

Dawson Neighborhood News

Newsletter of the Dawson Neighborhood Association
and Dawson Neighborhood Plan Contact Team
www.dawsonneighborhoodassociation.org

July/August 2025

Resolution Opposing MoPac South Expansion

The Austin Neighborhoods Council has been working on passing a similar version of this resolution, which we discussed at our last DNA meeting. If you're not already familiar with the issue, you can learn more here:

<https://communityimpact.com/austin/south-central-austin/transportation/2025/06/25/south-mopac-toll-expansion-set-as-priority-for-next-fiscal-year-by-transit-authorities/>

This project will affect many of us living in South Austin and so we may wish to take action and adopt this resolution.

Text of resolution:

WHEREAS, the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (CTRMA) has proposed to expand MoPac South from Slaughter Lane to south to Cesar Chavez with 4 toll lanes and up to 6-8 lanes in certain locations, which will significantly alter character and quality of life in neighborhoods along MoPac South; and

WHEREAS, the proposed MoPac South expansion is closely linked to the ongoing plans to link SH45 SW to I-35, which would funnel thousands of cars and 18-wheelers onto MoPac, exacerbating problems with traffic congestion, bottlenecks, safety, noise pollution, and air quality; and

WHEREAS, the MoPac South expansion and the SH45 SW extension to I-35 will negatively impact the water quality of the Edwards Aquifer, Lady Bird Lake, and Barton Springs, threatening the ecological integrity and impairing the recreational value of iconic public spaces, trails, and greenbelts; and

WHEREAS, the proposed expansion of MoPac South was halted in 2015 following overwhelming community opposition, and since that date, the lack of opportunities for meaningful public input has left community concerns unaddressed, denying residents the chance to revisit the project's scope, assess evolving needs and traffic patterns, and explore viable alternatives that better align with Austin's values; and

WHEREAS, the Travis County Commissioners Court has formally requested that the CTRMA prepare a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), as required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which is essential to thoroughly assess the project's environmental impacts, consider alternatives and provide the public meaningful opportunities for input; and

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council approved Resolution 20241212-066, requesting that the CTRMA work with the City of Austin and other stakeholders on developing an alternative to the 4-lane expansion to mitigate environmental concerns, better address

(Continued on next page)

Next Meeting

Monday, August 11, 6:30
Twin Oaks Library, 1800 S.
Fifth St.

Agenda

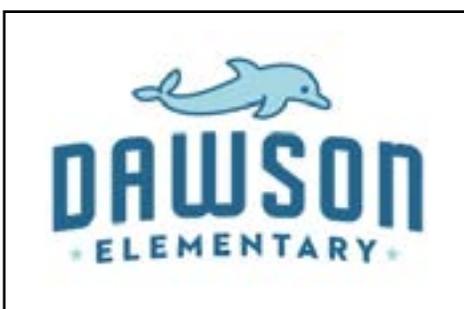
Neighborhood Association

1. Approval of minutes of June meeting
2. Mopac resolution
3. Announcements

Plan Contact Team

1. Approval of minutes of June meeting
2. City Drainage survey on West Alpine started
3. Gillis Pool will close on August 10th
4. Alpine Pond area has a problem with weed and trash problems

Thanks to Our Sponsor



Dawson Elementary serves children ages 3 to 12 years.

Please contact Dawson's office at 512-698-9151, to set up a time for a tour.

Editor:

Eliot Kimber,
drmacro@gmail.com

Dawson Neighborhood List Serve: Groups.io

<https://groups.io/g/dawsonneighborhoodassociation>

Find Us On Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/DawsonNeighborhoodAssociation>

We meet on the 2nd Monday of February, April, June, August, October, and December.

(Resolution, continued)

mobility needs, and better align with the City's approved climate and transportation plans; and

WHEREAS, the Save Our Springs Alliance, Inc, and its Keep MoPac Local campaign have been instrumental in advocating for sustainable transportation solutions for MoPac South and in amplifying the collective community's voice to prioritize environmental integrity and residents' quality of life over highway expansion;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Dawson Neighborhood Association:

1. Formally opposes the proposed MoPac South expansion, as currently defined by the CTRMA, due to its anticipated harmful impacts to our environment and our residents' quality of life.
2. Urges the CTRMA Board to direct its staff to prepare a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the MoPac South expansion that includes the foreseeable impacts from the related SH45 SW extension to ensure a comprehensive analysis of the cumulative environmental and community impacts.
3. Requests the CTRMA, as part of the EIS process, provide opportunities for robust public

engagement to allow residents to voice their concerns and evaluate the project scope, community needs, and project alternatives.

4. Supports the development and consideration of sustainable transportation solutions that emphasize public transit, pedestrian and bike infrastructure, and traffic demand management strategies as alternatives to highway expansion.
5. Recognizes the importance of Neighborhood Associations, Local Non-profits, and concerned Residents uniting in support of the SOS Alliance and the Keep Mopac Local campaign to oppose the proposed MoPac South expansion and to advocate alternatives that prioritize the needs of Austin residents and the environment.
6. Encourages neighborhood associations, local nonprofits, and concerned residents to provide essential monetary contributions directly through KeepMopacLocal.org to help protect Barton Springs, Lady Bird Lake, and the Edwards Aquifer.
7. Adopted [date] by the Dawson Neighborhood Association.

Minutes of Dawson Neighborhood Association, June 9, 2025 6:30 at Twin Oaks Library

Julie Woods, President called the meeting to order

1. April minutes approved.
2. A city bond election is coming up in 2026. We are invited to suggest projects via a city website and by contacting council members.
3. The Mopac expansion project is opposed by Save Our Springs and some neighborhoods due to environmental concerns and the use of old data such as a 2015 traffic study. A draft resolution to oppose the Mopac expansion was circulated. A motion was made and approved to continue discussing the resolution on our listserv.
4. DB90 zoning (density bonus to allow 90 ft building if affordable units are added) has been used most heavily in our district 3, mostly east of I35. Although the program is in place to help affordability, older affordable apartments are torn down to put in place new construction that does not replace the number of affordable units that were originally in place.

Meeting adjourned

Minutes of Dawson Neighborhood Plan Contact Team, June 14, 2025

April 2025 DNCPT Meeting notes

- Gillis Pool opens on June 9th. I saw city workers also working on the Gillis Park fields before the June meeting.
- Austin's Citywide Lighting Plan announces Lighting Survey. I sent a sent website notice earlier. See <https://www.publicinput.com/lightingplan#:~:text=The%20City%20of%20Austin%20is,%2C%20equity%2C%20and%20environmental%20sustainability>.
- Streets around HEB at Oltorf and SC is the only area in DN listed for changes as of last year.
- South Congress Transit Center Station Area Vision Plan revisited. No new update since City Council meeting.
- At last video meeting with city planners we brought up problems with our FLUM map and affected area that may not be made clear to them from viewing the map.
- Hopefully we will be included when they begin discussion on the newly extracted FLUM area. They say they are after better pedestrian and walking to the Transit area, want to include us.
- Maybe we should ask for better sidewalks in the area, and the Lessin to Wilson pedestrian access.
- There are now seemingly problems with the DB90 development coding and possible loss of neighborhood access to automatic permits and zoning notices. The ANC has had a lot recent emails and discussions on this topic.
- Near new businesses you can drive to nearby: Dish Social and Swedish Hill Bakery; both on 1st Street.