River Road
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
December 3, 2019 • 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Lion’s Field Adult and Senior Center
2809 Broadway St, San Antonio

A RIVER AUTHORITY PARTNERSHIP WITH
US Army Corps of Engineers.
Public Meeting Agenda

- Project Overview
- Small Group Sessions
- Group Reports
- Small Group Discussion

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River Road Feasibility Study

• Problems
  - The aquatic ecosystem is severely degraded from excessive erosion and sedimentation, which has also decreased riparian habitat and proliferated the expansion of invasive species.

• Objectives
  - To restore aquatic ecosystem function and structure to the River Road section of the San Antonio River for a 50-year period of analysis.

• Opportunities
  - Provide additional recreation and ecotourism benefits to the community.
Federal Interest Determination
• Local sponsor submits request for Federal assistance.
• Conduct site visit.
• Determine if there is federal interest in the project request.

Feasibility Study
• Formulate alternatives to achieve the restoration,
• Evaluate the environmental effects of the alternatives,
• Document the project requirements, and
• Provide a scope and cost estimate for project implementation.

Design and Construction
• Implement recommended ecosystem restoration plan
• Monitor restoration success
• Transfer the project to the Non-Federal Sponsor

Operation & Maintenance
• Maintain ecosystem restoration features
• Annual USACE inspections of restoration area.
Meet with resource agencies
Collect Field Data
Identify Conceptual Models for Project Alternative Benefit Analysis
Public Meeting Aug 2019
Identify Potential Ecosystem Restoration Measures

Collect Field Data
Identify Conceptual Models for Project Alternative Benefit Analysis
Recommend a Tentatively Selected Plan
Develop Cost & Benefit Analysis of Identified Alternatives
Public Meeting Dec 2019
Develop Array of Project Alternatives

USACE Decision Mid 2020
Draft Integrated Feasibility Report & Environmental Assessment
Draft Integrated Feasibility Report & Environmental Assessment
Public and Comment on Draft
Consider and address public & agency comments
Draft Final Integrated Feasibility & Environmental Assessment
Public Meeting

Issue Final Decision Document Late 2020
Funding

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Kickoff Meeting

August 13, 2019

The River Road Ecosystem Restoration Project purpose and objectives were introduced to the public. The feasibility study process was explained and general project approaches to be considered introduced. Public input regarding project approaches was collected.
Funding

Under the authority provided by Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, the Corps may plan, design and build projects to restore aquatic ecosystems for fish and wildlife.

- Total project costs (Feasibility, Preconstruction Engineering & Design (PED), and Construction) limit of $13.5 million, cost shared at 65/35
  - $10 million Federal cost share
  - $3.5 million Non-Federal Sponsor cost share
  - USACE funds first $100,000 of the feasibility stage with the remainder cost shared 50/50 with the Non-Federal Sponsor
  - PED and Construction cost shared 65% Federal /35% Local Cost Share
  - Recreation features can be up to 10% of the Federal share of project cost, cost shared 50/50
  - Operations & Maintenance costs are 100% non-Federal responsibility

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Study Area
Overview of Study Alternatives

- Low Water Crossings and Instream Structures
  - Alternative 1
- Roadways
  - Alternative 2
  - Alternative 3
- Recreation Opportunities
- Protection of Restoration Features
Alternative 1: Modification and/or Replacement of Low Water Crossings

Modification or replacement of three low water crossings with pedestrian bridges in order to restore stream flow and function.
Alternative 1: Instream Modification to accompany Low Water Crossing Modification

Installation of root wads, rock veins, pool/riffle/run features, J-Hooks, double cross veins to balance sediment transport and create aquatic habitat.

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Alternative 2: Avenue A Modification

- 3A: Remove Ave A and widen golf course path for maintenance access.

- 3B: Partial removal of Ave A south of maintenance access.
Alternative 3: Reconfigure River Road

3A - Partial removal of River Road, rerouting traffic to Allison Drive. River Road and park will be planted with native species.

3B - Leave River Road in place and replant Allison Park with native species
Provide Recreation Opportunities

- Trails and Pedestrian Bridge
- Fishing Deck
- Designated Parking

Protection of Restoration Features

- Signage
- Bollards, Fencing, Boulders
- Clustered Trash Cans
Next Steps & General Timeline

✓ Alternative Plan Formulation
- Economic & Environmental Analysis of Alternative Plans
- Selection of Tentatively Selected Plan
- Draft Decision Document
- Public, Legal, and Internal Review of Decision Document
- Complete Feasibility Phase

- We currently expect the feasibility phase of the project to be completed by the end of 2020.
HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

- Submit your written comments by January 3, 2020
  - In-person at the public scoping meeting
  - Mail to: Justyss Watson
    Biologist
    Environmental Branch
    Regional Planning and Environmental Center
    819 Taylor Street, P.O. Box 17300, Room 3A12
    Fort Worth, TX 76102-300
  - Email to: RiverRoadER@usace.army.mil

- Comments must be submitted in writing
Thank You

Congressman Lloyd Doggett

Senator Jose Menéndez

Representative Diego Bernal

Commissioner Justin Rodriguez

Councilman Robert Trevino

SARA Board Lourdes Galvan
sara-tx.org/riverroad