

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE October 23, 2015

TO The Honorable Members of the Transportation and Trinity River Project Committee: Lee M. Kleinman (Chair), Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Erik Wilson (Vice Chair), Sandy Greyson, Mayor Pro Tem Monica R. Alonzo, Adam Medrano, and Casey Thomas II

SUBJECT **Interim Report on Trinity Parkway Design Charrette**

On Monday, October 26, 2015 you will be briefed on the Interim Report on Trinity Parkway Design Charrette. The briefing materials are attached for your review.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark McDaniel'.

Mark McDaniel  
Assistant City Manager

## Attachment

c: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager  
Warren M. S. Ernst, City Attorney  
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor  
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary  
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge  
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager

Eric D. Campbell, Assistant City Manager  
Jill A. Jordan, Assistant City Manager  
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager  
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer  
Sana Syed, Public Information Officer  
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Council Office

# INTERIM REPORT ON TRINITY PARKWAY DESIGN CHARRETTE



**Transportation and Trinity River Project Committee**

**Monday, October 26, 2015**



# CHARGE

- **Trinity Parkway Design Charrette Report identified 20 guiding principles (Ideas) that were intended to:** *create a more gentle road that includes an experience more compatible with the natural resources and recreational opportunity within the Dallas Floodway*
- **Following presentation of the Report, the City Council directed the City Manager to:** *determine if the 20 Ideas included in the report can be achieved within the context of current Record of Decisions and approved Environmental Impact Statements*

# PREPARATION

- **Local, regional, state and federal partners (NTTA, TxDOT, NCTCOG, USACE and FHWA):** met during the summer to review the Ideas identified in the Report
- **Disciplines required:** identified for additional expertise on the technical team
- **Local and national experts:** identified by the City and joined the technical team through contracts with the City and NTTA (and later The Trinity Trust for interface with the Park)

# WORK TO DATE

- **The technical team has:**
  - ✓ **Met with Dream Team representatives to better understand the Ideas included in the Report** (vision, technical scope and compatibility with current federal approvals were all discussed)
  - ✓ **Categorized ideas based on degree of difficulty** (with regard to implementing within existing regulatory approvals and partnerships)
  - ✓ **Made significant progress toward incorporating Ideas into design to allow for meaningful policy decisions which may impact feasibility, schedule and costs** (and will continue into December, with a final report out in January)

# OVERVIEW OF 20 IDEAS – CONFIRMATIONS

*Confirmation Ideas: have previously been identified in either the Trinity Parkway or Dallas Floodway Project*

	Description	Doable	More Discussion	Challenging	Expertise Needed	Design Needed	Comment
Confirmation 1	Roadway and <b>land bench</b> elevations, corridor and end <b>connections to highway</b> system	X					Confirmed
Confirmation 2	<b>Pedestrian links</b> across Parkway, 15 links over and under approximately 1/4 mile spacing	X					Confirmed
Confirmation 3	Top of levee pedestrian and bikeway paths	X				X	Confirmed
Confirmation 4	Service roads/bikeway/ pedestrian paths around Parkway	X				X	Confirmed

# OVERVIEW 20 IDEAS – VARIATIONS

*Variation Ideas: present an opportunity to create a different experience in a phased approach*

	Description	Doable	More Discussion	Challenging	Expertise Needed	Design Needed	Comment
Variation 1	Only build a <b>4 lane road</b> now-fit the lanes (narrower lanes/grass shoulders) meandering in existing corridor	X				X	Design being refined
Variation 2	Build <b>fewer ramps</b> ; 2 sets of ramps accessing inner City for foreseeable future (1 on/off pair at N end near medical district and 1 on/off pair at S end at Cedar Crest Bridge)	X					Design being refined
Variation 3	<b>Ban trucks</b> except for emergencies	X					Potential policy decision

