To:Honorable Mayor and Members of the City CouncilFrom:Rebecca Gleason, Assistant City ManagerDate:August 12, 2022Subject:Weekly Memo, August 8 – August 12, 2022



Upcoming Training

Below are future training opportunities. If you are interested in attending any of the trainings, please notify the City Secretary and she will take care of the registration for you.

TML – Annual Conference and Exhibition ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE REGISTERED Date: October 5-7, 2022 Time: All Day Location: San Antonio

TML Economic Development Conference Date: November 17-18, 2022 Time: All Day Location: Hyatt Lost Pines

Visit Bastrop Joint Meeting

The joint meeting between the City Council and Visit Bastrop will be held on September 6, 2022, at 5:00 pm in Council Chambers.

Upcoming Ribbon Cuttings

August 16 at 10:00 am *Right at Home*. Location is 102 Commercial Drive August 19 at 2:00 pm *Greater Texas Credit Union*. Location is 115 Hunters Crossing Blvd

Utilities/Customer Service

City of Bastrop Utilities has been invited to participate in another financial assistance program for our customers, the Texas Utility Help Program. This program is administered by Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs and funded by the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) and the Low-Income Home Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). Residents can apply for these funds through Texas Utility Help; we encourage you to visit their website: <u>www.texasutilityhelp.com</u>.

Information to this assistance will be made available through billing, the website, and the Utility Customer Service Office.

Ozone Action Day

August 12 was issued an Ozone Action Day by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). We posted to social media with information about the atmospheric conditions and steps that citizens are being asked to take, along with links to additional resources. More information can be found here: <u>Ozone Action Days - Air Central Texas</u>.

Special Events

Discovery Days

The Recreation Program hosted the last week of Discovery Days Camp on August 2-4. The camp theme was on all things nature which included water! On Thursday, August 4, Public Works got the opportunity to help educate the curious minds by discussing water/wastewater treatment, distribution, collection, and the hydrologic cycle. The kiddos were thrilled when they were given hands-on analysis time. Learning while having fun!



Street Maintenance

The City of Bastrop City Council authorized the approval of a construction contract with Brannan Paving Co., LTD, for the Street Maintenance Project for an amount of Six Hundred Three Thousand, Seven Hundred Ninety-Eight Dollars and Sixty-Five Cents (\$603,798.65).

The scope of this project includes seal coating the streets depicted on the map attached. Seal coating consists of applying a liquid layer of product over an existing asphalt pavement in a manner that seals the surface and fills small voids and cracks as protection against weathering elements, such as sunlight and water, which will gradually cause asphalt to become brittle and crack. Seal coating will extend the life of the streets.

The Notice to Proceed is anticipated to be issued in August 2022 and construction should be completed within ninety calendar days. The substantial completion of the construction is anticipated in November-December 2022.

Old Iron Bridge – RAISE Grant

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced the <u>Rebuilding American Infrastructure with</u> <u>Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant</u> awards on August 11, 2022. The City of Bastrop was not awarded for the Old Iron Bridge Restoration and Deck Park. The City will request a debrief to understand the scoring for the project so we can evaluate the future options for repairing the bridge and the funding that may be available.

Certificates of Occupancy

The following Commercial Certificates of Occupancy were issued July 26 to August 11:

- The Gym in Lost Pines 603 Chestnut
- Walnut Ridge Apartments 1900 Walnut Street
- Body and Shine Wellness LLC 1005 Main Street
- Monkeys Pinata Palace 1006 College Street
- All City Real Estate 1109 Main Street, A
- Gravity District 201 Hunters Crossing Blvd., #14

River Loop Sidewalk Project Ribbon Cutting

On August 11, completion of the River Loop Sidewalk Project was celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The event was attended by City staff members associated with the project, members of the City Council, several Bastrop Chamber of Commerce members and ambassador team, and many community members. The crowd networked and fellowshipped while they enjoyed treats provided by Coffee Dog, where the first part of the ceremony took place. Speeches were delivered by Mayor Connie Schroeder, Acting City Manager Trey Job, and Bastrop Economic Development Corporation board chair Ron Spencer. The crowd then braved the heat and headed to the sidewalk to cut the ribbon and have a photo op.



