

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Forest E. Turner'.

Date: December 9, 2010

To: Honorable Members of the Quality of Life
Committee: Pauline Medrano (Chair), Vonciel
Jones Hill (Vice Chair), Carolyn R. Davis, Sheffie
Kadane, David A. Neumann, Steve Salazar

Through: Forest E. Turner
Assistant City Manager

Subject: Trail Safety Initiative

In light of recent incidents on the Katy and White Rock Lake trails, Councilmember Angela Hunt asked the Park and Recreation Department to develop a trail safety action plan. Park staff met with Councilmember Hunt, Assistant City Manager Forest Turner and the Friends of the Katy Trail in October – following the recent trail incidents – and again earlier this month, to review and discuss an action plan that addresses trail safety on the trails throughout the city. The attached document outlines what the city is doing in the immediate, intermediate and long term horizons to address this issue. We will brief this initiative in more detail to the Quality of Life Committee in February 2011.

If you have questions, please call me at 214-670-4071.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul D. Dyer'.

Paul D. Dyer, P.E., Director
Park and Recreation Department

Attachment

cc: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
Mary K. Suhm, City Manager
Deborah A. Watkins, City Secretary
Thomas P. Perkins, Jr., City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Judge C. Victor Lander, Judiciary
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager
A.C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager
Jill Jordan, Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Helena Stevens-Thompson, Assistant to the City Manager

City of Dallas
Trail Safety Initiative - Action Plan

Immediate action – Items that have been implemented or are in the process of implementation:

- More police presence to the Katy Trail during peak hours, starting week of Nov. 22:
 - 10-16 hours of uniformed bicycle police patrol will be added during the “3rd watch” from 3:30 to 7:00, Monday through Friday.
 - This is in addition to the existing bicycle patrol schedule of Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (provided by the City), and the supplemental weekend patrol (provided with financial support from the Friends of the Katy Trail).
- Improvements to Katy Trail ‘at-grade’ street crossings, including reconfigured street lane markings and signage:
 - Knox Street
 - Harvard Drive
- Updated Trail Safety Guidelines, and posted on City’s web site (www.dallasparks.org). Distributed to stakeholders for incorporation into their media and distributions.
- Actively working with stakeholder groups to promote outreach activities regarding trail safety.
 - Participated in the Friends of the Katy Trail “Safety Drive,” on October 23rd, to interface with trail users and to distribute trail safety guidelines.
 - Encouraging running and cycling groups to educate their constituencies on proper trail etiquette when planning and promoting special events.
- Establishing the Dallas Trail Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) to develop consensus on appropriateness and feasibility of various ideas of improving trail safety.
 - First committee meeting to be held on December 17th at 3:00 pm in Park Department office.
 - Committee discussion topics would include, but not be limited to:
 - Facility design standards (width, separation, etc.)
 - User behavior and concerns
 - Regulation and enforcement (police, radar signage, speed limits, etc.)
 - Pertinent City codes and ordinances
 - Members of the Committee will include:
 - Key Park and Recreation Board members
 - A nationally-recognized local trail planner
 - Two representatives from key stakeholder groups, including:

- Friends of the Katy Trail
- Friends of the Trinity Strand Trail
- Friends of the Preston Ridge Trail
- Friends of the Santa Fe Trail
- Friends of Kiest Trails
- Bike DFW
- Dallas Running Club
- Representatives from the following City departments:
 - Park and Recreation Department
 - Department of Sustainable Development and Construction
 - Public Works and Transportation Department
 - Dallas Police Department
- Representative from Dallas County

Intermediate action – Items currently in the planning phases, to be implemented in the near future:

- Launch a dynamic advertising campaign to promote proper trail use and safety.
 - Campaign is currently in the development stages. The Park and Recreation Department has engaged a local advertising firm.
 - The Trail Safety Advisory Committee will participate in a campaign development input meeting on January 11, 2011.
 - Initial roll-out is proposed for April 2011.
 - Depending on cost, certain elements may be launched earlier or later than others.
- Implement consistent/standardized traffic control and safety treatments at all operational trail/road crossing locations in 2011 and 2012.
 - The project is managed by the Department of Sustainable Development and Construction, and funded in partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation.
 - Treatments at each crossing may include pavement markings, signage, and lighting.
- Re-stripe faded striping as needed
 - To be included the Park and Recreation Department's Facility Services work plan for this fiscal year.

On-going and long term action – Items with long time horizons and/or requires significant budgetary needs for complete implementation:

- Continue implementation of the Trail Network Master Plan, focusing on critical connections, extensions, and new trails that will alleviate existing trail congestion and promote connectivity.
 - Update the plan to include additional off-street routes and connections to on-street facilities, per the Bikeway System Master Plan
 - 270 miles of trails are proposed at build-out of trail network.
 - 104 miles of trails are currently on the ground.

- Complete and begin implementation of the Dallas Bikeway System Master Plan (Bike Plan update).
 - Development of over 700 miles of on-street bicycle facilities, including:
 - Bike lanes, buffered bike lanes, and “cycle tracks”
 - Shared lanes
 - Wide shoulders
- Continue implementation of the 911 locator sign program for all major trails.
 - 911 locator signs have been installed on:
 - Katy Trail
 - White Rock Lake Park Loop Trail
 - White Rock Creek Greenbelt Trail (currently being installed)