

The City of Austin is analyzing FM 1626 between Manchaca Road and I-35 in order to identify mobility and safety improvement recommendations to be included in a Preliminary Engineering Report. This is part of the 2016 Mobility Bond for substandard streets. This project will evaluate road conditions such as traffic, sidewalks, curbs, and more, to enhance mobility and safety for all road users.



Substandard streets are publicly owned roadways within the City of Austin's jurisdiction that do not meet current City of Austin requirements because they may have pavement widths that are less than 24 feet and typically lack some curb and gutter, drainage, bicycle accommodations, and sidewalk infrastructure. Currently, there are no design or construction funds allocated for FM 1626 improvements, but having a plan ready allows the City to move forward quickly, if funding is identified.

Community input helped shape the draft recommendations that will be included in the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER). Draft recommendations were presented to the community in fall 2018 and community feedback will continue to shape the planned improvements as they are further refined for the PER.

WE ASKED THE COMMUNITY TO GET INVOLVED

The FM 1626 substandard street project team hosted two public open house meetings on February 7, 2018 and September 27, 2018 to share information about the project, present proposed improvements, and collect feedback from the community. The report below summarizes input received at the September 2018 open house.

WE UNVEILED DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

At our September 27th meeting, we proposed the following safety and mobility recommendations based on feedback received from the public in early 2018.

- Roadway reconstruction
- Lane widening and addition of a two-way left turn lane
- Signal timing optimization for existing signals at S. 1st Street
- Improved sight distance on S-curve
- Installation of new signals at Wayne Riddell Loop and Old San Antonio Road
- Construction of additional turn lanes at Twin Creeks Road, Wayne Riddell Loop, S. 1st Street, Old San Antonio Road, and Farrah Lane
- New 10 foot shared-use path on both sides of FM 1626
- Improved drainage
- Addition of new trees

WHAT WE HEARD

A survey was developed in English and Spanish to collect feedback from the community about draft recommendations to FM 1626. **Two hundred seventy-two responses were collected during the input period.** Themes identified in these responses are listed below:

When asked how they use FM 1626, 85.98% of survey respondents said they commute through the road, 99.2% of respondents drive along the road, and 80.22% of respondents said they would feel safer driving considering the proposed improvements (Note: Respondents were able to select more than one answer choice).

With the proposed improvements, 80.2% of survey respondents said they would feel safer driving, 69% said they would save time driving, and 31% would feel safer while walking or cycling.

Over half of survey respondents use FM 1626 seven days a week and 99.3% use driving as their mode of transportation.

When asked if we got it right in our proposed improvements for driving, walking, bicycling, and safety, the majority of participants responded "yes". Survey respondents that answered "no" provided comments on the need for additional turn lanes and traffic lights, more sidewalks and crosswalks and wider bike lanes.

One hundred and twenty-two additional comments were submitted through the survey and **six general comments** were submitted via email or social media. General comments addressed the following topics:

- Traffic speed concerns
- Desire for additional traffic signals and turning lanes
- Improvements to railroad crossing
- Desire for additional lanes and
- Protection of heritage trees

Attendees were given the opportunity to provide comments on the map provided at the public meeting and **seventeen comments were collected** which addressed the following topics:

- Traffic lights and center turn lanes to mitigate traffic
- Crosswalks for residents and students
- Additional sidewalks
- Speed at FM 1626 and I-35 intersection