Big Tex Gun Show at Convention Center

The Big Tex Gun Show will be held at the Bastrop Convention Center on August 20-21. This is the fourth time this event promoter has held a show in the Convention Center. City staff received an email message Thursday night with certain inquiries and concerns about the show. It was specifically asked if "AR-15s" would be for sale and if background checks would be administered. The event coordinator was contacted to have an opportunity to address the concerns, and Assistant City Manager Gleason responded with the following reply:

The Bastrop Convention Center is host to a diverse range of clients and events. The safety, legality, and adherence to City Council established policies are top priorities, without exception. Security measures are always fully vetted by staff, held to State of Texas standards, and approved by the Bastrop Police Department. This will be the fourth show produced by Big Tex Gun Show and Bastrop Police Chief Clint Nagy has informed us that the previous shows have occurred without incident. We have also reached out to the show's coordinator who is more than happy to be contacted by anyone with concerns or questions. She is unable to comment on the specific inventory that will be brought by the over 60 vendors, but she assured us that everything will be within the confines of the law. And she said the same regarding the adherence to any legally required background checks. She assured us that safety is her number one priority and any vendor that breaks the law will no longer be part of the show. The show's coordinator is always happy to talk about the procedures they follow towards conducting a safe and lawful show. Her contact information is: Stormy Melton, 325-205-2688, bigtexgunshow@gmail.com so please do not hesitate to reach out to her with further questions.

We understand and appreciate your concern for safety around an event like this and myself, our Police Chief, and the show coordinator are more than happy to discuss further.

Future Agenda Items

August 23, 2022

- Parks and Recreation Master Plan Contract
- Purchasing Policy, Financial Management Policy, Investment Policy
- Pearl River Zoning
- River Crest PIPA

