



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Richard Mendoza, P.E., Director, Public Works Department

DATE: August 6, 2018

SUBJECT: Redbud Trail / Emmett Shelton Bridge Update

This memo provides an update on progress related to the Redbud Trail/Emmett Shelton Bridge project. Given the history of this project, staff would like to clarify aspects of this project in order to ensure the Council and the community have the most accurate information.

Background

The Redbud Trail/Emmett Shelton Bridge connects Austin to West Lake Hills over Lady Bird Lake just downstream of the Tom Miller Dam. The existing bridge consists of two structures built in 1948 that are now 70 years old. The bridge is a key commuter route, serving the needs of more than 16,000 vehicles per day. While the bridge links both Austin and West Lake Hills, each side of the bridge is technically within the City of Austin's jurisdiction.

This bridge is also the only approved trucking route stipulated in an interlocal agreement between the City of West Lake Hills and the City of Austin for Ullrich Water Treatment Plant (WTP) vehicles. This makes it a key asset to providing utilities—including drinking water—to Austin residents.

These structures are insufficient for current traffic volumes for all mobility users, making them functionally obsolete. The current bridge structure is in need of replacement based on multiple safety-related factors, including overall condition of the bridge, access to Ullrich Water Treatment Plant, flood mitigation, roadway safety, and safety of people walking or biking in the area.

Project Status and Design Priorities

City staff continue to work with the design/engineering consultant to develop a conceptual plan for replacement and realignment of the bridge and portions of the roadway. As we progress through these conceptual design and engineering processes, the following aspects are being made a priority:

- Final design will maintain access to Redbud Isle from each side of river
- Safer and more direct access to Redbud Isle park
- No additional lanes added to bridge

- Mitigate potential environmental impacts
- Elevate current bridge out of the 100-year floodplain
- Improve shoulders/pathways for safer bike and pedestrian access
- Improve intersection at the Redbud Trail / Lake Austin Blvd.

Attached to this memo are the two current designs/alignments under consideration, referred to as Options 1 and 2, respectfully. Neither of the two designs/alignment options under consideration require use of private property and the City has eliminated consideration of other alternatives previously communicated to stakeholders. It's also important to note that these designs are draft and conceptual.

Next Steps

Should the City move forward with the proposed 2018 Bond, portions of those funds would be used to replace the current bridge structures. Additionally, other future funding opportunities may be available through Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) grant funding.

We will work with our consultant to continue developing the design and realignment options based on the two options still under consideration. Staff will also continue to engage with nearby stakeholders, including the University of Texas, the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), West Lake Hills and the environmental community.

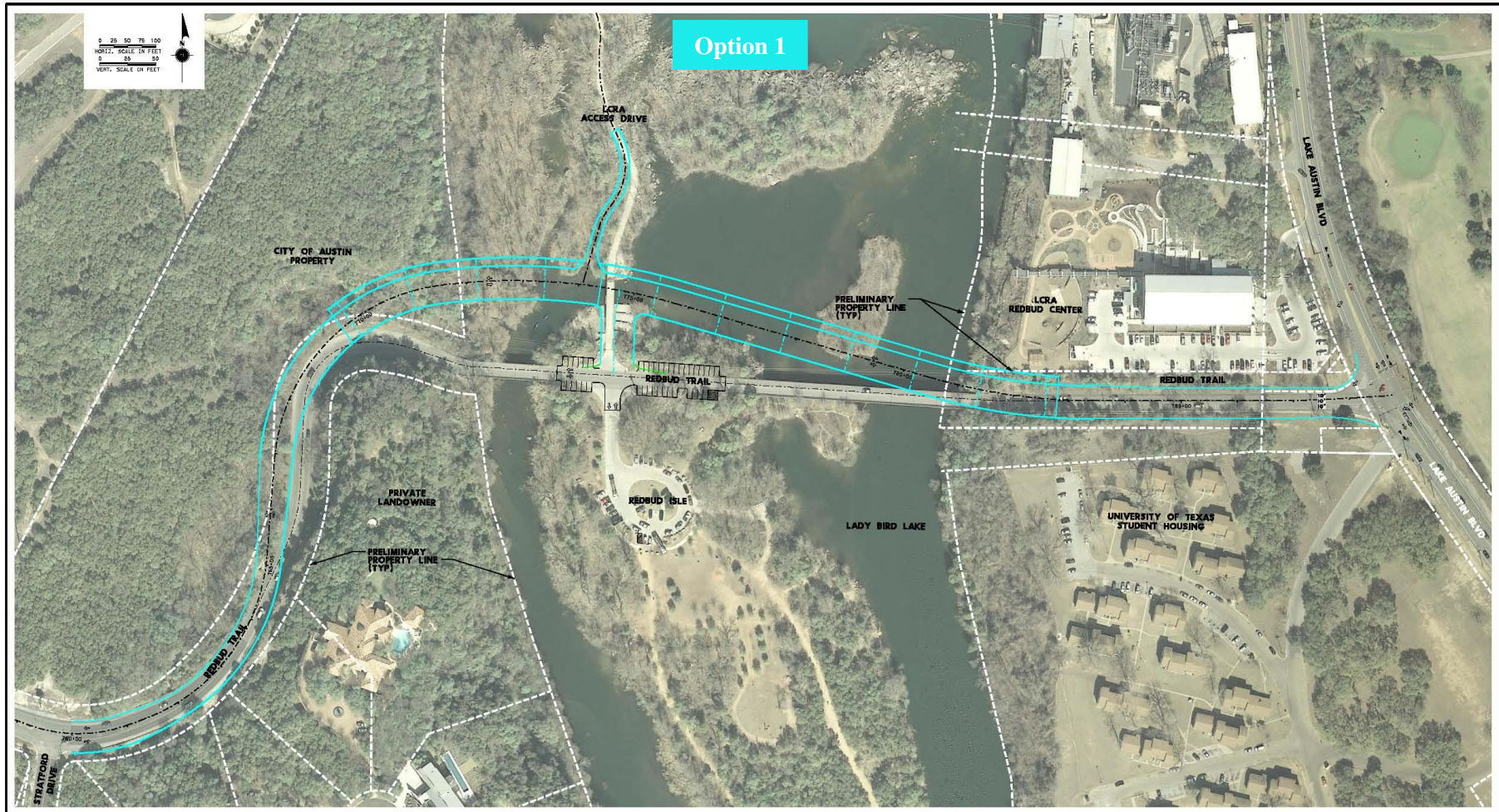
Prior to moving forward with any preferred design/alignment, staff will provide multiple opportunities for input from residents and the community.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

