



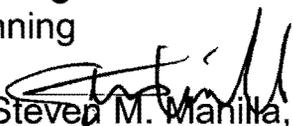
Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: March 25, 2014

Prepared By: Randy Nicholson, Long Range Planning Manager

Phone #: (512) 854-4603

Division Director/Manager: Anna Bowlin, Division Director, Development Services and Long Range Planning

Department Head:  Steven M. Manilla, P.E., County Executive-TNR

Sponsoring Court Member: County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE: Consider and take appropriate action regarding public review of the draft Land, Water, and Transportation Plan.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

TNR is preparing the Land, Water, and Transportation Plan (LWTP) to guide, within the bounds of county regulatory powers, orderly development and appropriate conservation of land and water resources in unincorporated Travis County. It consists of three documents: "Growth Guidance Plan", "Background Report", and the "Summary of Select Plan, Ordinances, and Rules" (exhibits A, B, and C respectively). Staff has completed drafts of each document and would like to present them to the public for their review.

The "Growth Guidance Plan" is the policy document that includes:

- A) An analysis of growth-related opportunities and challenges in unincorporated Travis County;
- B) The proposed goals, objectives, principles, and policies for guiding growth; and
- C) Maps illustrating preferred growth and conservation areas.

The "Background Report" includes information about:

- A) Natural conditions, demographic characteristics, and current land use patterns;
- B) Legislative tools for guiding growth and local municipal planning activities; and
- C) Public opinions about growth-related issues.

The "Summaries of Select Plans, Ordinances, and Rules" describes adopted growth-related policies and practices used by TNR for:

- A) Regulating the subdivision of property, construction of streets and drainage in subdivisions, and development in floodplains;
- B) Implementing endangered species protection, hazard mitigation, and storm water management programs; and
- C) Planning and implementing capital improvement programs.

A consultant has been contracted to facilitate public engagement. That process will begin once Commissioners Court approves the draft LWTP for this purpose. Public review and plan adoption is scheduled to take nine months (see exhibit D). The public engagement process will consist of the following:

1. Plan, schedule, and facilitate LWTP community-at-large public meetings with the residents of Travis County.
2. Maintain a record of all questions and comments from the engagement process.
3. Create a LWTP informational website maintained by the county.
4. Generate public service announcements and public notices (print, radio, TV and social media).
5. Inform the Commissioners Court on the public engagement efforts.
6. Prepare a final report on public input.

All meeting notifications and flyers utilized in the engagement process, will be prepared in English and Spanish.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approve the following draft LWTP documents for public review. "Growth Guidance Plan", "Background Report", and "Summary of Select Plans, Ordinances, and Rules".

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

Improved Coordination: The LWTP facilitates greater coordination between different county departments and program areas. The LWTP identifies practices and policies for guiding growth and sets priorities accordingly for TNR's annual work plans, capital improvement programs, departmental budgets, legislative agendas, economic development, and new programs and services.

Improved Communication with the Public: The LWTP establishes a dialogue with the residents of Travis County. It communicates county values and strategies for addressing growth related issues in unincorporated Travis County; and through the public engagement process, allows residents to confirm or question county proposed practices and policies. Once vetted by the public and adopted, the LWTP provides county residents with a level of certainty about the course of county government and a framework for future public discussions.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

None

ATTACHMENTS/EXHIBITS:

Exhibit A: Growth Guidance Plan

Exhibit B: Background Report

Exhibit C: Summary of Select Plans, Ordinances, and Rules

Exhibit D: Plan Review and Adoption Schedule

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

Cynthia McDonald	Financial Manager	TNR	(512) 854-4239
Steven M. Manilla	County Executive	TNR	(512) 854-9429
Anna Bowlin	Division Director Development Services and Long Range Planning	TNR	(512) 854-7561

CC:

Randy Nicholson	Long Range Planning Mgr	TNR	(512) 854-4603
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