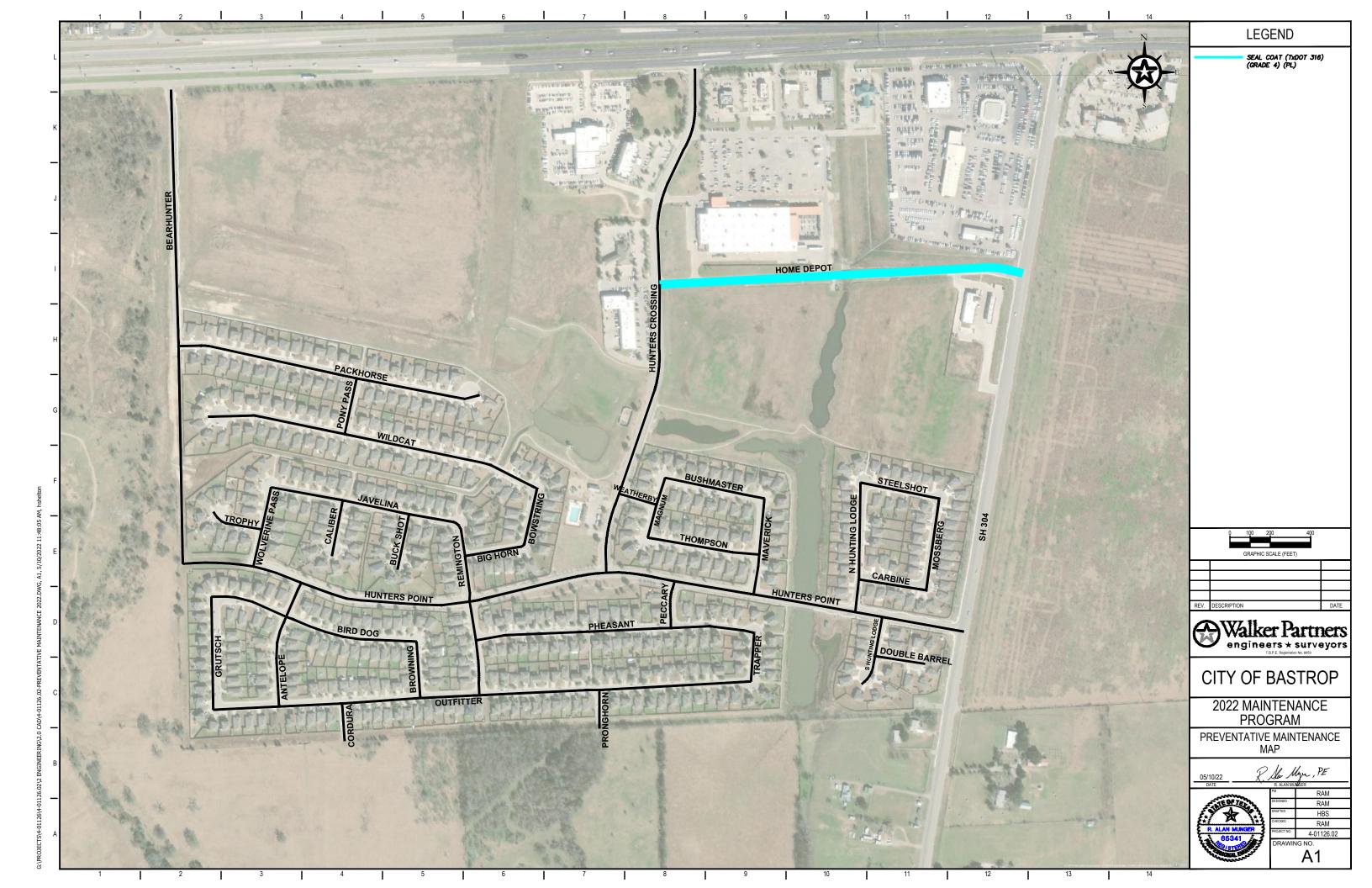
September 13, 2021

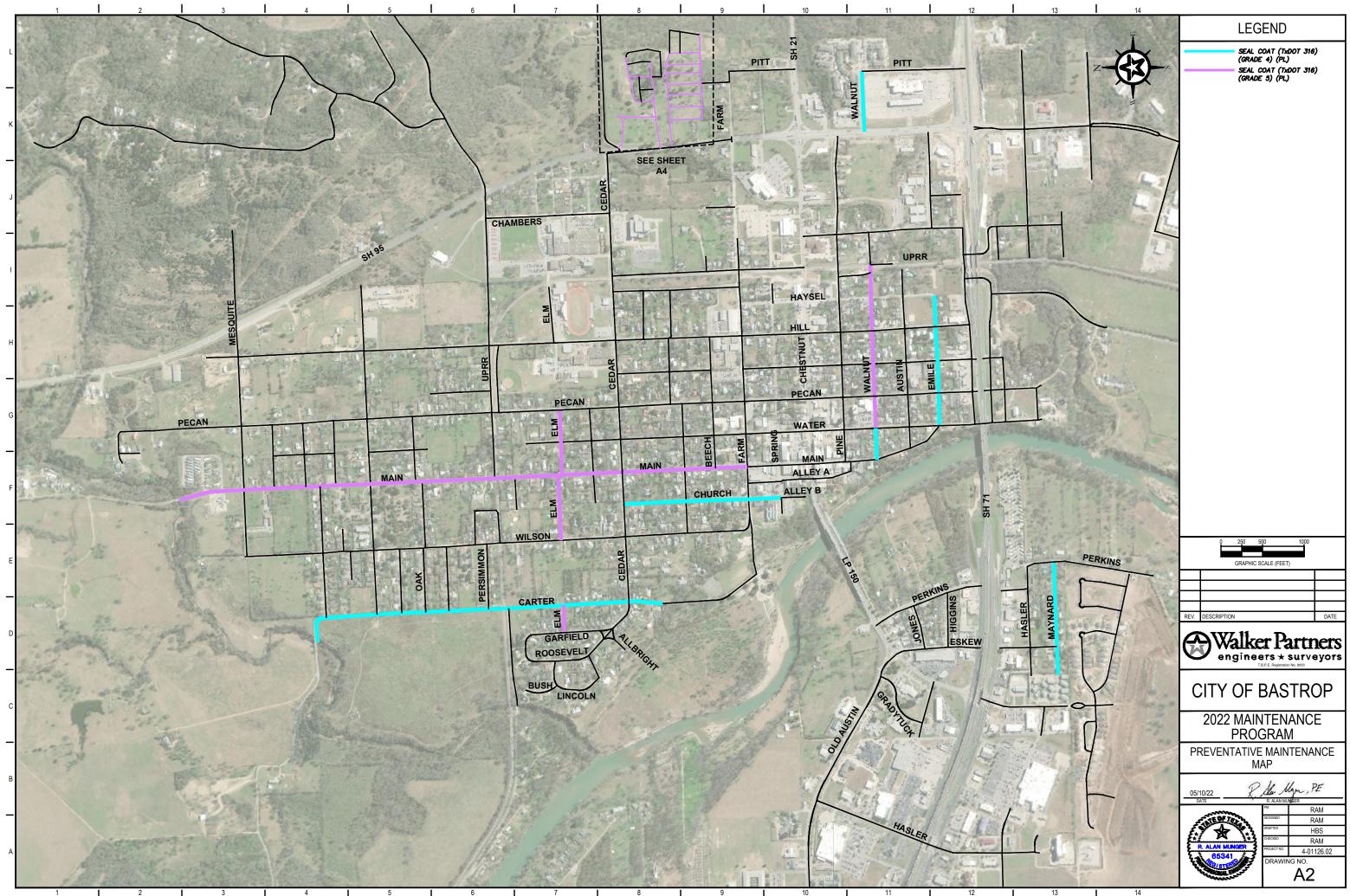
- Budget for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023
- Municipal Court Fees
- Adopting Tax Rate
- Budget amendment for Fiscal Year 2022

