



STREETS DIVISION

P.O. Box 2570
Waco, TX 76702-2570
254/750-5440
Fax: 254/750-5844
Betterstreetswaco.com

9/30/2021

Dear Property Owner,

123 Letters to area Residents and Businesses

The City of Waco is preparing to construct improvements in your neighborhood. This project includes the widening and full reconstruction of Mars Drive to include a continuous left turn lane. Also included is the widening and full reconstruction of Old Hewitt Road with sidewalks along Mars Drive from Hewitt Drive to Panther Run Road, and signals on Mars Drive at Old Hewitt Road and Texas Central Parkway. The City has contracted with engineering consultant, MRB Group, for the design of this project and construction is scheduled to begin Winter 2021.

We invite you to join us for an informational meeting on **Wednesday, October 6th, from 6:30 -7:30 p.m., at the First Woodway Baptist Church**, located at 101 N. Ritchie Rd. During this “come and go” style meeting, we will:

- Give a brief overview of the project and construction process.
- Provide visuals of the areas affected.
- Answer questions you may have in relation to your specific property.

Representatives from the City of Waco, MRB Group, and Big Creek Construction will be at the meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact Teresa Bryant, Community Outreach Coordinator, City of Waco at 254 750-6613. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Sincerely,

Teresa Bryant

*Community Outreach Coordinator
City of Waco Public Works Department*

O: 254-750-6613

C: 254-709-6873

www.Betterstreetswaco.com

WACO METROPOLITAN TRAIL SYSTEM

METROPOLITAN TRAILS

- Greenways existing¹
- Greenways proposed
- Roadside proposed
- Feeder - connections not shown, implied