# OVERVIEW 20 IDEAS – VARIATIONS (CONTINUED)

*Variation Ideas: present an opportunity to create a different experience in a phased approach*

	Description	Doable	More Discussion	Challenging	Expertise Needed	Design Needed	Comment
Variation 4	Add a <b>u-turn option</b> within the Parkway corridor at mid-point	X				X	Design options being refined
Variation 5	Allow <b>on street parking</b> along the Parkway on weekends, slow periods and/or special events		X				Potential policy decision



# OVERVIEW 20 IDEAS – DESIGN REFINEMENTS

*Design Refinement Ideas: are modifications to existing designs that may be completed in a phased approach*

	Description	Doable	More Discussion	Challenging	Expertise Needed	Design Needed	Comment
Design Refinement 1	<b>Meander Parkway</b> within approved road corridor so future road sections can be finished now as <b>pull off parking areas</b> on both sides of road for park access and scenic overviews		X			X	Design being refined
Design Refinement 2	Design refinement of <b>landscape</b> configuration to add a consistent <b>linear tree pattern</b> (20'-40' centers) along the Parkway for character and beauty making a "tree lined" Parkway		X		X	X	Design of options underway
Design Refinement 3	Design refinement of <b>landscape</b> configuration to add <b>character, interest and strong ecological strategy</b> at land bench edges and outfall areas	X			X		Design of options underway

# OVERVIEW 20 IDEAS – DESIGN REFINEMENTS (CONTINUED)

*Design Refinement Ideas: are modifications to existing designs that may be completed in a phased approach*

	Description	Doable	More Discussion	Challenging	Expertise Needed	Design Needed	Comment
Design Refinement 4	Design <b>refinement of flood protection barrier</b> with landscape, art, wall treatments and hillocks or berms to eliminate blank walls and secure more pervasive views of park (character, interest, ecological strategy)				X		Design of options underway, with modeling on-going
Design Refinement 5	Design refinement to <b>exploit 5 "Wow" views</b> over Parkway		X		X	X	Design being refined
Design Refinement 6	Allow <b>toll free park use</b> from the Parkway	X					Potential policy decision
Design Refinement 7	<b>Local transit stops</b> to enhance user access over Parkway (ex: streetcar stop on Houston Bridge, additional stops on Riverfront)	X					Design of options underway

# OVERVIEW 20 IDEAS – DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

*Development Strategy Ideas: are considerations that address how the improvements to the Trinity Corridor can influence neighborhoods and commercial areas outside the levees or vice versa*

	Description	Doable	More Discussion	Challenging	Expertise Needed	Design Needed	Comment
Development Strategy 1	For Reunion/Commerce and Mixmaster District, to catalyze development as close to park as possible	X					Being addressed as part of Park planning effort, to include an econ. dev. strategy
Development Strategy 2	For Design District, to facilitate incremental development w/regular and attractive pedestrian connections	X					Design of options underway, will continue with Park planning
Development Strategy 3	South Side District, to facilitate enhancing "sump" water bodies as primary amenities (this is less about Parkway and more about Park improvements)	X					Being addressed as part of Park planning effort, to include an econ. dev. strategy

