

City of Austin Urban Trails Master Plan

April 2014



Definition of an Urban Trail

A citywide network of non-motorized, multi-use pathways that are used by bicyclists, walkers and runners for both transportation and recreation purposes.

- Included in 2009 Bicycle Master Plan,
- Follows Imagine Austin,
- Considers definitions used by other communities, and
- Confirmed by Citizen Advisory Group and Technical Advisory Group.



Urban Trail Goals for Austin

1. Provide **easy access** to urban trails for both transportation and recreation users.
2. **Connect** urban trails to the on-street bicycle network, sidewalk network, transit stops and bike share stations.
3. Ensure **adequate trail width** to accommodate both recreation and transportation uses.
4. Incorporate **trail amenities** and **features** that create unique, whimsical greenways.
5. Provide adequate funding and resources for **maintenance** and **operations**.
6. Ensure that all urban trails are **context-sensitive** and **environmentally sustainable**.



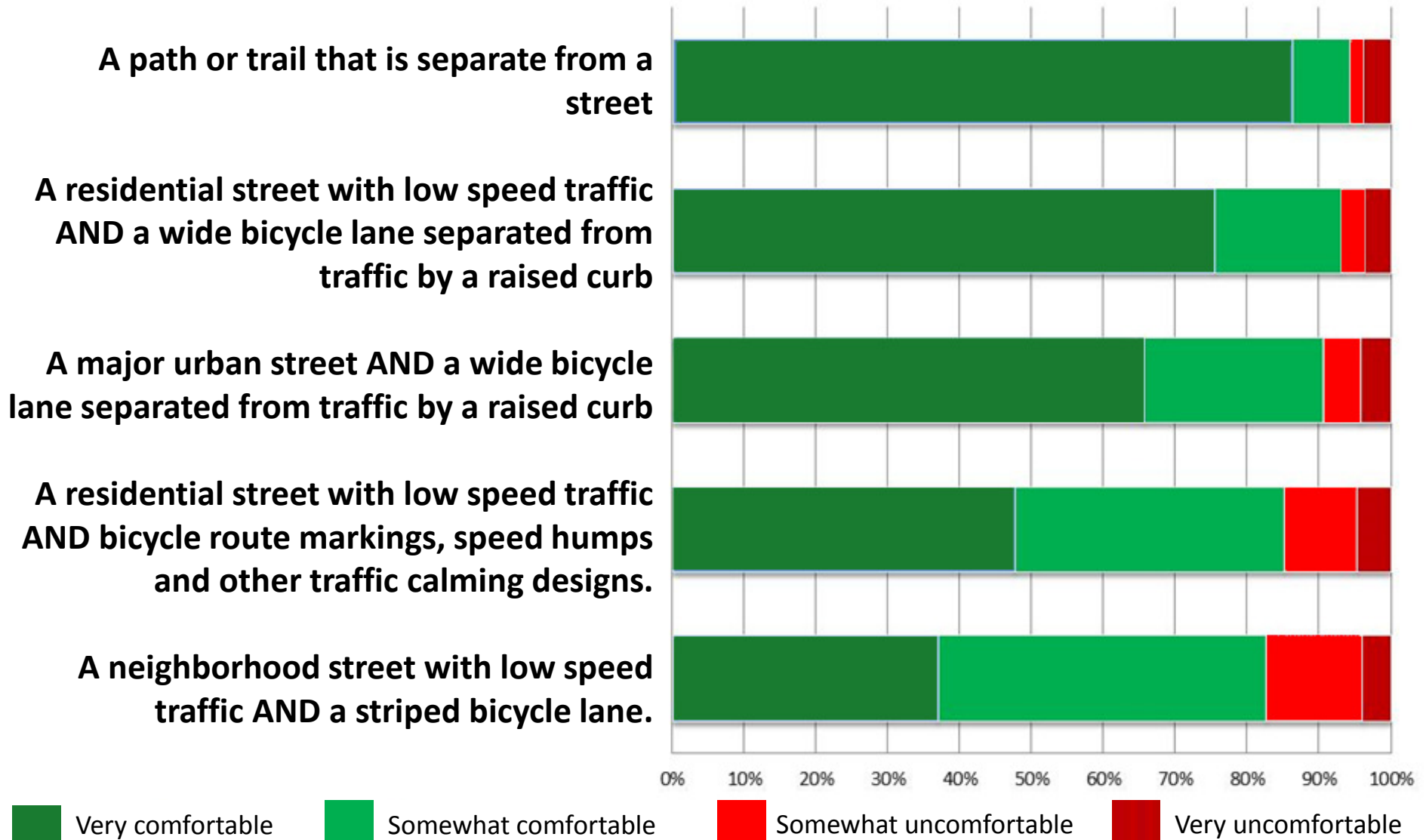
Public Input on Urban Trails

- Telephone survey (statistically relevant survey): 603 respondents
- Austin Urban Trail User survey: 189 respondents
- Online survey: 2,392 respondents
- 5 public meetings
 - Questionnaire: 105 respondents
 - Online Open House survey: 66 respondents



Public Input

Scenario Preferences



Public Input on Urban Trails

Most Important Potential Improvements



The Austin Urban Trail



Southern Walnut Creek Trail

	Criteria
Minimum Width	12'
Minimum Shoulder	2'
Min. Vertical Clearance	10'
Maximum Cross Slope	2%
Maximum Grade	5% (8.25 % with handrails)



Dual Track Urban Trail



Source: American Trails



Source: American Trails

	Criteria
Minimum Width	8' for pedestrian side 10' for bicyclist side
Minimum Shoulder	5' user separation 2' shoulder
Vertical Clearance	10'
Maximum Cross Slope	2%
Maximum Grade	5%



Urban Trail Design Considerations

- Install **lighting** where appropriate.
- Design for **environmental preservation**:
 - Preserve trees & vegetation close to the trail.
- Plan for security presence & **emergency access**
- **Location Markers & Wayfinding**
 - Orientation, distance, and travel time,
 - Provide safety information & trail etiquette.
- **Promote and provide incentives** for development of Urban Trail segments and connections
- **Create a sense of place** by engaging local community



Urban Trail Corridors – Prioritization Criteria

Criteria	Level of Importance (Weighting)
▪ Environmental considerations	3x
▪ Citizen support	2x
▪ Constructability	2x
▪ Corridor availability	2x
▪ Connectivity to Active Transportation Network	2x
▪ Connectivity to transit	2x
▪ Connectivity to local destinations/neighborhoods	2x
▪ Scenic qualities	1x
▪ Area population density	1x
▪ Helps overcome gap or barrier	1x
▪ First in its area of the City	1x

- Uses a point system.
- Criteria are weighted to emphasize importance.