Livable Oak Hill
A Vision to Reconnect the Oak Hill Community
What's at Stake?

TxDOT proposal for an elevated, 12 lane highway through the heart of Oak Hill would permanently divide the community, isolate or eliminate numerous historic resources, entomb the ecologically vibrant Williamson Creek, eliminate dozens of heritage trees, potentially increase flooding, and impact water quality in the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone and the Barton Creek watershed.

The proposal is in conflict with city and community goals of reducing single occupancy vehicle dependency, creating a “compact and connected” city, and reducing development’s impact on climate and the environment. While TxDOT insists the road expansion is necessary to meet demand, study after study has shown that simply increasing road capacity has limited effect on reducing traffic, and can often increase traffic by inducing more road demand and suppressing transportation alternatives.

TxDOT’s proposal is also extremely costly, both in time and money. According to CAMPO’s 2040 plan, the highway construction is expected to cost over $789 million, and be under construction for years. By contrast, both the City of Austin’s bicycle ($161 million) and sidewalk ($250 million) masterplans could be fully built and implemented with half of the money to construct 4.5 miles of highway. Without the costly overpasses and frontage roads, the Livable Oak Hill proposal would be cheaper and more expedient than TxDot’s plan.
Historic Resources:
- Oak Hill School
- Patton-Enoch House
- J.A. Patton Store
- State Park Site
- Stake Highway Marker
- Patton Farmstead
- Oak Hill Cemetery
- Quarry Bluffs

Heritage Trees:
- Tanner’s Grove
- Beckett’s Grove
- Hampton Grove
- Grandmother
- Nieces
- Taco Bell Oak

TxDOT’s Highway would Impact:
- Williamson Creek water quality
- Creek Erosion and Flooding
- Edwards Aquifer Recharge zone
- Barton Creek Watershed
- Air Quality
- Noise Pollution
- Heat Island Effect
- Climate Pollution
- Public Health
- Decreased property values
- Decreased local connectivity

Section of Williamson Creek to be entombed by Highway has water running year round

Livable Oak Hill Parkway Footprint

Illustration Credit: Fix290
Save Oak Hill has developed an alternative to TxDOT’s proposal for an elevated, 12-lane highway. Livable Oak Hill is a concept plan that values quality of life, local heritage and the environment over vehicle throughput, without sacrificing regional connectivity. This is achieved through meaningful improvements to local mobility, while laying the groundwork for reestablishing Oak Hill as an accessible community that is attractive to thoughtful development.

Livable Oak Hill reconnects local neighborhoods, schools and commercial areas with a grid network including the parkway, surface roads and trails. Crucially, the proposed Oak Hills Boulevard enables local traffic to bypass the parkway and access local employment, education and recreation destinations without adding to parkway congestion. Additionally, the proposed Williamson Creek Trail would create safe and direct active transportation options for Oak Hill residents, away from high emission roadways and without dangerous highway crossings.
By substituting frontage roads with local circulating roads and a truly accessible active transportation network, the proposal creates space for the establishment of the Oak Hill Greenbelt Park. The park would provide valuable green space for an area currently deemed parkland deficient, while preserving the ecological function of Williamson Creek by providing a water quality buffer around the parkway.

Additionally, the grid network would create opportunities for commercial development at the human scale. Specifically, the concept proposes the redevelopment of “Oak Hill Old Town,” taking advantage of the concentration of historic buildings near Patton Ranch Road. Additionally, redevelopment of the ‘Y’ shopping center could include walkable public spaces, accessible by local roads and trails.
Created for Save Oak Hill by
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Institutional Support Provided by
The Wimberley Valley Watershed Association