

Travis County 2005 Bond Public Hearing • Speaker Summary
Thursday, July 28, 2005 • Baty Elementary School Cafeteria

NAME	COMMENTS
1. John Hutchinson	<p>In favor of Arterial A, requests that it be put back on the bond package. He said basically the entire bond package for Northeast Austin, that's 130 related, runs east/west. He said right now there are two arterial roads, Cameron Rd. on the west, and Harris Branch on the east that run north/south. Every single north/south corridor connects to Springdale Rd. He said we are trying to reduce future traffic in our neighborhood. He said the only sticky point concerning this road is that it has to go through 2 of Waste Management's cells, which are 9 and 10. Finally, he expressed that he has to decide if he wants to put up with traffic forever or landfills for 10/15 years. He chooses to trade the landfills for roads. Committee member Ms. Penridge asked Mr. Hutchinson to identify the area cells on the map. She also asked Mr. Hutchinson if he was referring to the landfill along Blue Goose. He responded that the landfill is BFI Landfill and it is currently applying for an expansion permit. Committee member John Hockenyos asked the expense of this particular project? Ms. Penridge answered \$18.5 million.</p>
2. Angela Michaels	<p>In favor of Walnut Creek Erosion project and Arterial A., and states that the City of Austin is planning to annex a tremendous amount of acreage from SH130 to the proposed landfill. Feels that the COA is strongly encouraging development in this area and asks the committee to put Arterial A back in the bond package.</p>
3. Joyce Thoresen	<p>Supports Arterial A, and asked the committee to restore Arterial A to the recommended bond package. She commented on a "...few misconceptions that are floating around":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) <i>The soil in the area is not suitable for road construction:</i> When engineers designed SH 130 they thought it was suitable. Arterial A is now the alignment where SH 130 was before it was moved to the east.2) <i>Arterial A will aggravate drainage problems on Walnut Creek:</i> The fact is that Arterial A will cut through 2 cells of already permitted landfill areas, thus making land filling in that area impossible.3) <i>The belief that Arterial A can be re-routed:</i> Arterial A is the only north/south arterial between Dessau and Giles. The only other north/south road is Springdale, and Springdale is a neighborhood street with driveways,

which reach the entire length of Walnut Place. The fact is that the northern part of Arterial A is in the Austin City limits and has already been dedicated. We need the southern part to connect Blue Goose to US 290.

- 4) The belief that the large meeting held in Pct. 1 on June 4 was in opposition to Arterial A is a misconception because Arterial A was not the subject of the meeting, and was not mentioned.

4. Kristina Kubeck Supports the drainage and floodplain project #6. She also supports Arterial A, and states that misleading statements have been made about this project. One such statement is that Travis County has authority to revoke landfill permits or evict them; she notes that landfills are governed by the State. She also says that funding for a north/south arterial road must be secured now, and asked the committee to include Arterial A in this bond package.
5. Glen Shield Spoke about the Slaughter Lane project that was considered for the 2001 bond program but was not included because there were plans to build a City park in its path. Since the park didn't happen, the road needs to be in this bond program and built now. He also mentioned that he read comments from the bond public meetings on-line, and didn't see mention about projects in Pct. 4. He thinks that there is a need for traffic improvements in this area, and would like for the county to help the city build parks in the south part of the county because Southeast Metro doesn't serve that area well. Ms. Penridge asked if he was referring to east or west of IH 35. Mr. Shield answered east and south of IH 35.
6. Corey Fields Supports Reimers Ranch project, and hopes that it will become the SW Metro Park.
7. Mike Blizzard Thanked the committee for the \$60 million dollar Stand-Alone proposition for natural areas calling it a really good, true and wise investment. Citizen has lived in Travis County for over 20 years, Pct. 4 for ten years, and voted for Margaret Gomez for over 10 years. He said there is evidence that making these sorts of investments actually saves money in the long run for the taxpayers. It means also getting ahead of growth in that area. Investment is needed in western Travis County, where the LCRA is now supplying central water service which will substantially increase the rate and density of growth in that area. Eventually, the density will start to impact the water quality in Lake Travis. I think the investment is worth an additional \$16 dollars a year.