Attachments

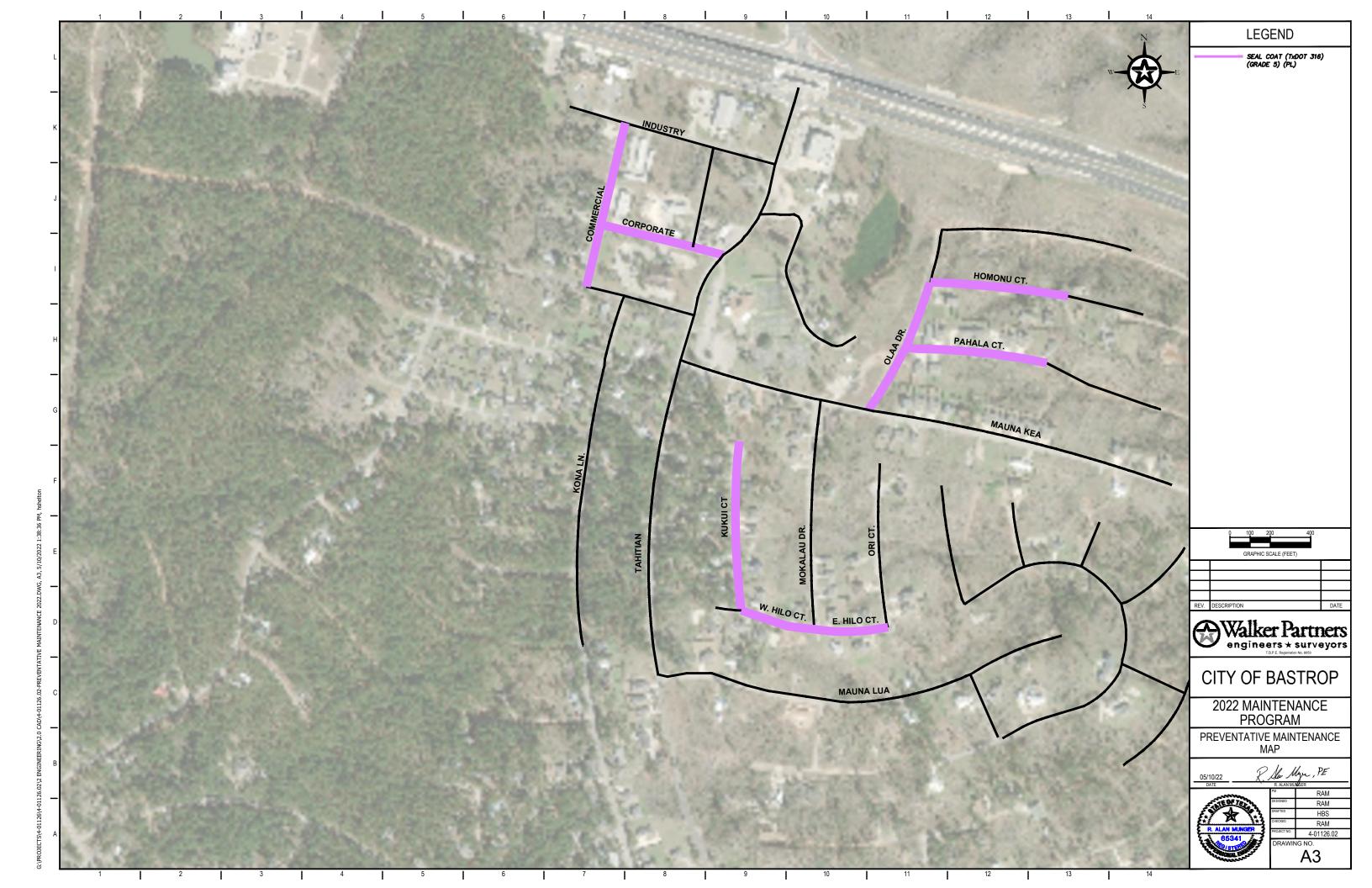
- FC 4 Street Maintenance Project Limits of Work
- TML Legislative Update Number #32

