

Travis County 2005 Bond Public Hearing • Speaker Summary
Thursday, August 03, 2005 • Precinct One Satellite Service Center

NAME	COMMENTS
1. Jon Klumpp	Citizen says he's not for or against Arterial "A", and asked (for the committee's consideration), has there been engineer studies to come up with this \$8 million dollar figure. He felt that the road would cost more than the projected amount because of the issue of the black clay soil they'd have to resolve first. He said the estimates on the proposed Manor airport talked about removing 20 feet of soil to get down to a stable ground to build. He said when Chimney Hill was first built; there were a lot of problems with the soil. He also said that this project will only benefit a few people but Travis County will be responsible for maintenance for many years to come. His interest is more in the upgrade of other roads, primarily Ferguson Rd.
2. Marie Ingram	Citizen is in opposition of Arterial "A" on the basis of unresolved issues and the amount of money required for the project. Commissioner's voted to oppose the landfill, but the attachment of Arterial "A" would extend the life of waste management for approximately 25 years. She said that Joe Gieselman's comments at the Commissioner's Court meeting on July 19, 2005 stated that TNR, which is the Executive Management discussed the removal of Arterial "A" from the bond package due to multiple issues related to this project. She said the minutes of that meeting are on the Internet.
3. John Hutchinson	Citizen is a resident of Walnut Place and is very passionate about the reinstatement of Arterial "A" to the 2005 bond package. He presented a map of Travis County and stated reasons why Arterial "A" should be built. He said right now all we have are two roads, Cameron Rd. on the west, and Harris Branch on the east. Seven miles between the two points may be Hwy 290, and every single North/South traveler goes through Springdale Rd. He's been fighting landfills for 10 years and should not have to decide if he wants to put up with traffic forever or landfills for another 10 to 15 years. It will be another 5 years before the opportunity comes again if it's not selected.

4. Angela Michaels	Citizen is a resident of Walnut Place and is very passionate about the reinstatement of Arterial "A" to the 2005 bond package. Says they are being buried because of current developments, and there is a tremendous amount of future developments going on. Soon the City of Austin will annex a large portion of land in their area in the near future from SH130 down to Cameron road. Arterial "A" should be intersecting at the new improvement of Hwy 290. Ms. Michaels asked everyone present, in support of Arterial "A" to raise their hands, which were approximately 13 citizens. Following a neighborhood meeting the citizen's knocked doors with petitions that were addressed to the Travis County Judge, Commissioners, and the Citizens' Bond Committee. 163 petitions were from Walnut Place and Colonial Place, Chimney Hill's had not been collected.
5. Kristina Kubeck	Citizen lives in Walnut Place on Quietie Drive, supports Drainage & Flooding, and the reinstatement of Arterial "A". Resident's back yard suffers erosion and is in danger of land sliding into Walnut creek so she's very grateful that this project was included in the package. Ms. Kubeck requests that the committee please put Arterial "A" back into the 2005 bond package. She said we desperately need a north/south road to prevent being over run by traffic from new developments. Contrary to misleading statements, Travis County has no authority to revoke landfill permits or evict them; they are governed by the TCEQ. Arterial "A" will create a buffer between the neighborhood and the landfill.
6. Jane Falkenberg	Citizen is in support of reinstatement of Arterial "A" to the bond package. Homeowner gave a mental imagery of why this road is needed. When she purchased her house in 1989, it was the most peaceful, beautiful neighborhood and not just a cookie cutter neighborhood. It is still like that, but if we don't get Arterial "A" put back into the bond package, we're in trouble. Traffic will be horrible when the development comes, however, the County came to our assistance and installed traffic calming devices, and it helped. She is mad and need help. Arterial "A" would relieve her neighborhood and make everyone happy.
7. Joyce Best	Citizen is opposed reinstating Arterial "A" to the bond package. No road in Travis County should be funded based on an agreement with a landfill that trades the road for a 25- year expansion to the detriment of thousands of residence. Since Arterial "A" may not be built for 20 years, 2005 bond money need to be spent on projects that will improve existing roads now.
8. Celia Israel	Citizen is in support of Arterial "A", which does not mean that you're also supporting landfills. It's a vote for public safety. With all of the growth, the neighborhood is being ravished so any help would be highly appreciated.