BIKEWAYS

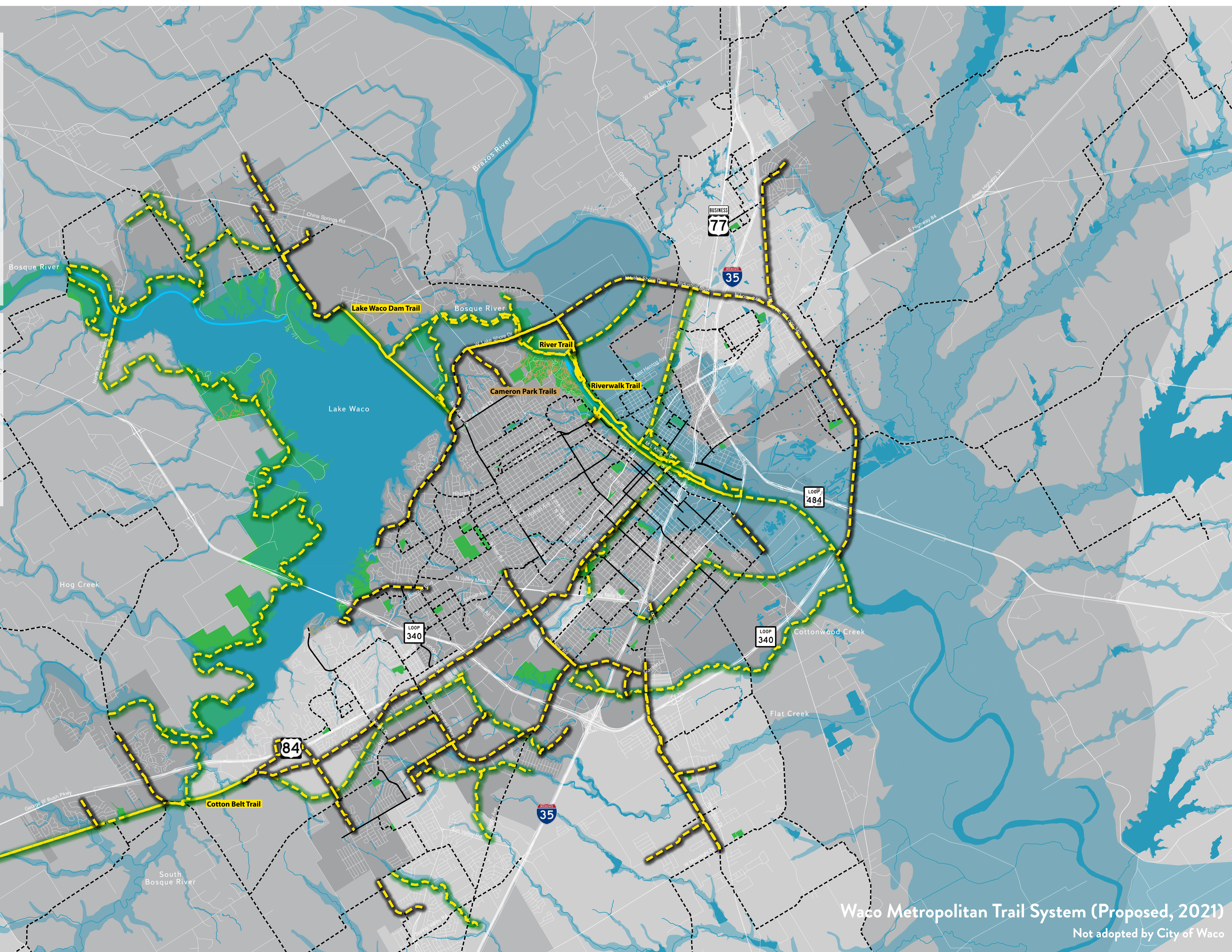
- Existing¹
- Proposed²

OTHER RECREATIONAL TRAILS

- Paddling
- Rustic

1. Source: City of Waco
2. Source: Waco Metropolitan Planning Organization

- Parks
- Floodplain
- Municipal Boundary
- ETJ
- County
- Waterbodies
- Creeks
- Major Roads
- City Street



WACO ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK SYSTEM MAP

The Waco Metropolitan Trails System works in conjunction with the metropolitan area's existing and proposed active transportation facilities. Proposed metropolitan trail corridors include segments of the roadway network where multi-use trails are viewed as the preferred solution for future bicycle and pedestrian mobility, and non-roadway (greenway) corridors which expand upon Waco's on-street system of sidewalks and bikeways.

The existing and proposed active transportation facilities identified on this map were sourced from the Waco Metropolitan Area Active Transportation Plan, adopted by the Waco MPO in 2019.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK BY FACILITY TYPE

Facility Type	Mileage	
	Existing	Proposed
METROPOLITAN TRAIL	16.8 Miles	128.2 Miles
RECREATIONAL TRAIL	15.3 Miles	38.8 Miles
BIKEWAY ¹	77.9 Miles	562.3 Miles