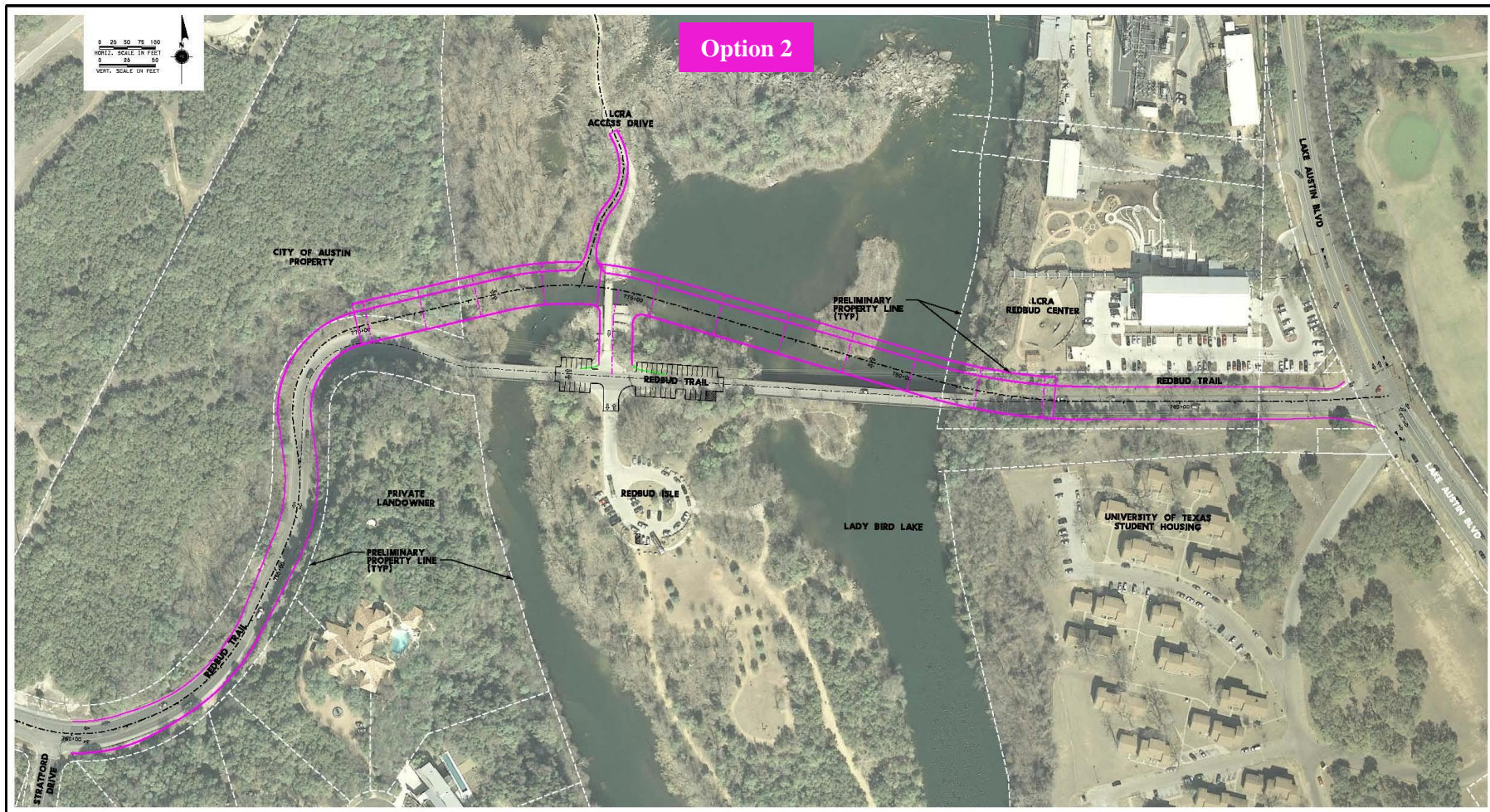
CC:

Spencer Cronk, City Manager

Robert Goode, Assistant City Manager



Option 1



Option 2