

HOMEWOOD HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SIDEWALK LINKS FOR OAK GROVE AVE AND SOL WILSON AVE

IMMEDIATELY ACTIONABLE

The Homewood Heights Neighborhood Association requests sidewalk construction on Oak Grove Ave, between Sol Wilson Ave and East 12th Street, and on northern side of Sol Wilson Ave east of Oak Grove Ave (Exhibit F). These requested links are eligible to for inclusion in a sidewalk project already approved for Harvey Street, but only mapped for segments of Harvey Street north of 12th Street (Exhibit A). Incorporating these segments into the approved Harvey Street project will avoid duplicative work from COA's backlogged Public Works Department Sidewalk Program, and cost effectively advance the walkability goals envisioned in the Austin Sidewalk Master Plan and ADA Transition Plan.

MISSING LINK

Harvey Street is interrupted at 12th Street, by a platted but unbuilt segment that runs diagonally between undeveloped lots south of 12th Street and east of Oak Grove Ave. The discontinuity is patched by travel south on Oak Grove Ave, then east on Sol Wilson Ave (Exhibit F). However, the pedestrian ROW on both sides of Oak Grove Ave is obstructed with dumped trash, temporary fencing, and otherwise unmaintained. The pedestrian ROW on the north side of Sol Wilson is in identical condition. The absence of sidewalks in these locations severely limits pedestrian access between Elm Ridge Apartments and public transit. It undermines COA's investments ADA compliant sidewalks on 12th Street in 2018, CapMetro #6 bus stops, the Willie Mae Kirk Public Library, Oak Springs Elementary School, Boggy Creek Greenbelt, M L King Metro Rail Station, and other important walkable destinations (Exhibit C), by throttling pedestrian movement for the entire community.

