



Transportation Set-Aside Program Shared-Use Pathway FAQs

City of Morgan's Point Resort
November 1, 2023

Summary

Morgan's Point Resort is set to receive a substantial boost to its transportation infrastructure with the approval of \$3.8 million in funding by the Texas Transportation Commission for the construction of a shared-use pathway under the Transportation Set-Aside funding program.

The shared-use pathway will connect the sidewalk in front of Lake Belton High School on FM-2483 Hwy to the intersection of Morgan's Point Rd and Sobrante Rd. This critical development addresses the safety of students from Morgan's Point Resort who attend Lake Belton High School, High Point Elementary, and North Belton Middle School. It will enable these students to conveniently walk or bike to school, ensuring their safety. Additionally, this project will provide residents of Morgan's Point Resort with a secure means of accessing the Crossroads Recreational Complex on Prairie View Rd. In promoting healthier lifestyles and fostering a greater sense of community connectivity, this expansion of safe pedestrian infrastructure will undoubtedly have a positive impact.

Notably, Morgan's Point Resort's project qualifies for Transportation Development Credits (TDCs), signifying that the entire \$3.8 million is funded by federal and state dollars, without any local match required from the city. This financial arrangement highlights the efficiency and impact of this investment in the city's future.

A survey conducted by the city in May 2023 revealed that 89.7 percent of respondents expressed support for the shared-use pathway project, citing concerns for student safety, as well as the anticipated health benefits and improved community accessibility and walkability. The Morgan's Point Resort City Council passed resolution 2023.9 on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, authorizing Stage 2 of the city's application for funding.

In addition to strong community support, the project garnered notable endorsements from key stakeholders, emphasizing collaborative efforts to enhance transportation infrastructure and pedestrian safety in Morgan's Point Resort and the broader region. These endorsements have come from Congressman John Carter, the City of Temple, the Killeen-Temple Metropolitan Planning Organization, Belton ISD, the Boy Scouts of America Troop 118, the Morgan's Point Resort Fire and Police Departments, and Mayor Dennis Green. These endorsements underscore the broad support for the initiative and the shared vision for a safer and more connected community.

The Texas Transportation Commission's selection of Morgan's Point Resort's shared-use pathway project is part of the Transportation Alternatives program, which supports local projects aimed at enhancing bicycle and pedestrian amenities for people of all ages and abilities. These projects play a crucial role in providing safe access to multimodal transportation options, connecting essential community destinations such as schools, jobs, downtowns, commercial areas, and medical facilities for all residents. The Commission approved a historic \$345 million in funding for projects across the state of Texas under the Transportation Set-Aside funding program.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will the City be required to provide any financial match?

A: No. The project was determined to be eligible for Transportation Development Credits, meaning the entire \$3.8 million will be funded by federal and state dollars, and the City will not be required to provide a local match. The entire cost of the project will be reimbursed.

Q: Will there be any tax increases or bonds issued to pay for the proposed pathway?

A: The construction costs will come out of the City's Capital Improvement Project fund, so the City will not need to levy any additional taxes or issue any bonds to cover construction costs before reimbursement. During construction, we will report costs to TxDOT on a monthly basis for reimbursement. TxDOT specifically adopts this monthly reimbursement format to enable smaller cities like ours to take advantage of this program without raising tax rates or issuing bonds.

Q: Will there be lighting, street signs, and cross walks for safety?

A: Our application includes the cost of lighting, cross walks, and signage along the pathway. We will utilize existing utility poles for lighting wherever possible to reduce costs and the unwanted appearance of additional utility poles.

Q: Will golf carts be allowed on the shared-use pathway?

A: The proposed shared-use pathway will be built for use by pedestrians and cyclists only. There are no current plans to expand the pathway for golf cart use due to the increased cost to accommodate their size.

Q: What is the timeline for construction?

A: The City must adhere to state laws governing the procurement of services for projects of this size. This entails engaging in a competitive sealed bidding or competitive sealed proposals process. As a result, the City does not have an accurate estimate for engineering and construction at this time because it will depend on the timeline provided by the vendors involved. We urge residents to exercise patience, as projects of this magnitude often take longer than expected. We will provide updates as more information becomes available.

Frequently Asked Questions, Continued

Q: Will the City be responsible for maintaining the pathway?

A: Yes, the City will be responsible for maintenance costs. Shared-use pathways do not typically require maintenance for the first few years after construction. Afterward, the City will include maintenance of the pathway alongside other regular maintenance costs in the City's budget. The City is committed to maintaining a balanced budget and reducing tax rate increases as much as possible from year to year, and will continue to do so regardless of increased maintenance costs.

Q: Will traffic be interrupted or rerouted during construction?

A: While it is challenging to predict the exact extent of traffic interruptions during construction, the City will be actively taking steps to reduce any disruptions as much as possible. We will be collaborating with TxDOT to determine the specific requirements when requesting bids or proposals for the project, including requirements to minimize traffic interruptions as much as possible.

Recognizing the major traffic concerns on FM 2483 Hwy, the City aims to work closely with TxDOT, the Central Texas Council of Governments and the Killeen-Temple Metropolitan Planning Organization to seek funding for necessary expansions and improvements to the road. Future plans for additional traffic lanes will be considered when constructing the shared-use pathway.

Q: Are there any plans to extend the pathway to Morgan's Point Blvd, Bonnie Lane, Rogers Park, etc?

A: The City's goal is to eventually extend the sidewalk network along the major thoroughfares to enhance safe and accessible walkability throughout the City. The current proposed pathway was designed to efficiently connect nearby schools to as many residential areas as possible. Although we understand that many students live in other parts of the City, we remain committed to prioritizing their safety as we continue to expand the pathway system.

Currently, there are no plans to extend the sidewalk network into residential areas. We acknowledge that preserving the natural aesthetic of Morgan's Point Resort is important to many residents. Therefore, we intend to strike a balance between maintaining the city's natural appearance and promoting safety and accessibility by focusing on main roads for the expansion of the pathway system.