



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Michael L. Personett, Interim Director
Watershed Protection Department

DATE: July 11, 2018

SUBJECT: Update: Slope Failure Lower Shoal Creek

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the Shoal Creek slope failure that occurred on Friday, May 4, 2018.

Since the last staff update on May 18, the landslide area has remained generally stable. There has been erosion of the landslide material from Shoal Creek during the rains of July 4-9. The removal of this soil from the landslide has increased flood conveyance but has not noticeably affected the stability of the upper slope. Staff continues to monitor the situation.

Progress to date on solutions has focused on five primary areas:

- Selection of a Design/Build firm to begin the engineered solution for stability to public property and repair of Shoal Creek and affected utilities;
- Coordination with the four private property owners on top of the bluff about property access and easements necessary to perform the work, as well as the proposed scope and design elements that would affect their properties;
- Setting up stakeholder meetings to inform the public;
- Construction to re-route a 30-inch wastewater line until the failed line can be restored;
- Maintenance of a temporary storm drain diversion system on Wooldridge Drive and design of a permanent diversion system.

Staff is following emergency contract and expedited procurement procedures. As the contracts necessary for this project will exceed Administrative Authority, staff will produce a memo of ratification and a Request for Council Action at a later date for Council to approve and ratify the contracts necessary to complete the project. Staff will authorize notices to proceed as soon as possible once the contracts have been negotiated and reviewed.

The proposed scopes of the work under expedited review include stabilization of the failure on City of Austin parkland, as well as certain work to stabilize the vertical bluff (located on private property), to mitigate the safety hazard posed by future movement of the slope. Once construction begins, it is anticipated that the construction phase will last about six months. Until we have more defined scope parameters, the cost estimate and construction start date are still at a preliminary stage.

Because the project team envisions the City of Austin performing work on private property, the Office of Real Estate Services is engaged to help negotiate the access and other easements necessary to complete the project. For any elements of the project scope that require work on private property, a notice to proceed beyond preliminary design and data gathering will be contingent upon agreements from the private property owners to grant or dedicate the necessary easements.

Staff from Watershed Protection (WPD), Parks and Recreation (PARD) and Public Works (PWD) have met with key stakeholders from the Shoal Creek Conservancy and the Pease Park Conservancy to keep them informed of the progress to date and plans moving forward. Following that meeting, WPD and PARD PIO staff are planning a public meeting to provide the evolving details of the plan to restore the damaged drainage and wastewater infrastructure and mitigate the safety hazard posed by the instability of the slope after the landslide. That meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 19, 2018, and the public will be notified shortly.

Austin Water is in the construction phase of building a sanitary pipe re-route system that will take wastewater from the existing pipeline on the north side of Shoal Creek and divert it to an auxiliary pipeline in North Lamar. The auxiliary line will operate at capacity but has little room for contingency flows. Thus, it is considered a short-term solution until the collapsed 30-inch line is replaced under the trail along Shoal Creek. Construction of the temporary re-route should be complete by August 2018. Construction of the temporary re-route started on June 25 and is currently scheduled to be complete by August 2018. This construction will require closing one southbound lane of North Lamar for approximately one week beginning July 14.

In addition, Watershed Protection has been maintaining a storm drain diversion system of inflatable inlet plugs and sandbags to keep stormwater runoff from discharging onto the failed slope. WPD Field Operations crews have responded during each rain event by moving and replacing sandbags as needed to allow residential access to driveways while preventing runoff from entering yards. Staff is currently designing a new storm drain system for Wooldridge Drive. Once completed, the construction of this system will also be performed under the emergency declaration by a contractor separate from the slope stabilization contractor.

We will provide another update with further progress as more information is available. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Mike Kelly, P.E., Managing Engineer with WPD at (512) 974-6591 or at mike.kelly@austintexas.gov or Eric Loucks, P.E., Supervising Engineer with WPD at (512) 974-2534 or eric.loucks@austintexas.gov

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