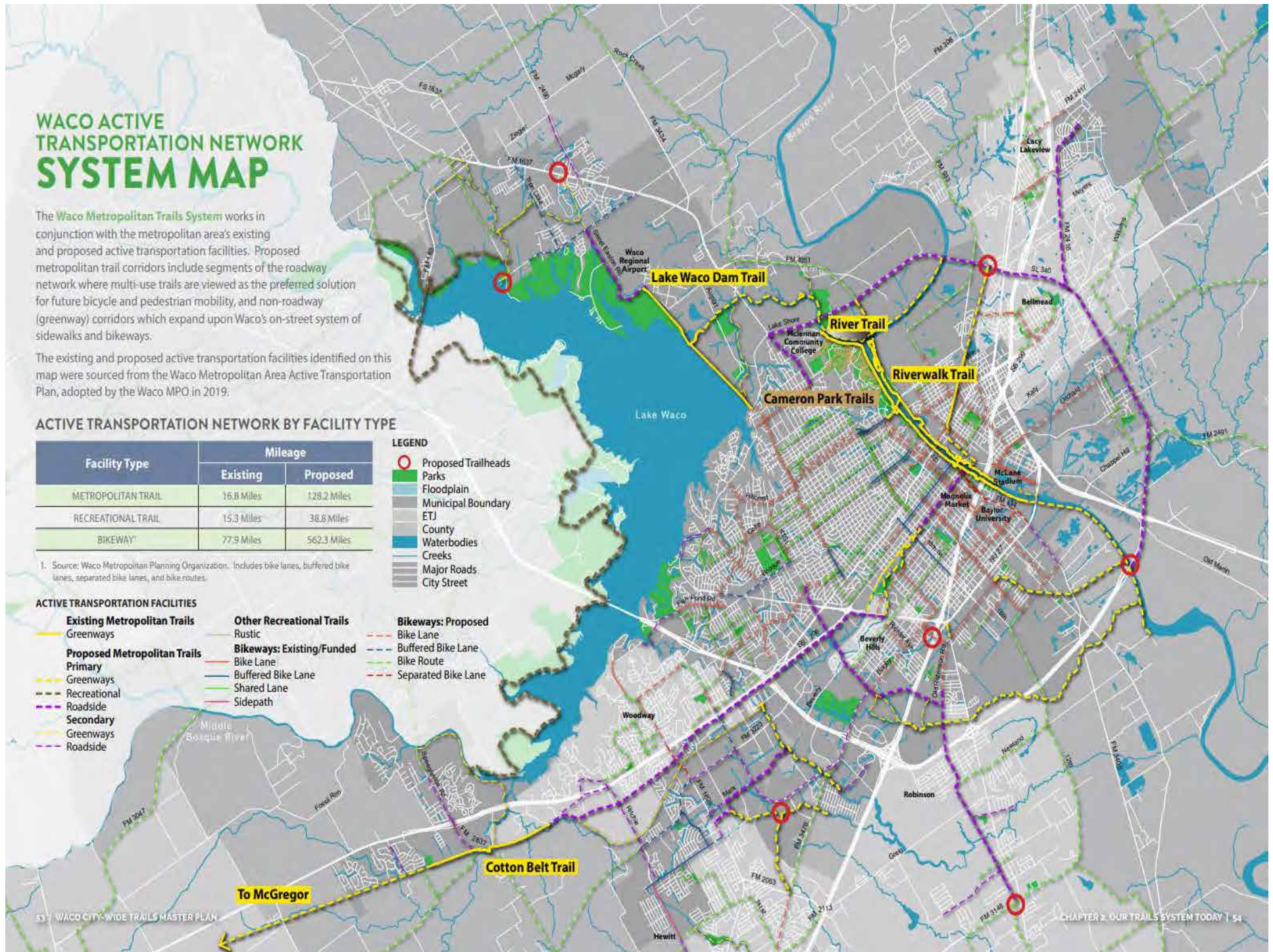
1. Source: Waco Metropolitan Planning Organization. Includes bike lanes, buffered bike lanes, separated bike lanes, and bike routes.

LEGEND

- Proposed Trailheads
- Parks
- Floodplain
- Municipal Boundary
- ETJ
- County
- Waterbodies
- Creeks
- Major Roads
- City Street

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

- Existing Metropolitan Trails
 - Greenways
 - Proposed Metropolitan Trails Primary
 - Recreational
 - Roadside
 - Secondary
 - Greenways
 - Roadside
- Other Recreational Trails Rustic
 - Bikeways: Existing/Funded Bike Lane
 - Buffered Bike Lane
 - Shared Lane
 - Sidewalk
- Bikeways: Proposed Bike Lane
 - Buffered Bike Lane
 - Bike Route
 - Separated Bike Lane





April 14, 2023

Teresa Bryant
City of Waco - Public Works
P.O. Box 2570
Waco TX, 76702-2570

Dear Ms. Bryant:

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the 2023 Mars Dr Carbon Reduction Program Grant being submitted to the Waco Metropolitan Planning Organization by the City of Waco.