# OVERVIEW 20 IDEAS – DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES (CONTINUED)

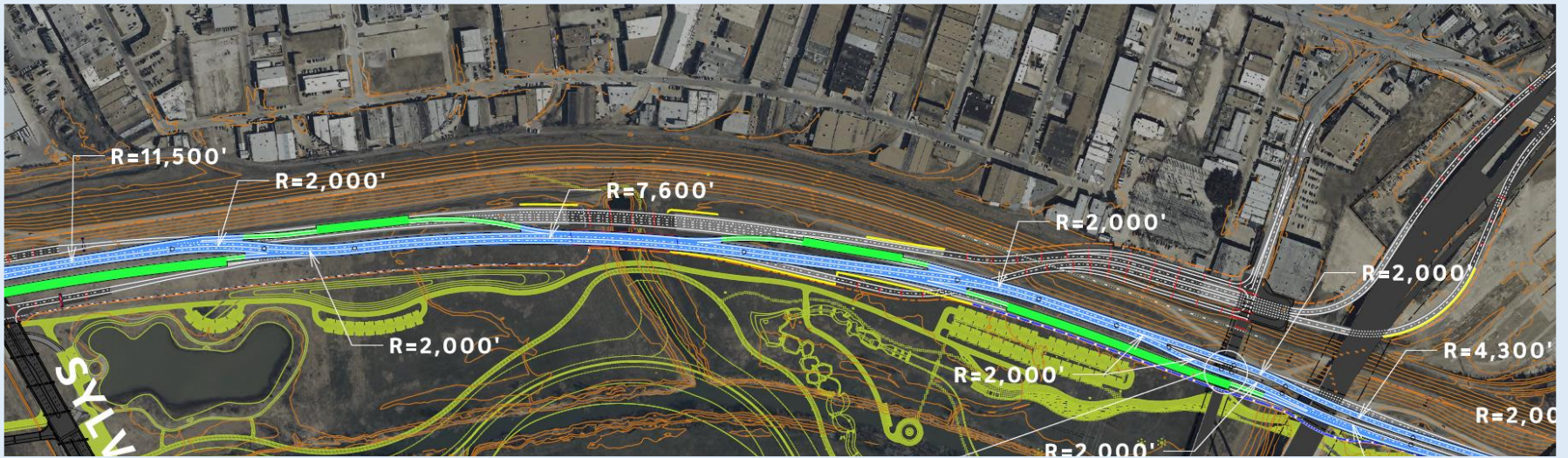
*Development Strategy Ideas: are considerations that address how the improvements to the Trinity Corridor can influence neighborhoods and commercial areas outside the levees or vice versa*

	Description	Doable	More Discussion	Challenging	Expertise Needed	Design Needed	Comment
Development Strategy 4	For districts N and S ends of Parkway (before joining existing highway system) build over or under elevations within alignment for development (spurs private development that augments neighborhoods)	X					Design of options underway, will continue with Park planning

# EXAMPLES OF WORK UNDERWAY

Team has been refining the roadway configuration to determine **meander opportunities, parking options, lane widths/roadway sections, interchange variations, and u-turn alternatives**

- Clarification was received from Dream Team that intention was to meander within existing “road corridor” or the areas originally intended to have concrete for lanes and shoulders
- Parking pull out locations have begun to be identified with further refinement to include potential access to existing and planned floodway park features



**Working product in draft form representing snapshot of meandering, parking opportunities and transition from structure to bench**

# EXAMPLES OF UPCOMING WORK

**Hydraulic modeling** to review geomorphology and conditions for low flow, normal flow and flooding flow levels given design options for various design features

- Information assists with ecological strategy for both Parkway and Park
- Ensures that all US Army Corps of Engineers and City regulatory requirements for flood conveyance and post flooding challenges are part of the strategy

**Design of plantings, alternatives to ensuring 100 year flood protection, and connections/access**



# SCHEDULE REMAINING

- The Parkway is progressing ahead of the review of the Park, but technical team is **closely reviewing interface and potential impacts to the Park**
- **October – December:** refinement and design of typical sections will be completed
  - Will include preliminary reviews at a very high level among all partners to better inform policy choices that may occur
- **January:** presentation of recommended refinements and design
  - Recommended action will be requested prior to formal review by regulatory agencies



# PLANNING FOR THE PARK CHARRETTE



# PARK PLANNING DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- Park design will not challenge **Parkway Charrette** ideas
- Design will not start from scratch – the **Balanced Vision Plan** will be used as a foundation
- The end product and design effort will **move project to implementation** sooner, rather than later
- **Public input** will influence design
- Park planning will include an **economic development strategy**
- Design will place a priority on **flood management/control**
- Design will be **sustainable** (maintenance and financing)
- Design will honor **the nature of the river** and ecology