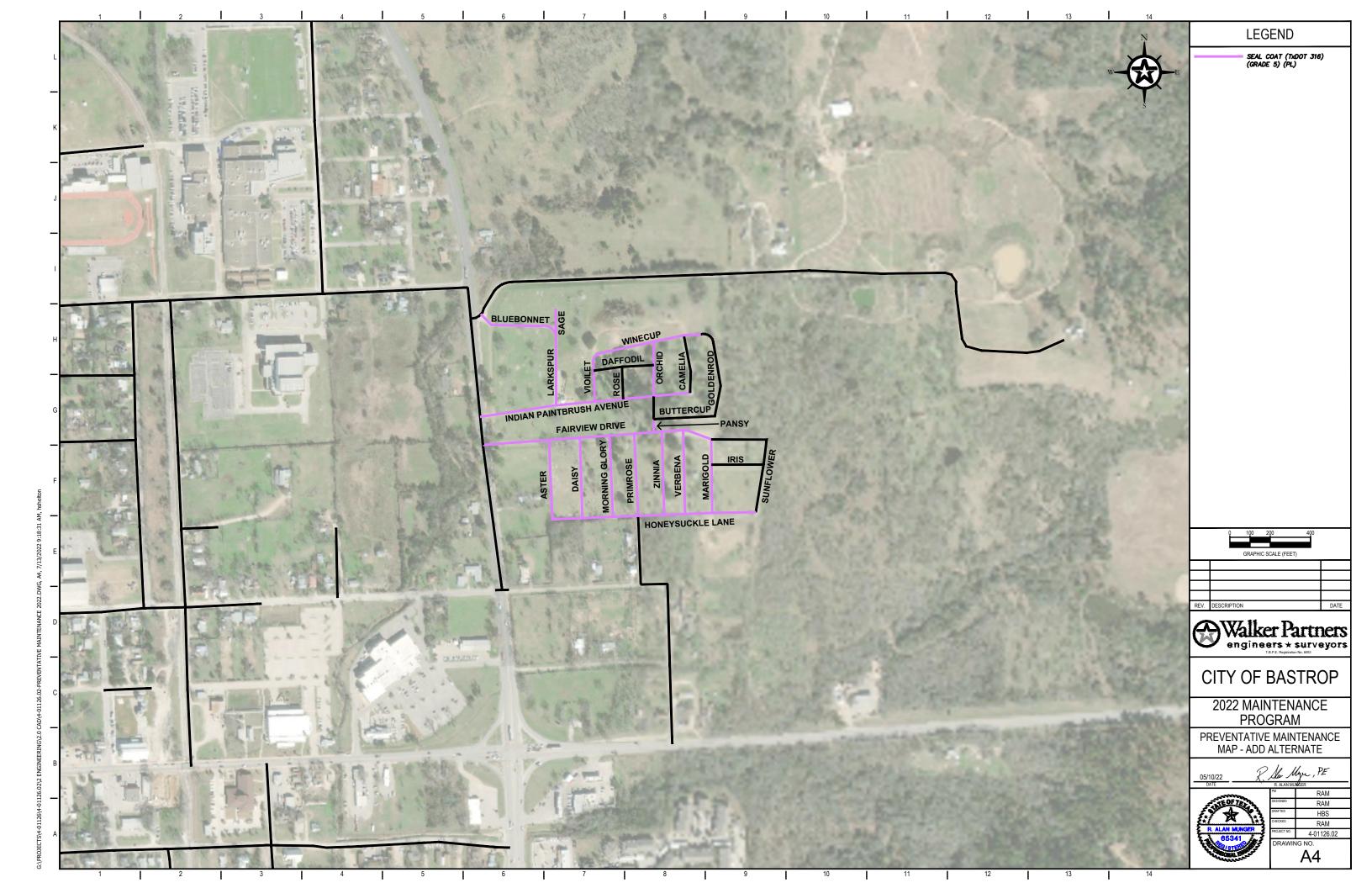






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August 12, 2022 Number 32

<u>Several Texas Cities File Lawsuit Seeking Franchise Fees from</u> <u>Streaming Services</u>

Last week, a group of 25 Texas cities <u>filed a lawsuit</u> alleging that streaming services Disney, Hulu, and Netflix have failed to pay city franchise fees for use of the city rights-of-way in providing their services, as required by state law. Similar lawsuits have been filed in other states as people continue to "cut the cord" and switch from cable to streaming video services.