Our community continues to strive for healthy neighborhoods and vibrant school settings. Both are easily satisfied with the numerous positive values associated with the urban landscaping and planning, including street tree effects. The integration of street trees into the urban roadside system offers many advantages to the surrounding area including schools that serve as the “front door” for many patrons of a community. The effort to provide the environmental benefits of street trees serves students with a positive example of environmental stewardship and responsible development. Obviously, aesthetic enhancements are much appreciated and contribute to the culture of well-being and mindfulness we need in schools and communities. Street trees are essential for life. They not only introduce inviting place making but help filter the water we drink, clean the air we breathe, shade our student/parent on sunny days.

In conclusion, I fully support the efforts of the City of Waco as they seek external funding to support a program designed to provide street trees along Mars Drive. Any programs that can help our students see responsible stewardship of the environment will benefit our students, campus, and the community at large.

Sincerely,

Chris Allen

Superintendent of Schools
Midway ISD

City of Waco Mars Drive Connectivity Improvements TA Application

**LETTERS OF SUPPORT
(NOT ALL LETTERS RECEIVED ARE SHOWN)**

Randal Bolen	General Manager	ROMARK Logistics of Texas
George Kazanas, Ed D	Superintendent of Midway Schools	Midway Independent School District
Stuart Smith	Concerned Citizen	1503 Columbus Avenue
Jackson Griggs, MD	Family Support Specialist	Providence Family Health Center
Meg Wallace, LMSW	Organizer	The Amberley Collaborative
Dave Morrow, AICP	Advocacy Director	Waco Bicycle Club
Mike Stone	Executive Director	Grassroots Community Development
Amanda Potts	Concerned Citizen	6005 Mesquite Tree CT.
Rachel Russell	Assistant to Office of Institutional Effectiveness	Baylor University
Michael Larsen	Vice President	China Springs Neighborhood Association
Ellen Filgo	Concerned Citizen	2216 Gorman Avenue
Jared Gould	Concerned Citizen	3111 Austin Avenue
Valarie Adamek	Concerned Citizen	572 Bob Johnson Road
Elinor Davis	Concerned Citizen	5024 Brooks Drive
Sarah Ellzey	Concerned Citizen	1825 Washington Avenue
Luann Jennings	Concerned Citizen	2107 Gorman Avenue
Jerri Love	Concerned Citizen	104 Turtle Creek Road
Tabitha Wilson	Concerned Citizen	
Jeremy Vickers, Ph.D.	Associate Vice President External Affairs	Baylor University
Libby Bellinger	Concerned Citizen	
Rev. Dee Dee Carson	Associate Pastor	First Presbyterian Church
Cora Hill	Film and Digital Media Production	Baylor University
Jackie Lott	Concerned Citizen	
Angela Tekell	School Board Trustee	Waco ISD
Lynn Bulmahn	Concerned Citizen	5213 Lake Highlands Drive
Amy Sielaff	1 st Grade Teacher	Rapaport Academy
Mark Stine	Director of Legislative Affairs	Bike Texas
Andrea Zimmerman	Concerned Citizen	
Jessica LiBassi, BSN, RNC-NIC	Concerned Citizen	
Amy Stell	Concerned Citizen	
Marie K. Allen	Volunteer	Hearts on Wheels

BILL FLORES

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
17th District of Texas

LEGISLATIVE MAIL

2200 Pennsylvania Plaza, Suite 3000
Washington, DC 20565
Phone: (202) 225-6116
Fax: (202) 225-6780
Email: Flores@flores.house.gov

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
Subcommittee on
Conservation and Forestry
Environment and
Infrastructure
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
17th District of Texas
WASHINGTON, DC 20540

**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4317**

July 3, 2019

Mr. Attila Bality
Acting Program Manager
U.S. Department of Interior
National Parks Service

Dear Mr. Bality:

As the Representative of the 17th Congressional District of Texas, I am pleased to write in strong support for the City of Waco's application to the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program. The Bosque River Trail Corridor project will greatly contribute to Waco's objective of providing more opportunities for individuals and families to enjoy healthy outdoor activities.