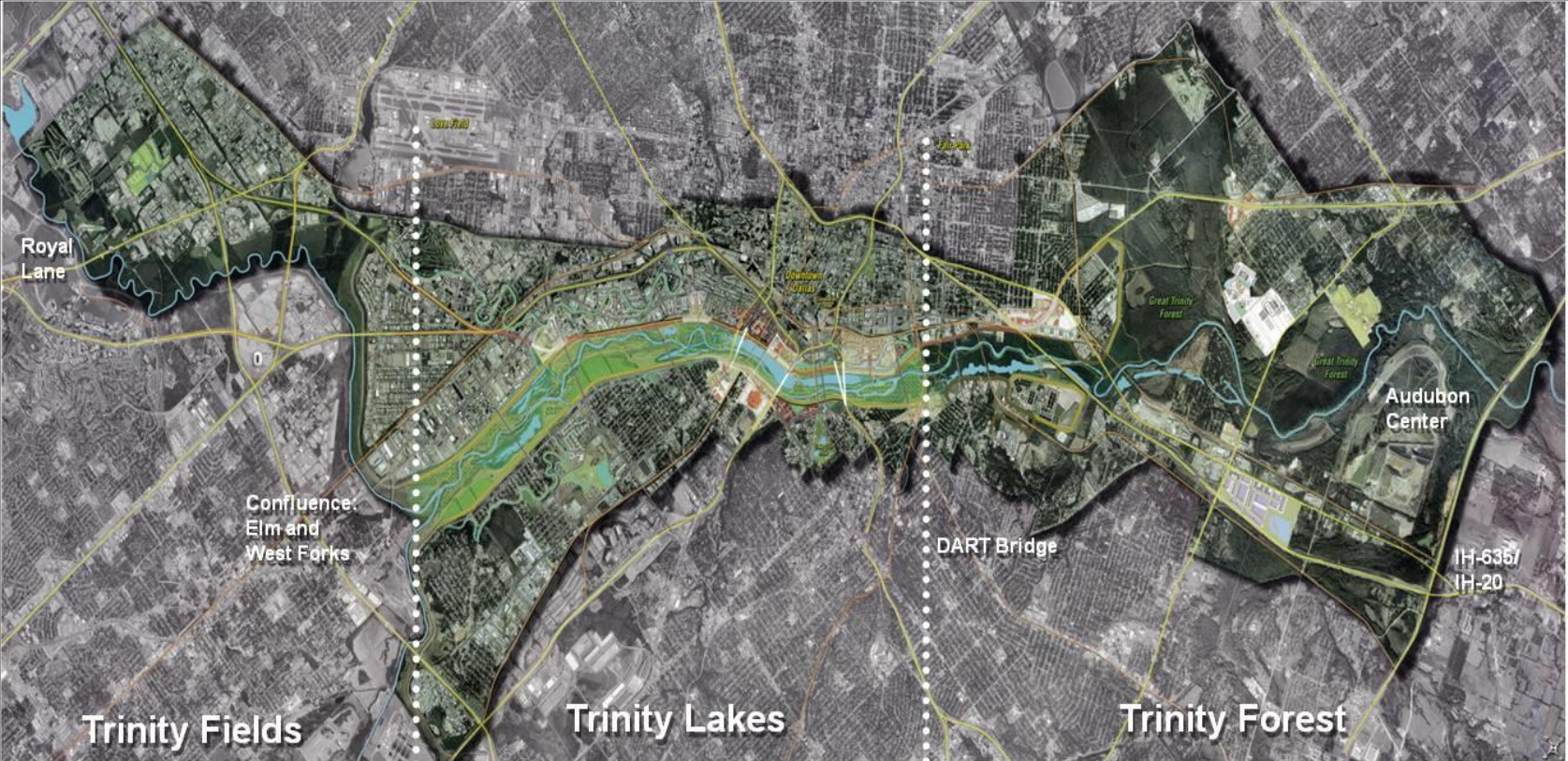
# PARK PLANNING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

