



North Central Texas Council of Governments

SUMMARY

Sustainable Public Rights-of-Way Subcommittee

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

1:30 PM, Microsoft Teams

https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_YWMzYmJiMDItNWw3Ny00OTQ1LWJjOWUtMzMzMmUxYTgzNTM%40t

[hread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%222f5e7ebc-22b0-4fbe-934c-aabddb4e29b1%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%222370af9a-6a25-4148-ae37-eafdba62b654%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_YWMzYmJiMDItNWw3Ny00OTQ1LWJjOWUtMzMzMmUxYTgzNTM%40t)

Co-Chair: Robert Woodbury, City of Cedar Hill

Co-Chair: Misty Christian, Kimley-Horn

1. Welcome and Introductions.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. **Meeting Summary.** The August 18th meeting summary is available online for review and provided as a handout at the meeting. Approval will be sought at this meeting.

The subcommittee unanimously approved the meeting summary.

3. **Landscape Planning and Vegetation Maintenance Draft BMP Guidebook.** The Subcommittee will review a draft BMP Guidebook for the Landscape Planning and Vegetation Maintenance Chapter.

The subcommittee would like for the page headers to be on the opposite side of the binding to make it easier to see when flipping through the book. They would also like a tiny URL for the document to review and for when it's published.

NCTCOG staff will add a "Sustainability Section" to talk about conserving water and planting native trees. It will address how the tree matrix was created and how to use it to help prevent trees from causing damage to public works infrastructure. It will also reference the Landscape Guide that a utility group in North Texas, including Upper Trinity Regional Water District, is creating.

Below are edits the subcommittee made to the Draft BMP Guidebook chapter on Landscape Planning and Vegetation Maintenance.

Tree Spacing

- Item 1 should say, "Trees should be planted a minimum of 5' away from the curb on the ROW and 4' away from the curb on a median." This will keep it consistent with item 1 in Planting Trees in the Median.

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Tree Utility Coordination

- Change the first bullet under item 2 to, “Trees should not be planted directly under aerial utility lines.”
- NCTCOG staff will send this section to a utility representative to provide industry feedback.

Irrigation

- Item 2 should say, “Private pressurized control lines and valves should be out of the ROW.”
- Item 1 should be discussed in the “Sustainability Section.”

Maintenance

- Add item 4, “Consideration should be made for visibility maintenance around signs, access points, monuments, etc. See the Tree matrix for details on species.”

Vegetation

- Change the section name to “Ground Cover.”
- Item 2 should say, “Vegetation should be 30” or less...”
- Change item 1 to 9” instead of 1’ and include planting beds and landscape features such as monuments, etc.

The subcommittee also reviewed the Tree Matrix. Some members thought there were trees on the list that shouldn’t be encouraged to plant in this area, including ash species due to the presence of the emerald ash borer in North Texas. However, the group came to an agreement that this was a comprehensive list of all trees that could be planted, with problems of each species highlighted in the maintenance section of the matrix. The subcommittee would like NCTCOG staff to add a disclaimer at the bottom of the matrix that says, “This is not an approved list of trees that should be planted in North Texas. This is a list of trees to help guide decision on species selection.”

4. **Utilities Planning.** The Subcommittee will strategize on what they need to begin discussing utility BMPs for the next chapter.

The subcommittee would like to start inviting franchise utility representatives to the next meeting in November to understand the utility industry’s perspective with infrastructure and budget issues in the right-of-way. This way they can work to help them on the local government side. At the next meeting it would be good to have the utility representative’s feedback on the Landscape Maintenance chapter as well.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

5. **Roundtable Discussion.**

Haywood Morgan from Denton is presenting their new tree manual to City Council tonight. Robert Woodbury with the City of Cedar Hill mentioned that NCTCOG, through the Transportation Department, produced the Curb Management Regional Planning Guide, https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Plan/Landuse/Parking/Curb_Management_Guide2020033.pdf.

Shawn Conrad with NCTCOG also mentioned that the Transportation Department has a Land Use and Transportation Task Force that is meeting virtually. More information can be found here, <https://www.nctcog.org/trans/about/committees/land-use-transportation-task-force>.



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6. **Schedule for the Next Meeting.** The next Subcommittee meeting is November 17, 2020 at 1:30pm. The platform for the virtual meeting is Microsoft Teams.
7. **Adjournment.**

If you have any questions regarding the meeting or agenda items, please contact Olivia Kale by phone at (817) 695-9213, or by email at okale@nctcog.org.

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SPROW Attendance October 20, 2020

Andrew Figueroa, City of Celina
Paul Sparkman, City of McKinney
Jerry Cosgrove, City of Plano
Robert Woodbury, City of Cedar Hill
Haywood Morgan, City of Denton
Joey Highfill, Wise County
Pritam Deshmukh, City of Denton
Shawn Conrad, NCTCOG
Christian, Misty, Kimley-Horn
Karla Weaver, NCTCOG
Sydnee Steelman, NCTCOG
Blake Alldredge, Upper Trinity Regional Water District
Bill Smith, TNP
Jennifer Hall, TNP
Jonathon Beckham, City of Lewisville
Michele Berry, City of Lewisville
Jeremy Priest, City of Arlington
Olivia Kale
Mia Brown
Tamara Cook