Waco has demonstrated a coordinated effort to preserve public access to nature through the trails system along the Brazos and Bosque rivers. The 2015 designation of the Waco Mammoth National Monument, cooperatively managed by the National Park Service, the City of Waco, and Baylor University, opened even more opportunities for the community and visitors to learn about our natural history. The Waco Mammoth National Monument Strategic Plan strives to create new opportunities to experience and access the park through additional trails and river access.

The Bosque River Trail Corridor project achieves this goal as an expansion of Waco's scenic Metropolitan Trail System. Waco recently completed a 6-mile Brazos Riverwalk loop along the Brazos River through downtown Waco, connecting it to Cameron Park's 20-mile rustic trail system. This project will continue the effort upstream, along the banks of the Bosque River, providing connectivity from key Waco destinations to the Mammoth National Monument.

Outdoor activities promoting exercise and healthy living are vital to building communities where our families can grow and flourish. I look forward to the success of this project and the new opportunities it will provide residents and visitors to Waco to experience the area's natural beauty. Thank you for your consideration of the application submitted by the City of Waco. Please contact me at (202) 225-6105 if you have any questions or need additional information.

With great respect,



Bill Flores
Member of Congress
17th District of Texas

WACO
400 Adams Avenue, Suite 302
Waco, TX 76701
Phone: (202) 225-6116
Fax: (202) 225-6780

BEVERLY HILLS OFFICE
600 Beverly Hills Drive, Suite 400
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
Phone: (310) 354-4001
Fax: (310) 354-4000

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1420 Rayburn / Room 3000
Austin, TX 78720
Phone: (202) 225-2299
Fax: (202) 225-6111

The Senate of The State of Texas

CHAIRMAN
NATURAL RESOURCES &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



FINANCE
SOUTH AUSTIN

BRIAN BIRDWELL

July 29, 2019

TA/SRTS Program Manager
c/o Bonnie Sherman
TxDOT-Public Transportation Division
125 E. 11th Street
Austin, TX 78701

RE: Letter/Recognition for the federally funded TxDOT Safe Routes to School Program and the Transportation Alternative Program.

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to express my support for the City of Waco's endeavor to seek federal grant funding distributed by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for the Safe Routes to School Program and the Transportation Alternative Program. The federal grant money would fund new local transportation infrastructure that would improve the safety of Waco's pedestrians and cyclists, specifically those who are below high school age.

I strongly urge you to fund these projects with the federal grant money administered by TxDOT for the Safe Routes to School Program and the Transportation Alternative Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Birdwell".

Brian Birdwell
Senate District 22





TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
KYLE KACAL
DISTRICT 12

July 12, 2019

Eric L. Gleason
Director of Public Transportation
Texas Department of Transportation
125 E. 11th Street, Austin, TX 78701

Dear Mr. Gleason:

I write to you today to express my strong support for the City of Waco's applications submitted under the Texas Department of Transportation's 2019 Call for Projects under both the Safe Routes to School Program and the Transportation Alternatives Program.

The city of Waco has seen tremendous economic and population growth in recent years, and that growth has led to many challenges that the City of Waco has taken head-on, particularly as they pertain to infrastructure and transportation. These nine projects throughout the city represent vital investments as they will improve safety for all citizens of Waco, especially children who are still in school. As you know, one injury or one loss of life is too many, and we must do everything we can to protect Texans on and around the road.

I want to thank you for your thoughtful consideration of these projects. I am grateful for your leadership and your hard work to keep Texas moving safely. If I can ever be helpful, or if I can answer any additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at (512) 463-0412.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Kyle Kacal", written over a horizontal line.

Kyle Kacal
State Representative



Waco Metropolitan Area Active Transportation Plan

**Adopted by the Waco MPO Policy Board: July 18, 2019
Resolution 2019-5**



Waco Metropolitan Planning Organization

This document was prepared and published by the Waco Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and is prepared in cooperation with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), the Waco Transit System, and local governments in the Metropolitan Planning Area. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the official view or policies of these agencies.