9. Trek English	<p>Citizen is in support of Arterial "A" without the expansion. It is immoral to ask neighborhoods to put up with landfills for 25 more years because we need a road. Don't know if it's the best place to put a road because there hasn't been any public meetings held. The taxpayers are asked to pay 18.5 million dollars for a 1.5 mile road without the benefit of one public meeting. We have the largest landfill in Texas, which is only 8 miles from downtown. Arterial "A" is not a road deal anymore but a landfill expansion road deal. Obviously waste management must be afraid that they are not going to get their third expansion, there were expansions in 1981, 1990, and now 2005. As long as Arterial "A" is on the package with the expansion, I will not support it.</p>
10. Dan Pyka	<p>Citizen opposes reinstatement of Arterial "A" to the bond package. First stated corrections to his misspelled name on the June 22nd minutes. Said that Arterial "A" is not going to help Chimney Hill and there's no way we can get down to Arterial "A" without getting on Hwy 290 anyway. Mr. Pyka said he was the president of the association and he hadn't heard anything about this project so the difference in the two Chimney Hills needs to be distinguished. There's Chimney Hill Town homes and Chimney Hill North. He has been a resident of Chimney Hill since 1978 before the landfills and had no input on that. He echoes what Ms. English said that there has been no public meetings, and it would be unconscionable to reinstate Arterial "A" without first having input from the community.</p>
11. Joyce Thoresen	<p>A 36 year resident of Walnut Place neighborhood requests that Arterial "A" be reinstated in the recommendations to the bond package. Citizen stated that Arterial "A" is not on their side of the tributary or the power line or pipeline. Arterial "A" was designed over 10 years ago as an alternate route to Springdale road, for years everything was in place but the funding. We were thrilled when it was in the first bond package. Some facts are that Arterial "A" will improve drainage; the northern part of Arterial "A" from Parmer Ln. to Bluegoose St., is in the Austin city limits and has already been dedicated. We need the southern part to connect Bluegoose to US 290. Arterial "A" is a road issue and a safety issue, please restore to the bond package.</p>

12. Larry Havel	A 28 year resident of Walnut Place and the treasurer of the neighborhood association, asked the committee to reconsider and recommend to the Commissioner's and Judge Biscoe that Arterial "A" be placed back on the bond issue. He asked that the committee at least let the voter's have an opportunity to vote for or against this critical issue. Traffic on Springdale Rd. is already a problem, and we know more is coming. With all the new construction north of our neighborhood, the projected traffic count is over 3000 per day, and we will lose our neighborhood as it currently exist. Mr. Havel asked Coach Davis, who is a member of the committee, how he plans to get out of his neighborhood in a few years without Arterial "A". He said the people that spoke in earlier meetings opposed to Arterial "A", does not represent the majority of our neighbors, which was identified on the petitions handed out earlier. Mr. Havel said that Arterial "A" will provide a buffer in our neighborhood and the landfills by substituting 9 & 10 to the Wylder track. The County can negotiate the Right-of-Way from waste management now, but maybe not later. Please reconsider.
13. Charlie McCabe	Citizen is a long time park and trail advocate, in support of Parks & Open Space. Citizen who works for the Austin Park's Foundation congratulated the committee on preserving the scope and the improvements proposed for parks, especially on the east side. It's great that the 3 east side destination parks are going to get sizeable infrastructure improvements. It serves a growing area. Also supports the \$60 million Stand-Alone proposal.
14. Melanie McAfee	Citizen speaks against reinstating Arterial "A", in hopes that the committee not only keep it out of the bond package, but make strong recommendations against it. The main and most important reason is because of the connection to the landfill expansion. Public private partnerships are a good way to raise needed funds, but this is one example where public debate should be mandatory. These two landfills commit a problem in the neighborhood for many years that the landfills have not been good neighbors. To put the road in the bond package means that the landfills will negotiate their contribution, but no one knows what that means. After fighting the landfills for 10 years, my educated guess is that they will donate a roadway for a massive expansion. This is not a democratic process.
15. Mark McAfee	Business owner in the Arterial "A" area, is against Arterial "A". He spoke out against Arterial "A" being on this bond package but not taking it out of the 20/30 Plan. Waste management has one of the largest fines of any landfill in Texas history, and they got it reduced by telling the TECQ that they were going to close down by the year 2013. The proposition looks like a road but it is a landfill expansion, here's the permit. Many thanks to people who have helped us in this fight, this is the latest in an ongoing series of tricks by these companies until they get what they want, which is the landfill expansion. The road is basically a bribe for the expansion.

