



FAQs



TRAVIS COUNTRY STATION

GENERAL SITE QUESTIONS/CONSIDERATIONS

- ***Is there any existing COA property you could consider/does COA own any land in the area?*** Yes, the Oak Hill parkland is owned by the City of Austin but in order to build on this site, the City Council would have to vote/approve a [Chapter 26 exemption](#).
- ***Has COA talked to any property owners (along Southwest Parkway or otherwise)?*** The City has not formally engaged in discussions with any property owners. We wanted to have a meeting with the neighbors first to talk about the station; now that we've done that, Real Estate will use their resources to determine what might be for sale in the area.
- ***How would people who owned property get in touch with COA if they were interested in selling or partnering?*** Contact Michael Gates with the City's Real Estate Office at (512) 974-5639 or via e-mail at michael.gates@austintexas.gov.
- ***Has COA put together a list of our preferred sites/has COA located an "ideal" site, regardless of availability/has COA looked at Sunset Valley for possible sites?*** No, we didn't want to be presumptuous; we wanted input from residents in the area before we started looking at sites. However, we have generally explored response options from various areas (along Southwest Parkway, Hwy 290, and Mopac) to get an idea of what area might satisfy the response needs of the affected neighborhoods. Doing so helped us identify the general area that we discussed at the meeting on July 26, 2018 (see the visual, "Travis Country Neighborhood Meeting").
- ***Are there certain areas where the station can't go?*** If the City pursued raw land (in lieu of a location with an existing building), any site that could not accommodate the station's "footprint" without exceeding the site's impervious cover limitation (15 percent) would not be considered.
- ***Has COA considered multiple smaller stations instead of one big one?*** No as that would not be cost efficient nor do we believe we could find two acceptable locations.
- ***Is there a temporary station option currently being considered?*** No.

NEW (OPEN) SITE CONSIDERATIONS

- ***When does community input get to be provided as to possible sites?*** Until a permanent site is selected, the community is welcome to continue giving input.
- ***Is doing a long-term lease/purchasing already developed space a possibility?*** Absolutely, if we can find the right space.
- ***Is the intersection of Southwest Parkway and Industrial Oaks/Mission Oaks a possible site consideration?*** We are looking at what might be available along Industrial Oaks; however, this option gets complicated if the site is contingent upon the extension of that road to Southwest Parkway (which would cross over Gaines Creek). Due to the environmental constraints in the area, compliance with watershed regulations would be difficult and costly, and may require a site-specific amendment to the Save Our Springs (SOS) Ordinance.

- ***What about extending Industrial Oaks?*** That roadway extension is in the Austin Transportation department's plan, but again, it's complicated (see answer to the question immediately above).
- ***What about property on one of the main corridors (Mopac, 290) for easy access?*** We are looking at several areas there but we have a significant concern regarding the ability to exit from those sites during high traffic times. In an emergency, every second counts.
- ***Are there any better locations to the west, farther down Southwest Parkway?*** Every station in the city is part of the system and subsequently, part of the greater whole. For example, when a "first in" unit is on another call, the next closest unit gets dispatched to the incident. Keeping that model in mind and based on our initial exploration of response times, the further west this particular station's location gets pushed, the more isolated it becomes, impacting its ability to be a part of that larger system. A more desirable location is one with quick access to the neighborhoods AND the major roadways.
- ***Would AISD support COA using part of the Toney Burger Center site?*** Unfortunately, no; we asked, but they were firm in their declination. More importantly, though, is that the access from that location back into Travis County (and to the south of that where we would need) is not favorable at all.

EXISTING (DEVELOPED) SITE CONSIDERATIONS

- ***If we buy/redevelop an existing building, would you need less acreage?*** Most likely; we would be able to use the existing impervious cover.
- ***Is the At Home site behind Target (Staggerbrush and HWY 290) an option?*** Everything is an option at this point.

BUILDING SPECIFICS

- ***What is the square footage needed for the building/parking lot?*** Approximately 10,000 square feet. Our latest station (Onion Creek, currently under construction) is 9,163 square feet. The Travis Country station will have four bays, need to accommodate 14-16 staff members, and allow for 18 parking spaces.
- ***Have you considered a two-story station vs a single story so there would be less acreage needed?*** Yes. We haven't built a two-story station in many years, but we are definitely considering it.

FUNDING

- ***Do we have funding already?*** Yes, we have a preliminary start with funding already set, with a guarantee from the City to pay for the rest via [Resolution 20180524-035](#). As we move along in the process, Council approves the funding as needed at various stages.

TIMELINE

- ***What is the timeline for the station to be built and open?*** According to Public Works, approximately three years per their deadline of June 2021.

MISCELLANEOUS

- ***Could the next meeting be in Travis County itself so more residents could attend?*** Absolutely! Optimally, we would like to join a regularly scheduled HOA meeting when we have our top three sites selected so we can visit with more of the residents in the area and explain our rationale supporting the #1, #2, and #3 rankings of those locations.

GENERAL COMMENTS

- The neighborhood does not want the station located on residential/private property or in the neighborhood itself, and would prefer it not be on parkland.
- The neighborhood would support the station being located on an already developed site as a lease/purchase; that would be their preference, rather than on open land along Southwest Parkway if at all possible due to the decreased environmental impact.
- The neighborhood is supportive of the Save Our Springs (SOS) Ordinance.