

# *Cotton Bayou Trail*

## **Active Transportation**

### **Planning Factors – Barrier Elimination**

- 1. Does the proposed facility provide safe and convenient routes across barriers such as freeways, railroads, and waterways?**

The proposed Cotton Bayou Trail will provide a safe and convenient route across the Cedar Point Lateral Canal (irrigation/drainage canal) south of the Mont Belvieu City Park as well as access across the Cotton Bayou channel near the Barbers Hill ISD Campus Complex.

In addition, the trail will provide safe pedestrian crossings at Wilburn Ranch Drive, Perry Avenue, and Lakes of Champions Boulevard with flashers and pavement markings.

The proposed plans do not include railroad or freeway crossings. The trail system will terminate north of the Interstate 10 corridor.

- 2. Does the proposed bicycle/pedestrian facility close a gap in the existing bicycle network that aligns with a regional bikeway?**

Yes, the Cotton Bayou Trail facility will close a gap in the existing Mont Belvieu trail network. The proposed Cotton Bayou Trail will connect to existing concrete trails along Perry Avenue, Eagle Drive, and Langston Boulevard. The Perry Avenue, Eagle Drive, and Langston Boulevard facilities provide north-south and east-west connectivity within the City of Mont Belvieu and surrounding area. The proposed Cotton Bayou Trail will provide access to the Mont Belvieu City Park, the Barbers Hill ISD Campus Complex, the Wilburn Ranch development, the Lakes of Champions Estates subdivision, and the Cottonwood Estates neighborhood.

The H-GAC 2035 Regional Bikeway Plan identified the SH 146 and FM 565 corridors through Mont Belvieu as regional bikeway needs. The proposed bikeways along SH 146 and FM 565 have the potential to connect communities within Harris, Chambers, and Liberty Counties as well as a future livable center that is currently being studied by H-GAC. The proposed Cotton Bayou Trail would provide access to these bikeways via the trails along Eagle Drive and Langston Boulevard.

The H-GAC 2040 Regional Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan did not identify any existing or proposed bicycle facilities within Chambers County. However, the plan acknowledged needs for bicycle facilities including connecting communities throughout the area and a safe pedestrian option for crossing the Trinity River. The opportunities for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure identified for Chambers County included scenic corridors and protected landscapes, well-developed rural highway systems, and favorable topography for walking and biking. If implemented, the proposed Cotton Bayou Trail would potentially have access to trails along the Interstate 10 frontage roads and a future Trinity River crossing.

## **Planning Factors – Expands or Improves Bicycle & Pedestrian Connectivity to Employment/Schools/Medical Facilities/Transit Stops/Other Points of Interest**

### **1. Does the facility directly connect to or within ¼ mile of employment?**

Yes, the proposed Cotton Bayou Trail directly connects or is within ¼ mile of employment centers.

#### **a. If yes, please indicate number of jobs the facility directly connects to or is within a ¼ mile.**

The proposed Cotton Bayou Trail will directly connect to the Barbers Hill ISD Campus Complex, the M.L. Wismer Distributing Company warehouse, and the Strike Construction facility. The trail will also be within ¼ mile of the Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Branch Library, the City of Mont Belvieu Animal Shelter, the Mont Belvieu First Baptist Church, and the Exxon gas station along the westbound Interstate 10 frontage road. The approximate number of existing jobs the proposed Cotton Bayou Trail directly connects to or is within a ¼ mile is 950.

The proposed Cotton Bayou Trail is within ¼ mile of the Eagle Drive at Lakes of Champions Boulevard/Langston Boulevard intersection. It is anticipated that additional commercial developments will be constructed at and near the intersection, thus increasing the number of jobs near the Cotton Bayou Trail facility. In addition, future commercial development along Wilburn Ranch Drive, Perry Avenue, and Lakes of Champions Boulevard will also increase the number of jobs within the vicinity of the Cotton Bayou Trail.

