

PARK
 **Springs**
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 1008
MANOR, TEXAS 78653
parkspringsna.org

June 17, 2011

Travis County Citizens Bond Advisory Committee
c/o Travis County Department of Transportation and Natural Resources
411 West 13th St.
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Committee members:

I am writing on behalf of the board of the Park Springs Neighborhood Association to express our strong support for several projects you are considering which are important to our neighborhood. **Blake Manor Rd, FM 973-Blake Manor Connector and Wildhorse Connector** are really one project, essential to the safety and adequacy of infrastructure because TxDot has failed to fund the "FM 973 bypass" around Manor. Blake Manor Rd. is unsafe (recent accidents have included a fatality; it has no sidewalks –even near the existing Blake Manor Elementary School). It is also badly in need of repair; the county scheduled it for reconstruction in 2011 but no reconstruction has yet been done. Manor ISD has purchased land and plans to build a new middle school/high school complex at the corner of Blake Manor and Hog Eye. There is no pedestrian or bicycle access to East Metro Park. When already-approved developments such as Whisper Valley, Eastwood and Wolfe are built, increased traffic will overwhelm already unsafe and inadequate roads; therefore this combination is essential. We also believe that the developers (as we have told them and the Commissioners Court) should participate in a regional public-private partnership to provide funds for these roads which support their developments.

Old Highway 20 Bridge #155 should have been widened and improved years ago. Both ESD #12 and Manor ISD transportation hub are located less than 1 mile east of this single-lane bridge; emergency vehicles and school busses desperately need this improvement for the safety of residents and school children.

Conservation Easements are needed in order to preserve open space and historical heritage. Our neighborhood is in the "Desired Development Area", we believe it is essential to maintain open space protecting the Wilbarger and Gilleland Creek watersheds. At a very low cost (given the leveraging of county/federal/foundation funding), these easements will preserve open space protecting the county from "urban sprawl" at a relatively low cost.

Taylor Lane from at least future Braker to Blake Manor should be included because it is an important feeder to the Blake Manor/Wildhorse projects mentioned above, and is a safety exit for the Whisper Valley development in case of a flood event. Taylor Lane needs reconstruction; the county has recently done some "patch" work; but more improvement is needed in order to provide adequate access for already-approved development projects such as Whisper Valley.

Tom West
Secretary