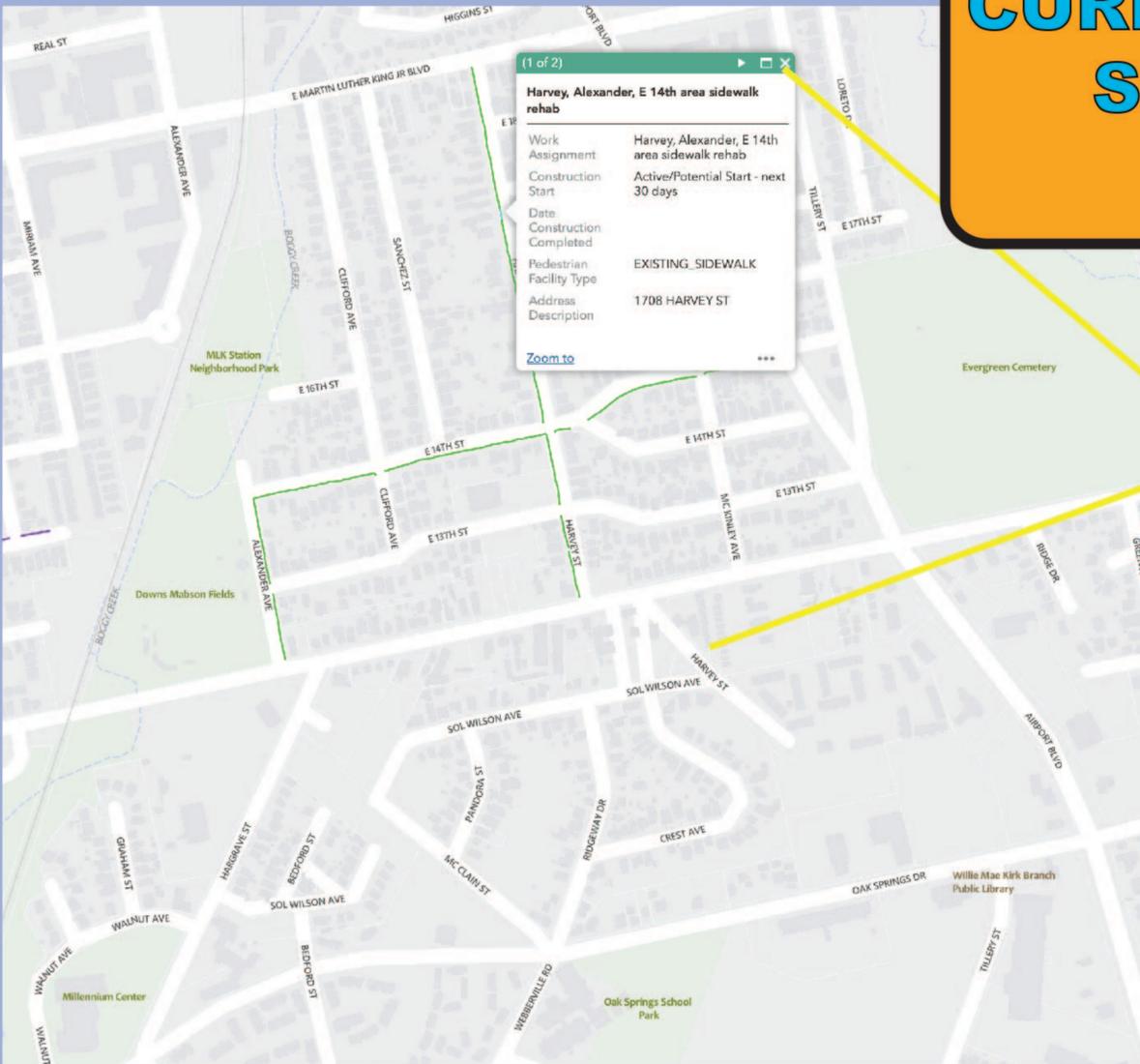
HIGH RISK, HIGH NEED

Oak Grove Ave is the only functional outlet on the northern half of Homewood Heights. Our pedestrians, cyclists, disabled seniors, students, and families with young children have no option but walking in traffic on a street that lacks effective speed interruption or traffic calming measures (Exhibit D). COA's 2017 Sidewalk Scores confirm this (Exhibit B). This traffic mix and outdated mobility infrastructure have resulted in numerous collisions in just the past two years. Hazardous drivers have jumped the curb onto residents' lawn, run over a street sign, struck multiple parked cars, and nearly collided with several residents. These incidents won't be obvious in city data because emergency calls were often abandoned during call waiting for 311 or 911, communications were routed to responders that were unavailable to document the scene, or data was otherwise uncaptured. Photographic evidence of some of these hazards is included here (Exhibit E).

RELATED ISSUES

Absent sidewalks are particularly problematic in the Homewood Heights Neighborhood (Exhibits D, E). The three main residential streets -- Sol Wilson Ave, Oak Grove Ave to Crest Ave (one continuous street), and Ridgeway Drive -- all have substandard speed mitigation and traffic calming measures. Oak Grove Ave is the only outlet north and lacks sidewalks. Ridgeway Drive is the only outlet south and the steep gradient prevents line of sight to oncoming traffic or parked cars. Southbound turns from Crest Ave onto Ridgeway Drive, and northbound turns from Sol Wilson Ave onto Oak Grove Ave, are visually obstructed. Drivers' field of vision is severely limited by the sharp bend and dense vegetation from Crest Ave to Oak Grove Ave, where again, there are no sidewalks. Cut-thru traffic from Oak Springs Drive, Webberville Road, and 12th Street often speeds through Homewood Heights, ignoring speed limits and our few stop signs. Gradual accumulation of abandoned vehicles and street parking increases around ADUs push pedestrians further toward the center of our streets. Over the years, many of our residents have formally and informally requested speedbumps, additional stop signs, and sidewalk links at the most hazardous points within our neighborhood, and it's critical that COA begins to address these issues before irreversible harm occurs; a logical starting point is the sidewalk links requested here.