### **2. Does the facility directly connect to or within ¼ mile of a school or university?**

Yes, the proposed Cotton Bayou Trail will directly connect to the Barbers Hill ISD Campus Complex. The Campus Complex consists of Barbers Hill High School, Barbers Hill Middle School North, Barbers Hill Primary School, Barbers Hill Kindergarten Center, Barbers Hill Middle School South, Barbers Hill Elementary School South, and the Barbers Hill ISD Central Administration building.

The Barbers Hill Elementary School North on Perry Avenue is approximately ½ mile from the proposed Cotton Bayou Trail.

### **3. Does the facility directly connect to or within ¼ mile of medical facility?**

No, the proposed Cotton Bayou Trail is not within ¼ mile of a medical facility. However, the West Chambers Medical Center is approximately 1/3 mile from the proposed trail system.

### **4. Does the facility directly connect to or within ¼ mile of Transit Center or Transit Stop?**

No, there are currently no transit centers or transit stops within the vicinity of the proposed Cotton Bayou Trail.

### **5. Does the facility directly connect to or within ¼ mile of other points of interest?**

The proposed Cotton Bayou Trail will directly connect with the Mont Belvieu City Park and the proposed Cotton Bayou Park, and will be within ¼ mile of the Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Branch Library.

## Planning Factors – Planning Coordination

1. **Is the proposed project recommended in a regional/sub regional/or locally adopted plan including regional thoroughfare plans? Or has the sponsor conducted interagency coordination with other local or state agency affected by the proposed project?**

Yes, the proposed project is recommended in a regional/sub regional/or locally adopted plan. No, there is no interagency coordination with other local or state agency affected by the proposed project.

- a. **If yes, please provide the title of the regional/sub regional or local plan in which the proposed project is recommended.**

- Mont Belvieu, Texas Comprehensive Plan 2035
- Mont Belvieu, Texas Parks and Recreation Master Plan
  - Goal 3: Develop a Pedestrian and Bicycle Network of Sidewalks, Trails, and Bikeways to Improve Community-wide Connectivity of the Mont Belvieu, Texas Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Mont Belvieu, Texas Trails Master Plan
  - Trail Number 10.0 through 10.4
- H-GAC 2035 Regional Bikeway Plan
- H-GAC 2040 Regional Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan
- Cotton Bayou Concept Plan

- b. **If yes, please provide a link to the regional/sub regional or local plan in which the proposed project is recommended.**

- Mont Belvieu, Texas Comprehensive Plan 2035
  - <http://www.montbelvieu.net/DocumentCenter/View/1117>
- Mont Belvieu, Texas Parks and Recreation Master Plan
  - <http://www.montbelvieu.net/DocumentCenter/View/1118>
- Mont Belvieu, Texas Trails Master Plan
  - <http://www.montbelvieu.net/DocumentCenter/View/1120>
- H-GAC 2035 Regional Bikeway Plan
  - [http://videos.h-gac.com/ce/pedbike/2035\\_regional\\_bikeway\\_plan.pdf](http://videos.h-gac.com/ce/pedbike/2035_regional_bikeway_plan.pdf)
- H-GAC 2040 Regional Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan
  - <http://www.h-gac.com/community/qualityplaces/pedbike/documents/Regional-Bikeway-Plan-2014.pdf>
- Cotton Bayou Concept Plan
  - <https://files.acrobat.com/a/preview/6199c448-6ea7-4e38-8e50-3aae5afd4a70>

## Planning Factors – Emissions Reductions (Kgs/Day)

1. **Please provide the air quality improvements (estimated NOX kgs/day) the proposed facility provides.**

The estimated emission reduction for NOx is 1.71 kgs/day.

2. **Please provide the air quality improvements (estimated VOCs kgs/day) the proposed facility provides.**

The estimated emission reduction for VOCs is 0.40 kgs/day.

## **Planning Factors – Environmental Justice**

- 1. Is the proposed project located in or is adjoining an environmental justice sensitive area (census block groups) identified by HGAC?**
  - a. If yes, will the project incorporate measures that reduce, minimize or avoid adverse effects environmental justice sensitive areas (census block groups) identified by HGAC?**

No, the proposed Cotton Bayou Trail system is not within an environmental justice sensitive area identified by H-GAC.