- **Before:** collection and aggregation of existing public input to date, as well as use of social media and events adjacent to the river to gather more input and raise awareness (through January)
- **During:** mid-charrette open house in late January, early February for public to view and comment on early charrette design work
- **After:** extensive public engagement through Summer, 2016 (planning underway)

New

*Note: outreach and engagement will be conducted in multiple languages through a variety of communications.*

# QUESTIONS/COMMENTS





# APPENDIX



## Parkway Public Meetings/Forums

- ▶ In Coordination with the Mayor's Office, Councilmembers and Various Chambers of Commerce and Neighborhood Associations, public meetings held between May and July, 2015
- ▶ Input Received
  - ▶ 13 Public Meetings/Forums
  - ▶ Online Comment Opportunity
  - ▶ Over 200 written and electronic comment cards received

## Parkway Technical Committee

- ▶ Pre-planning meetings with federal, state and local partners conducted in June - August, 2015
- ▶ Monthly work sessions and meetings planned through December, 2015
  
- ▶ Team includes City staff and:
  - ▶ Federal, state and local partners
    - ▶ North Central Texas Council of Governments
    - ▶ North Texas Tollway Authority
    - ▶ Texas Department of Transportation
    - ▶ Federal Highway Administration
    - ▶ US Army Corps of Engineers
  - ▶ Local and national professionals

## Local Professional Expertise

- Brent Brown, [bc], Planning & Urban Design
- Larry Good, Good Fulton Farrell, Planning & Urban Design
- Elissa Hoagland Izmailyan, HR&A, Economic Development
- Keith Manoy, Transportation Planning
- Alex Martinez, Gresham, Smith & Partners, Hydrology
- Luis Salcedo, Salcedo Engineering, Civil Engineering
- Halff & Associates, Hydrology & Roadway Design
- HNTB Engineering, Geotech & Civil Engineering



## National Professional Expertise

- John Alschuler, HR&A, Economic Development
- Larry Beasley, Beasley & Associates, Planning & Urban Design
- Zabe Bent, Nelson Nygaard, Mobility Planning
- Tim Dekker, Limnotech, Hydrology
- Alex Krieger, NBBJ, Planning & Urban Design
- Alan Mountjoy, NBBJ, Planning & Urban Design
- Liz Silver, MVVA, Landscape Architecture
- Michael Van Valkenburgh, MVVA, Landscape Architecture
- Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center, Ecology & Landscape Architecture

## Advisors to Parkway Technical Committee

- ▶ Councilmember Sandy Greyson and Jere Thompson

## Parkway Oversight Committee

- ▶ City Council Transportation and Trinity River Project Committee Members

## Progressing the Park

- ▶ As a result of the Mayor's fund raising efforts, we have the opportunity to advance planning and design for the Trinity Urban Park
- ▶ The Park is a "client" for the Parkway and Floodway - we need to ensure a strong interface
- ▶ Park planning, including how the Park interfaces with the Parkway and surrounding neighborhoods, will be privately sponsored by the Trinity Trust Foundation (made possible by contributions from Deedie and Rusty Rose)

## Parkway:

### Anticipated Next Steps (contingent upon final report and funding)

- ▶ Through Winter, 2017/2018 - Parkway Design
- ▶ Through Fall, 2018 - Final Approvals and Letting
- ▶ Through Winter, 2021/2022 - Construction

## Park:

### Anticipated Next Steps (contingent upon scope and funding)

- ▶ Through Winter, 2016 - Phase I Urban Lakes Construction
- ▶ Through Winter, 2016 - Phase I Park Design
- ▶ Through Winter, 2017 - Final Approvals and Letting
- ▶ Through Fall, 2018 - Park Construction