4.1.2. Midway Independent School District

Midway Independent School District (Midway ISD) serves part of the city of Waco, the neighboring communities of Woodway, Hewitt, Speegleville, plus parts of McGregor, Lorena and Crawford. Midway ISD enrolls approximately 7,800 students at six elementary schools, two intermediate schools, one middle school, one high school, and one alternative school. According to Midway ISD administrators, some Midway High School students walk to school. If high school students live over 2 miles from campus they are eligible to take the school bus. After school, it's common for high school students to walk from campus to fast-food restaurants along Hewitt Dr. Elementary school students are not bused unless they have special needs. Important active transportation priorities for Midway ISD include pedestrian and bicycle accommodations in the vicinity of, and connections between, the various school campuses in the school district. Students and families at Hewitt Elementary School have expressed interest in wanting to walk to school. Upcoming roadway improvement projects on Ritchie Rd, Speegleville Rd, and Mars Dr, should include sidewalks and bike lanes. Additionally, sidewalks are needed on Oak Road from the residential area to at least Queen Elizabeth Dr. Gap closure sidewalk improvements are needed along Woodgate Dr in the vicinity of Woodgate Intermediate School, from the intersection of Woodgate Dr and Chapel Rd to Panther Way. Sidewalk gap closure is also needed along Chapel Rd from Ritchie Rd to Woodgate Dr. These sidewalks would serve Woodgate Elementary School and other community gathering places like St. Jerome's Church. Buffered bike lanes and sidewalk should continue on Panther Way into Hewitt city limits. Cities such as Hewitt and Waco should look for opportunities to strengthen their sidewalk ordinances.

4.1.5. City of Hewitt

The city of Hewitt has a population of approximately 14,300 people and encompasses 6.86 square miles. It is located south of Waco immediately west of IH-35. Hewitt is mostly residential with a commercial corridor primarily along Hewitt Drive. City services such as the public library and City Hall are located on Ritchie Rd near Hewitt Dr. Several Midway ISD schools are located in city limits. Desired active transportation projects in Hewitt include connections between existing and future school campuses, public parks, and along Castleman Creek. For example, the city envisions an off-street shared-use path beginning at the southwestern city limits (near Old Temple Rd, Warren Park, and the site of a future Midway ISD school campus), and extending up along Castleman Creek to Castleman Creek Elementary School, Hewitt Park, and another future Midway ISD campus near Ritchie Rd. A connecting sidewalk could also be installed along Spring Valley Rd to Val Highland Dr, which would connect Spring Valley Elementary School to this active transportation corridor. Panther Way (in Waco city limits) has sidewalks on both sides of the street and buffered bike lanes extending from Ritchie Rd to the Hewitt city limits. Hewitt desires to continue the sidewalk and buffered bike lanes to Hewitt Dr. The buffered bike lane may need to transition to a shared lane as it approaches the intersection at Hewitt Dr. From Hewitt Dr, the sidewalk would be extended north along the east side (adjacent to Midway Middle School) to connect to a future city of Waco shared-use path along the south side of Mars Dr. Sidewalk gap closure is needed along the west side of Hewitt Dr between Park Place Dr and Ritchie Rd, and again from Chama Dr to Hewitt city limits north of Mars Dr. Sidewalks should also be installed along Warren Street from Ritchie Rd to 1st Street. Hewitt residents and visitors ride bikes for transportation and recreation. Potential bike routes include Old Temple Rd, 1st Street, Warren Street, and Bagby Ave. This route could then connect to the city of Waco's future shared-use path along Ritchie Rd, and existing/proposed buffered bike lanes on Panther Way.