A. NEEDED SIDEWALK LINKS ELIGIBLE FOR CURRENT HARVEY STREET SIDEWALK PROJECT



Active Harvey Street Sidewalk Project can cover Harvey Street south of 12th Street

Harvey Street is interrupted by a platted but unbuilt ROW that proceeds diagonally between the undeveloped lots east of Oak Grove Ave

Sidewalk Links requested by Homewood Heights Neighborhood Association

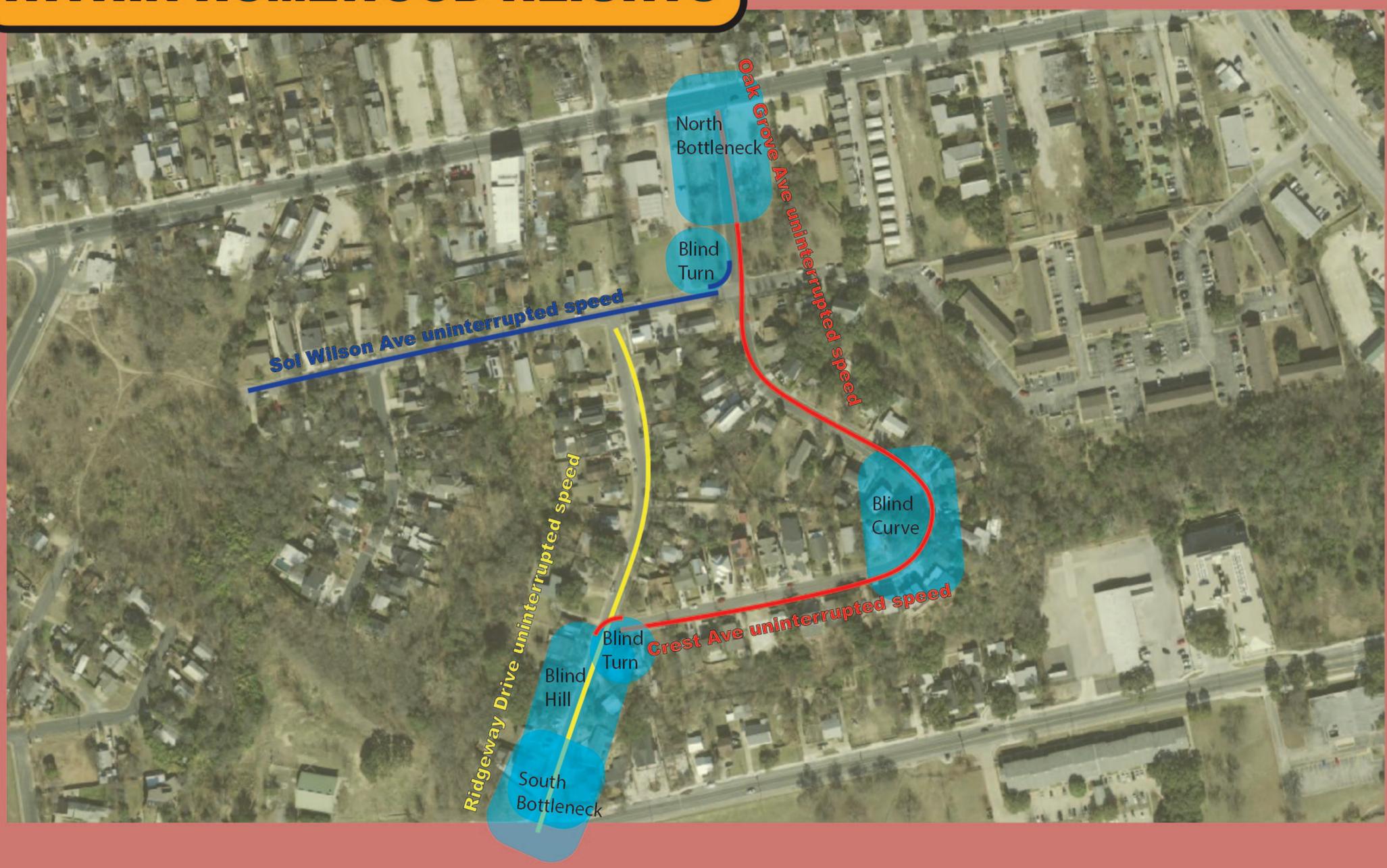
South of Sol Wilson Ave, Harvey Street continues as the only residential street for pedestrian and vehicular traffic to several homes presently under construction and Elm Ridge Apartments



