



January 7, 2023

Ms. Claire Hempel  
Principal  
Design Workshop  
812 San Antonio Street  
Austin, TX 78701

Re: Official Public Comment on the Draft Zilker Park Vision Plan

Dear Ms. Hempel:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the Draft Zilker Park Vision Plan. It is clear a great deal of effort has been given to this endeavor. On behalf of the Rollingwood City Council, please accept the following public comments.

We are in favor of the proposed land bridge to connect the north and south sides of Barton Springs Road and believe it will greatly benefit the regional trail system, pedestrian access, and safety in the park. We generally see potential benefits in the various proposed parking options which have been recommended. However, we would appreciate additional detail and discussion regarding the specific future plans for park improvements and surface parking in the areas west of MoPac near the Zilker Preserve immediately adjacent to our community.

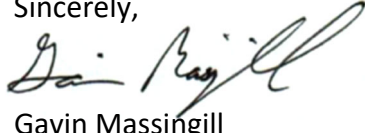
The City of Rollingwood stands in strong opposition to altering Barton Springs Road in order to create a single lane of traffic in each direction. Making this significant change to the traffic patterns on Barton Springs Road will not only affect those who live in subdivisions near Barton Springs Road who require easy access to MoPac, but also the City of Rollingwood and other west Austin communities that seek a non-highway alternative to enter or exit downtown Austin. Additionally, the right turn onto Rollingwood Drive, where Barton Springs Road terminates on the west side of MoPac and becomes the MoPac South Service Road, is one of the most utilized entrances into the City of Rollingwood. We believe this change would only worsen the existing over congestion during peak times and be detrimental to traffic patterns in the area. The suggested change would have a severely negative effect on mobility for both Rollingwood and Austin residents attempting to travel west to MoPac, Rollingwood, Westlake Hills, and western Travis County.

While not directly related to the Zilker Park Vision Plan, the City of Rollingwood is also interested in working with the City of Austin on pedestrian related solutions to improve access to events in Zilker Park by the significant number of attendees who reside, park, or are dropped off in the City of Rollingwood. The foot traffic to and from major events in Zilker Park poses a considerable safety hazard. We would welcome a conversation regarding better shared infrastructure solutions in order to increase pedestrian safety to and from the various activities held at Zilker Park.

Once again, the City of Rollingwood appreciates Austin's efforts in developing a framework to guide the restoration and future development of Zilker Park. We recognize the need for this plan and look forward to continuing the dialogue as the process progresses.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Gavin Massingill  
Mayor  
City of Rollingwood



**THE CITY OF ROLLINGWOOD**

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