May 8, 2019

Ms. Bonnie Sherman
Statewide Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinator, Public Transportation Division
Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)
125 E. 11th Street
Austin, TX 78701

Re: BikeTexas Strong Support for City of Waco Grant Application for Safe Routes to School
Funding under the February, 2019 Request for Proposals

Dear Ms. Sherman,

Since 1991, BikeTexas has been the statewide non-profit organization promoting bicycle and pedestrian safety for Texans of all ages, with a special emphasis on school children. Since 1999, BikeTexas has worked to establish the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program in Texas and nationally, and has conducted a number of programs in school children bicycle and pedestrian safety, funded by TxDOT, the U.S. Department of Education, and other sources.

BikeTexas has worked closely with public officials and private citizens in Waco for many years. Waco has developed and connected key elements that contribute to its emergence as a walking and bicycling community: a historic river greenbelt trail, an extensive world-class mountain bike trail network, pathways on a major university campus, and an emerging system of bike lanes.

It is natural for the City of Waco to now focus on basic neighborhood biking and walking needs for children to and from school. We have reviewed the main elements of the nine school infrastructure projects developed by Mr. Jim Reed, Capital Improvement Manager, City of Waco. BikeTexas has no doubt of the commitment and ability of the Waco community to wisely use SRTS funds to achieve this vision.

While it is making decisions on the disbursement of these important SRTS funds, BikeTexas urges the TxDOT SRTS review committee to carefully consider the merits of these school projects, as proposed by the City of Waco to meet the immediate needs of neighborhood children, and to contribute to a safe and comfortable city-wide system for biking and walking.

Sincerely,

Robin Stallings
Executive Director

cc: Mr. Jim Reed, City of Waco, Waco Texas

Advancing Bicycle Access, Safety, and Education since 1991

3301 E 5th St Suite B, Austin, TX 78702 • 512-476-RIDE (7433) • mail@biketexas.org • www.BikeTexas.org



Texas Department of Transportation

125 EAST 11TH STREET | AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-2483 | (512) 463-8588 | WWW.TXDOT.GOV

July 17, 2019

Jim Reed
City of Waco
415 Franklin Avenue
Waco, Texas 76701

RE: TxDOT Letter of Consent for proposed TA/SRTS project within or affecting state right-of-way

Dear Mr. Reed:

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) offers no objection to *City of Waco's* nomination of the *Waco TA Market East Waco Rails to Trails Connection* project in TxDOT's 2019 *Transportation Alternatives/Safe Routes to Schools (TA/SRTS) Call for Projects*. The project shall construct an off road 12ft. wide shared use path that will tie into FM 933. If selected for TA or SRTS funding, the project must be developed in accordance with TxDOT procedures and meet state and federal guidelines. Final project plans must be reviewed and approved by TxDOT.

If selected for funding, the *City of Waco* will be required to commit to the project's development, implementation, construction, maintenance, management, and financing by executing an Advance Funding Agreement with TxDOT. The *City of Waco* will be responsible for maintaining the completed improvements for a period of time commensurate with the federal investment as outlined in TxDOT 2019 TA/SRTS Program Guide. It may be necessary to execute or update a *Municipal Maintenance Agreement or Advance Funding Agreement for Voluntary Maintenance By a Local Government (On System)* with TxDOT.

Thank you for coordinating with our office, TxDOT will continue to work with the *City of Waco* should the project receive funding. Please continue to coordinate with our staff as this project moves forward. Should you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact Katelyn Kasberg or Erika Kunkel, TxDOT Waco District TA/SRTS Coordinators at 254-867-2733 or 254-867-2728.

Sincerely,

Stan Swiatek, P.E.
District Engineer
Waco District

Cc: Clayton Zacha, P.E., McLennan County Area Engineer
Katelyn Kasberg, District TA/SRTS Coordinator
Erika Kunkel, District TA/SRTS Coordinator

OUR GOALS

MAINTAIN A SAFE SYSTEM • ADDRESS CONGESTION • CONNECT TEXAS COMMUNITIES • BEST IN CLASS STATE AGENCY

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