

TO: City Council
FROM: Michael Matlock, Community Development Director
DATE: March 11, 2024
SUBJECT: Davis Meeker Oak

1) Recommended Action:

Staff will brief City Council on the health of the Davis Meeker Oak and discuss next steps to mitigate risk.

2) Background:

The Davis Meeker Oak is a City-owned tree in the Old Highway 99 right of way adjacent to the airport. The tree is estimated to be over 400 years old and at the end of its natural life.

In June of 2023, an 18-inch diameter branch failed about 50 feet above grade and fell to the ground. A visual inspection showed there was rot where the failed branch connected to the main stem of the tree. The City contract Urban Forester was asked to conduct a detailed tree assessment which showed significant rot in the mainstem and branches of the tree. That assessment deemed the tree to be a hazard and identified risks to adjacent property. WCIA has reviewed the report and recommends removal of the tree.

3) Policy Support:

Strategic Priorities: "Create and maintain a transportation system safe for all modes of travel."

Urban Forestry Management Plan: "To ensure public safety in and around urban trees, the removal of trees identified as high risk through evaluation by an ISA Certified Arborist who is Tree Risk Assessment Qualified (TRAQ) should continue to be allowed. All tree risk assessments should identify and rate potential targets the tree could affect, including buildings and infrastructure, emergency service routes, etc."

4) Alternatives:

None

5) Fiscal Notes:

Tree assessment report
Removal or crowning of the tree will have a cost that is not determined at this time.

6) Attachments:

- A. Staff report
- B. Davis Meeker Oak tree assessment