input on the initial concepts for the roadway and bridge. This input received at the meeting was used to refine concepts and add alternatives; the roadway/bridge alternatives were then evaluated against various criteria such as environmental impact, right-of-way, roadway and bridge safety. As a result, a preferred roadway/bridge alternative has been identified and is being presented for public input. The bridge conceptual design is slated to continue through the fall of 2019, after which time the public will have additional opportunities to participate in this exciting process.

PROJECT TIME FRAME

Field Investigations and Detailed Design - 2020 – 2022

Environmental Clearance and Federal/State/Local Permitting – 2021 – 2022

Construction – 2023 – 2024

(Dates are projected as accurately as possible but are subject to change.)

FUNDING

2012 Prop 12 Bond Program – Transportation and Mobility (Street and Bridge)

2018 Prop G Bond Program – Mobility

The City is also seeking additional funding opportunities.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Must the bridge be a new construction, or can the current bridge be renovated/reinforced?

Yes. Unfortunately, due to its age and current use, the bridge is reaching the end of its operational life. It is also considered a "low-water" bridge, which places it below the 100-year floodplain. During a flood event, the bridge at its current location experiences additional stress from fast currents and high waters.

How much will this project cost?

The complete roadway/bridge design is expected to cost about \$5 million. The preliminary construction cost estimate is approximately \$50 million.

(continued on reverse side)

Will the new bridge have more lanes for vehicles?

The bridge will continue to have one lane in each direction. However, the bridge will also have shoulders for roadway traffic safety, as well as additional space for safe bike and pedestrian use.

What provisions are being made for pedestrians and bicyclists?

The bridge will have a 15-foot wide shared use path, separated from the roadway by a barrier, for the safe use of both pedestrians and bicycles. The shared use path will extend to Lake Austin Blvd. to the east and to Stratford Dr. on the west.

Why did you select this preferred alternative?

We evaluated all the alternatives, using a variety of criteria such as environmental impact, roadway/bridge safety, right of way needs, public input, etc. The preferred alternative had the best overall combination of maximizing safety improvements and public preferences, while minimizing adverse impacts.

Will the public be involved in the design process?

Yes; the public has already been involved and helpful in providing input on the original concepts. We want all residents to continue to be heard throughout the bridge replacement process. The Redbud Trail Bridge is an important component of Austin's infrastructure and we recognize that it is important to citizens throughout Austin. Our goal is to encourage as many people as possible to participate in the process so we can receive and consider valuable feedback from the local community.

What will the new bridge look like?

The general proposed options for the bridge's appearance are available for public review tonight and are on the project website as well.

Will Redbud Isle remain accessible during construction?

The park will remain accessible although there will be periodic detours in place during construction. Minimizing disruption due to construction will be an integral part of the design and the City will work closely with its consultants to limit park impacts during construction.

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