



Media Release City of Temple

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Council Adopts Citywide Trails Master Plan

(TEMPLE, TX) – At their regularly scheduled meeting tonight, the City of Temple City Council adopted “Connecting the Community,” a Citywide Trails Master Plan.

The master planning process was initiated in response to the City of Temple’s Comprehensive Plan “Choices ‘08”, which established the development of a comprehensive bike and pedestrian plan as a key goal. The development of a master plan also provides for a connected system where trail corridors and alignments are designed to enhance linkages between parks, neighborhoods, schools, retail and key civic and community destinations. “When the development of individual segments of trails, bike lanes, and sidewalks occurs as part of a comprehensive plan, community-wide connectivity of the system as a whole can occur,” Assistant City Manager Kim Foutz said.

The Trail, Bike, and Sidewalk Master Plan process was designed to include significant input from the residents of the community. Several opportunities and methods were provided for residents to get involved in the process and provide their input and feedback. A planning workshop, provided residents the opportunity to share ideas on bike lanes, trails, greenways, and pedestrian linkages throughout the city. “It was an excellent opportunity for the residents to tell us what they know and identify needs regarding potential trail locations in their neighborhoods and provide feedback for the overall citywide trail system plan,” Foutz said.

In addition to the workshop, residents were also asked to participate in a master plan survey. All utility customers received a survey in their utility bills. Residents were also able to access an on-line version of the survey on the website. Results of the survey and information obtained from the workshop and respondents have been incorporated into the Plan.

A master plan provides a framework through which the city and the private sector can work together to jointly create trail corridors, and to establish trail standards and specifications. A trail master plan also guides decisions regarding funding mechanisms and priorities and provides the City the ability to competitively seek grant funding for the development of the system. The City has recently received two grants totaling \$620,000 to install approximately 8,800 linear feet of trails in the City. In addition, the City has three pending grant requests totaling \$4,250,000 for an additional 2.75 miles. These trails create a critical interconnected network of trails.

There are multiple benefits of a citywide trail, bike, and sidewalk system. The American Trails Organization notes that that trails make the community more livable; improve the economy through tourism and civic improvement; preserve and restore open space; provide alternative modes of transportation and provide opportunities for physical activity to improve fitness and mental health. Trails also serve all ages, income brackets and cultures. These are all reasons why the Temple area ranks #13 nationwide in the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, according to a massive 2009 study of Americans' attitudes. The City of Temple has recognized the value of these quality of life and wellness issues by incorporating them into our Strategic Plan and Comprehensive Plan," states Foutz.

A connected citywide network of trails demonstrates Temple's commitment to a high quality of life for residents which promotes economic development and encourages people to choose Temple as a great place to live and do business.

For more information, and to view the master plan, please visit www.templetrails.org.

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