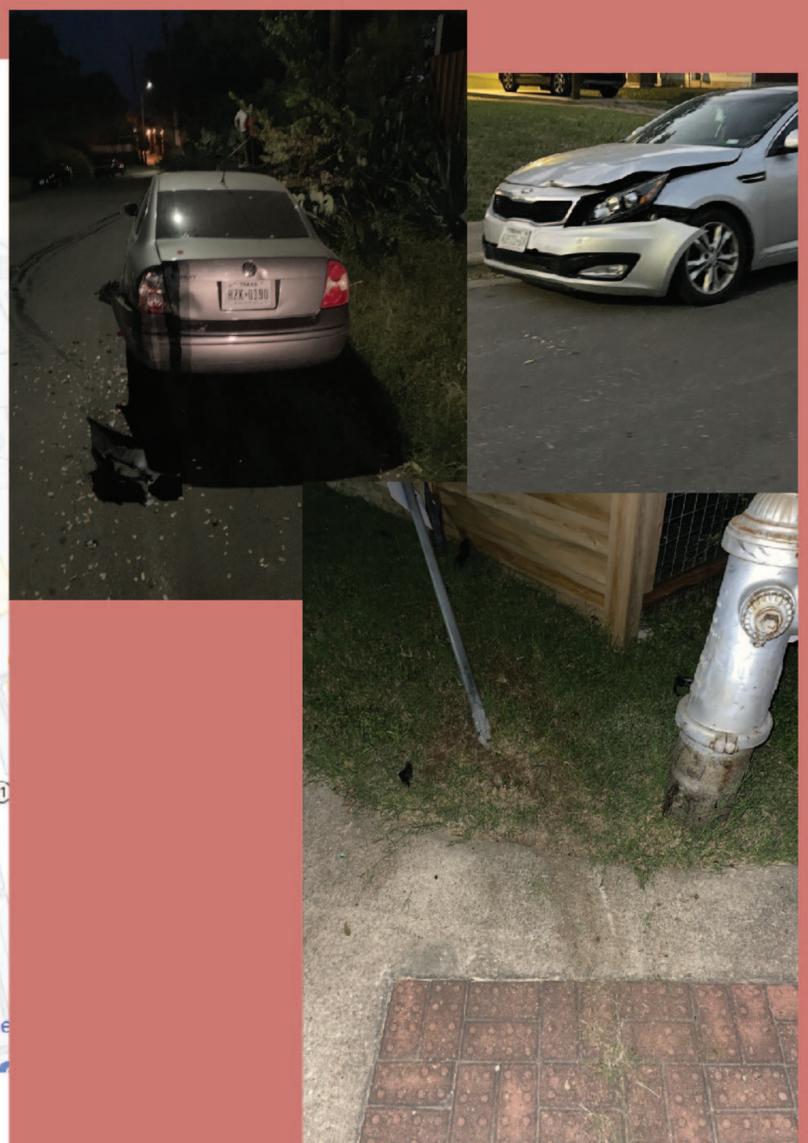
Elm Ridge Apartments

New Home Construction

D. KNOWN TRAFFIC HAZARDS WITHIN HOMEWOOD HEIGHTS



E. HAZARD PHOTOS



F. SATELLITE IMAGERY

 NEEDED HARVEY LINKS
 LOCKED PRIVATE GATES

