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Urban Corridor and Park Project Update

TTF TEAM NEWS

“By far the greatest and most admirable form of wisdom is that needed to plan and beautify cities and human communities.”

— Socrates

A relevant quote for the SWMD project, a brilliant philosopher, Socrates also said that the only true wisdom is knowing that you know nothing. With this sentiment in mind, and in effort of full transparency, the streetscape and park project has seen a series of triumphs and challenges. We tasked ourselves with departing from business as usual and have committed to being good stewards of the environment, designing public space with health in mind, increasing safety and security for all, creating a user experience and campus character that will add economic benefit, and holistically considering traffic and mobility. Not an easy task when all are prioritized equally. The community had also voiced, through the Phase I engagement process, similar ideas of safety, healing and nature. These became the framework to guide project partner’s conversations during 2022 to re-vision and transform Harry Hines to better meet an expanding Medical District for today and in the future. This became such an important and tangled question that the SWMD Board contracted consultants this past year to provide analytical answers that could aid the City of Dallas in the final cross-section determination. The Foundation used this time to put pencils down on the Green Spine and Park design and focus on the environmental and health aspects of our work in the District.

Reflections on the Last Year: Achievements and Challenges

- The Foundation along with the SWMD finalized five design pillars that will better define how to balance the needs and opportunities along the Harry Hines corridor. These are: User Experience, Campus Character, and Livability, Human and Environmental Health, Safety and Security, Traffic and Mobility.
- A long, and arduous process, TTF completed negotiations with the City of Dallas and succeeded in attaining City Council approval for the development agreement of the Harry Hines corridor.
- With additional funding provided by Lyda Hill Philanthropies and Eugene McDermott Foundation the project was rescoped to include not only the Green Spine but also the Green Park at Inwood and Harry Hines. The design team was chosen to take design to 30% for the entirety of the corridor, from Market Center Boulevard to Mockingbird Lane, and will work from the recently finalized SWMD and City of Dallas Harry Hines 6-lane cross-section. The landscape architect will lead creative efforts in traffic calming strategies.



The five pillars represent the delicate balance of incorporating all District needs into design.

Reflections on the Last Year: Achievements and Challenges

- Phase I Equitable Engagement report concluded with more than 2,000 participants. The findings revealed that 80% of the respondents want improved safety for people walking, biking, taking transit, and driving and 71% would like to see an enhanced natural environment. Phase II of engagement will include both the street and park programming and design components and will launch in conjunction with the design work.
- The team created a strategic plan and will launch Nature Lab in conjunction with the SWMD project, a grass roots approach dedicated to making real change in environmental health, with an emphasis that takes conversation to action through robust research, science education, policy change, and strategic collaborations. Through this, the team launched a thermal comfort research pilot study at Pegasus Park within the SWMD heat island.
- Through an invaluable collaboration with Parkland Hospital, a data communication hub for the evidence-based design component of the project was installed on the roof of Parkland Hospital. This will be used to collect data from the sensors placed throughout the District to capture microclimate data that will influence design.



The data communication Hub was installed in the elevator mechanical room on the 18th floor of Parkland Hospital with an antenna anchored to the rooftop. The Hub will receive microclimatic data every 20 minutes from sensors.

We are truly thankful for project friends and partners who desire and support a beautiful, safe, healthy, and well-connected Medical District and contribute their thought leadership, resources, and time to create the needed structure where project success can be guaranteed. A big thank you to David Biegler, SWMD Board Chairman, Robert Prejean, SWMD Manager, the SWMD Board, Gus Khankarli, City of Dallas, Michael Morris and Sandy Wesch, North Central Texas Council of Governments, Dr. Elba Garcia and Brooks Love, Dallas County, none of the work achieved to date would have been possible without their tireless efforts. It has been a true partnership in every sense of the word.

Next Steps and Coming Opportunities

- Launch 30% design of the project by mid- to late April, pending executed contracts with the landscape architecture firm and engineering consultants. Finalization of the 30% design is expected early winter, 2023. Project partners will determine which portion of Harry Hines Green Spine to take to 100% construction documents and implementation.
- Phase II of Equitable Engagement will lift off simultaneously and the consultant has begun planning for the next round of focus groups, interviews, open houses, surveys and digital forums. The Foundation will also pioneer an ethnographic journey map that will give more user voice to the design process.
- Nature Lab will embark on a Heat Campaign, spawned from temperatures retrieved from the urban heat island that the Medical District sits in. The campaign will work to educate the public on the impacts of extreme heat, and the conditions that we are attempting to combat through design in the Southwestern Medical District.



Listening to neighborhood residents in the Arlington Park Neighborhood. Community voice matters.