

**APPENDIX A
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, INPUT AND
BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR STUDY**

1. Public Input - Initial Workshops

The first series of public input meetings was held during the week of September 23-26, 2002 at the beginning of this project. They provided an opportunity for individuals and groups interested in the Trinity River Corridor to provide information and share their thoughts with the consultants.

A series of four meetings was held at Dallas City Hall, each organized around specific areas of interest: Neighborhood/Community; Environmental; Business/Arts; Media. Invitation letters were sent to approximately one hundred forty-six (146) groups or individuals; follow up included faxes and phone calls. Those invited were either the president of the organization or other appropriate representative rather than the entire group. Invited individuals included those with a history of involvement in the Trinity River Corridor or those with an interest in the area.

The format of each meeting was the same with each being one hour long. The first part of the meeting included introductions of the consultants, the scope of their work for this project, the Coordinating Entities and other participants, the structure of this project, background of the process and the meeting agenda. The rest of the meeting was reserved for public comment, using the questions below as a discussion guide. At the end, the project's anticipated next steps were described. The handouts included information about the project and the consultants.

Q1: How should Dallas handle the increase in transportation demand expected in the future in this area and the entire region?

Q2: How should we integrate and balance the needs for flood protection, recreation/open space, environmental management, transportation and economic and community development?

Q3: What urban design features would best connect adjacent neighborhoods and business areas with the river?

Q4: What word or phrase best describes your vision of the Trinity River's role in Dallas 25 years from now?

Each meeting was audio-taped and some participants submitted written comments. A large map of the Trinity River Corridor within the City of Dallas was displayed.

During this week, an additional public input session was also conducted using a different format and purpose. This was called “Evening with the River”; it was designed to encourage participants to imagine the Trinity River Corridor of the future and its role in the Dallas community of tomorrow. A cross-section of community leaders and individuals was invited to participate in this visioning session held at Yvonne Ewell Townview Magnet Center. After introductions and a presentation, participants broke up into groups. Each group had the same Corridor map that was used in the workshops and a list of four questions. Each discussion question was focused on a future time and centered on the river, neighborhoods and business areas that make up the corridor.

Q1: You are leaders in Dallas in 2040. Your grandchildren are coming to visit you from another city. Write them a letter about what they’re going to see and do within the Trinity River Corridor when they visit you.

Q2: You are leaders in Dallas in 2040. Prepare a briefing to the CEO of Microsoft explaining why their new Southwestern Headquarters should be at a site in the Trinity River Corridor.

Q3: You are leaders in Dallas in 2040. A major travel magazine is considering Dallas as one of a short list of cities to feature as “great places to visit”. Draft the bullet points that highlight attractions in the Trinity River Corridor as part of the presentation to the travel magazine’s publisher.

Q4: You are leaders in Dallas in 2040. Some close friends have decided to move to Dallas from another region. Explain the reasons why you’ll recommend a neighborhood in the Trinity River Corridor for their next home.

Each group was asked to select one question to address during its discussion time and to then present its work to everyone. The other groups and consultants could then comment.

Eighty-one (81) participants attended one or more of these meetings. The combination of workshop formats during this three-day period allowed the consultants to hear from a variety of people with differing perspectives, learn more about the history of the Corridor and to begin to form a vision for the future of the Trinity River Corridor.

2. Public Input -- Follow-Up Workshops

Another series of public workshops was held in summer, 2003. Three workshops provided an opportunity to receive public comment on the proposed "Vision Plan" briefed to the Dallas City Council on June 23, 2003. This Council briefing was an update to the March 2003 Trinity River Corridor Urban Design/Transportation Study briefing and reflected refinements to the initial concept. The workshops were held at locations throughout Dallas to allow as many as possible to attend. Those invited included the organizations from the September 2002 list as well as Dallas Plan Partner organizations and others. Three hundred and ten (310) people participated in these workshops. The feedback includes notes and audio recordings of the workshops and comments received via email, voice mail and regular mail.

A report summarizing the conclusions of these sessions, and containing all written comments received, was prepared in August 2003. This report, "Trinity River Urban Design Study Public Input, Summer 2003" is available upon request.

3. Public Input -- Written Comment

As part of the overall outreach process, written comment was solicited through various means. The request for comment was included in the written invitations to workshops, requests at the workshops, on The Dallas Plan web site's Trinity River Corridor page and through the general publicity surrounding the project. All comments received were recorded in a document containing the following information:

- How comment was received -- phone, fax, email, mail, hand delivered
- From whom the comment was received
- Subject of comment
- Contents of package or attachments, if applicable.

Comments were received from individuals and from organizations such as the Dallas AIA, Mixmaster Business Association, Trinity Commons Foundation, League of Women Voters, Dallas Sierra Club. Two (2) comments were received via mail, ten (10) via email, four (4) were faxed and eleven (11) were delivered in person. All the comments were copied and distributed to the consultants and to the project management team. The originals are included in the project files and available upon request.

3. Web Site

The Dallas Plan developed a page on its web site for this project. The page included a description of the project including tasks, objectives and responsibilities, project map, Corridor map, information about the consultants' firms, activities to date and updates related to the project, a feedback form and links to other related projects. The web site also included the complete March 2003 and June 2003 Dallas City Council presentations.

4. References

A comprehensive array of resource material related to the Trinity River Corridor was assembled for the consultants in The Dallas Plan office. This material assisted the consultants in developing their recommendations. It also allowed them to see the scope and volume of previous studies and plans and understand the history and significance of the Trinity River Corridor to Dallas.

This resource material, chronologically documented and numbered, included reports, studies and recent Dallas City Council briefings related to all aspects of the Trinity River Corridor. These documents included major city plans beginning with the 1914 Kessler Plan and including the Hare and Hare Plan, Town Lake, the Chain of Wetlands and The Dallas Plan. These documents also included geographic studies and plans such as the Stemmons/Harry Hines Corridor Implementation Study, the Great Trinity Forest Park Master Plan, Oak Cliff Gateway Implementation Plan, West Dallas Community Planning Strategy and the 2003 HNTB Land Use Study, among others. TXDoT and NTTA transportation studies and maps were also part of the resource materials. The list of approximately 107 items is available upon request.