

## Dawson Neighborhood Transportation Update

By Cynthia Medlin

As residents are aware there is much activity in our area having significant impact on our local "mobility". Transportation is a critical issue in our rapidly growing and changing urban environment. Within the neighborhood there are many projects connected with installing the drainage system upgrades that impact our streets and create temporary disruptions and inconvenience for us. The City of Austin will provide involved households information on these projects. This article will instead focus on long term transportation changes.

**Sidewalks:** At our February 2013 meeting, Peter Davis, Chair of the Dawson Plan/ Contact Team informed us that the CoA will be installing sidewalks along the west side of Euclid and Wilson streets in conjunction with the ongoing drainage project. I confirmed this with Mr. John Eastman of the Neighborhood Connectivity Div. of the Dept. of Public Works. The work "will be happening sometime this spring" and will also include repairs on the north side of Cumberland from Wilson to Euclid. "The main objective of the project is to construct new ADA (American with Disabilities Act) compliant sidewalks and curb ramps which will provide residents with a safe accessible route."

Mr. Eastman confirmed that the funding came from the 2010 Mobility Bonds "allocated for sidewalk construction citywide in conformance with the City's adopted *Sidewalk Master Plan*. Both Wilson and Euclid are 'very high' priorities in the plan." They are also priorities in our neighborhood plan.

A letter providing more details will be sent to affected homeowners and tenants before construction begins. Work will be "coordinated with the street repair portion of the drainage project." Mr. Eastman can be contacted at 512-974-7025 or by email at [John.Eastman@austintexas.gov](mailto:John.Eastman@austintexas.gov). Kudos go to Peter Davis for his advocacy on this issue.

**Regional High Capacity Transit:** On February 26, 2013 I attended a meeting regarding Project Connect which is a "regional high-capacity transit vision that will keep Central Texas connected." It was developed under the leadership of the Transit Working Group which is a "committee of regional leaders focused on evaluating high-capacity transit projects." The implementation plan is being developed with the coordination and participation of CAMPO, Capital Metro, the City of Austin, Lone Star Rail and the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority. The plan includes the following high-capacity options: transit on express lanes, bus rapid transit, urban rail, commuter rail, and regional rail.

The initial priority area for high capacity transit will be the area from Georgetown to central Austin destinations. However, the Dawson Neighborhood is along one of the highest capacity transit corridors in the Capital Metro area. Because of that we will see the implementation of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) along South Congress Ave. in 2014. BRT "operates in mixed traffic or its own lane." It usually consists of longer buses and more technology to speed the trip. BRT buses may communicate with traffic lights to keep them green longer. In the more distant future (around 2025) the vision for South Congress Ave. includes Urban Rail which is a hybrid technology between light rail and streetcars. This is in keeping with our neighborhood plan. For more information on Project Connect go to [www.connectcentraltexas.com](http://www.connectcentraltexas.com)

## Dawson Meeting

**Monday, April, 9, 6:30 p.m.**

South Austin  
Multipurpose Center  
2508 Durwood

### I. Neighborhood Association.

1. Approval of Minutes
2. New Business
3. Old Business
4. Issues in the Neighborhood

### II. Planning Contact Team

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Membership Report
3. New Business
4. Old Business

We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of  
Feb, Apr, June, Aug, Oct & Dec.

## Community - Stay in Touch

To join the DNA listserv, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DawsonNeighborhood> or email [DawsonNeighborhood-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:DawsonNeighborhood-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

Neighbors use the listserv to discuss lost/found animals, report suspicious activities or burglaries, announce events like yard sales and share other neighborhood news.

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## DNPCT Membership Report

The following DNPCT members will be moved from Active to Suspended status if they do not attend the April 2013 meeting: **Cole & Julie Alexander, Diana Claitor, & David Haun**

## It's My Park Day was a resounding success!

Our Gillis Park Project was one of the over 90 "It's My Park Day" projects city-wide. Special thanks to the 27 volunteers from Dawson Neighborhood who spread two full dump trucks of mulch around the 68 trees in Gillis Park!! This mulch will help drought-proof our urban tree canopy.

Across the city, almost 3500 volunteers completed over 10,000 hours of volunteer labor. That's equivalent to 5 park maintenance employees working full-time for a whole year! All told, including labor, this one day represented an investment of approximately one quarter of a million dollars for Austin's parks.

Mark your calendars for next year! "It's My Park Day" will be March 1. Dawson Neighborhood can tackle another project: planting drought-resistant grasses, wildflowers, shrubs and trees, painting benches, rails, and picnic tables, repairing trails, removing invasive species, collecting trash and much, much more.