16. Larry Beard	<p>Citizen is in support of reinstating the Decker Lane Rd. project into the bond package with a Cap. He said at a 03/21/05 meeting Mr. Gieselman said that this road will require an expansion into Wylder Track stating an estimate of \$4.9 million dollars for 3500 linear feet. He said he became concerned with that number but he's not an engineer so he won't refute that, but for the biggest bang for your buck, he has letters of support from Gary Farmer, President of Heritage Title Company Of Austin, and Sondra Creighton, Director of COA Public Works. Mr. Beard says he does not want the County's half of \$4.9 million dollars, and he is willing to cap their expenditure at \$1.5 million dollars. The pledge his company is willing to guarantee that they will not ask the County to spend over \$1.5 million dollars, so it's a very minimal contribution from the County because we think it's a private and public joint venture between the COA, Travis County and ourselves.</p>
17. Jim Carpenter	<p>Citizen is in support of Braker Lane – FM973 –Taylor Ln. He spoke of growth going East, with over 40 thousand lots in process of being planted right now. Before we have another 5- year window of opportunity on roadways, we're going to see about 20% of that on the ground. The subdivisions are being built by mega builders, which put hundreds of houses on the ground at one time in a quarter or two quarter period. This particular road is in Austin's ETJ but not the city limits, the rate of growth and the ability for developers to put down a more profitable development at a lower cost can only happen in Austin's ETJ. When we added up the total growth that's happening on this east side it represents between 10 and 18% of the total home sales market in the Austin metro area. We're looking at basically \$11.5 million dollars to build, and what we propose is better than 50/50 with the County, we propose to put the real estate into the deal, which is somewhere near \$1 million dollars. So instead of the \$8.4 million, the County's share would be roughly \$2.9 million dollars, and the developers share would be roughly \$4 million dollars, but we're only prepared to do that on a on time offer. We can build this road in a delivery time of 12 to 13 months.</p>
18. Marion Childress-Usher	<p>Citizen is against the reinstatement of Arterial "A" to the bond package as it relates to the landfills. Citizen lives in Harris Branch and says that she does not use Springdale Rd. to get to Hwy 290, and neither does she use Springdale Rd. north of Hwy 290 for any reason. Her suggestion is that the road project involving waste management be treated as a domain issue, and receive the assessed value of its' property without given additional landfill years. The area is a fast growing residential area and the presence of the landfills are hazardous on several levels, and contribute significantly to diminished clean air space and capacity.</p>

19. Clif Davis	Citizen is in support of a much larger bond package. There's \$64 million dollars worth of road projects and we've recently heard presentations that there is a lot of growth happening along SH130 and that's evident. He submits that the voter's would approve of a much larger bond package if given the opportunity as they did in the last bond election, which was about \$160 million. He's not arguing against the other projects, he's just suggesting the package be bigger. He said, along with a few other roads, Arterial "A" deserves consideration.
20. Garity Elliot	Citizen is in support of reinstating Arterial "A" to the bond package. Citizen lives on Quiette Dr., walks every morning and use to walk across Springdale Rd. but aren't able to do that anymore. She says if we don't use the opportunity now to make Arterial "A" happen many people are going to regret it. She said it is time to prepare for the arrival of the 3000 families as someone projected earlier, and feels that this road would be an asset to them. She also said that she feels that Arterial "A" would curtail the expansion of the landfills instead of increase them.
21. Janet Klots	Citizen is against the reinstatement of Arterial "A" to the bond package as it relates to the landfills. Expressed that it is a mistake to put Arterial "A" and the landfill expansion in the same thought, they should both stand on their on merits. Arterial "A" seems to be a very expensive road for what the County would be getting, so I'm not sure that it's acceptable to spend that much money on a road ever.
22. Cynthia Maynor	Citizen lives on Quiette Dr. in a home affected by the erosion problems. She is in support of reinstating Arterial "A" to the bond package, and in support, and thankful for the Walnut Creek project on the bond package. Citizen says that drivers almost have head on collisions traveling north at the Sprinkle cut-off to work. She expressed that an alternative route is really needed and we shouldn't wait until traffic increases to do something about it.