Specifically, the cities argue in *City of Dallas v. Disney DTC, LLC* that the streaming services fit the definition of "video service providers" under <u>Chapter 66 of the Texas Utilities Code</u> because they provide video programming services through wireline facilities located in the public right-of-way. The suit alleges that, by not seeking a state-issued certificate of franchise authority and paying a five percent franchise fee to cities like other cable and video services providers, the streaming companies have violated Chapter 66. The plaintiff cities also contend that failure to pay statutorily-required franchise fees violates the provisions of the Texas Constitution prohibiting cities from giving gifts for private purposes.

The League will continue to monitor the litigation and will provide updates as they become available.

Federal Infrastructure Bill Update

In November 2021, the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was signed into law. The IIJA is altogether a \$1.2 trillion bill that will invest in the nation's core infrastructure priorities including roads, bridges, rail, transit, airports, ports, energy transmission, water systems, and broadband.

The League will monitor state and federal agencies and work with the National League of Cities (NLC) to access the latest information relating to the IIJA. We will be providing periodic updates in the Legislative Update on resources for Texas cities on how to access IIJA funding for local infrastructure projects.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Last week, the USDA <u>announced</u> it is accepting applications for the second round of 2022 funding for the Rural eConnectivity Program, also called the ReConnect Program. The program is designed to facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas. Local governments are eligible applicants, among many others. Beginning on September 6, applications can be submitted through the Rural Utilities Service on-line application portal until 10:59 am CST on November 2. More on the program can be found <u>here</u>.

National League of Cities (NLC)

The Local Infrastructure Hub, sponsored by NLC and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, among others, is now live. The Hub is designed to help city officials navigate the funding programs made available by the IIJA. Interested city officials can sign up for the mailing list, attend virtual learning events, and access articles and other resources on some of the key IIJA funding opportunities. Upcoming events include:

• August 16: Focusing on Broadband (<u>register</u>)

Last Call: Resolutions Due August 22 for 2022 Annual Conference

Resolutions for consideration at the Annual Conference are due no later than 5:00 p.m. on **August 22**, **2022**. The TML Constitution provides that resolutions must be submitted by any member city, TML region, or TML affiliate to the TML headquarters 45 calendar days prior to the first day of the Annual Conference.

The League's advocacy efforts are based on a legislative program that is developed by member city officials in two ways.

First, a member city, TML region, or TML affiliate may submit a resolution for consideration at the business meeting of each year's Annual Conference. Each city is asked to provide one delegate to serve as its liaison at the meeting. The representatives will be briefed on the content of the resolutions and given a chance to discuss and vote on whether they merit inclusion in the legislative program. The resolutions form the basis of a fixed legislative program, under which – each session – modifications to the program will be made only if needed.

Second, member city officials can participate in the League's Municipal Policy Summit during the summer of 2022. The report of the Summit takes the form of a resolution that is submitted to the Annual Conference in interim years. The summit participants have been appointed by the TML President based on volunteers and others chosen to balance the demographics of the TML membership at large.

Details on the submission process can be found <u>here</u>.

Mandated Cybersecurity Training and Reporting Due August <u>31</u>

Cybersecurity training is mandated by Texas Government Code Section 2054.5191 for city employees, elected officials, and appointed officials who have access to a local government computer system or database and use a computer to perform *at least 25 percent* of their duties. The training must be certified by the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR). Cities must certify their compliance by **August 31, 2022** by using the <u>Cybersecurity Training Certification for State and Local Governments</u> form.

The Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool (TMLIRP) has three DIR-certified options available free of charge. TMLIRP's free cybersecurity training program can be assessed <u>here</u>. Other DIR-certified training programs are listed on the agency's <u>website</u>.

DIR has developed an optional tool, Texas by Texas (TxT), for cities to track compliance of individual employees and officials training compliance. For any city using TxT, employees will report their training completion and DIR will send reporting from the TxT application to each city to verify training compliance. Interested cities must submit the <u>Texas by Texas Self Reporting Form</u>.

More information on training requirements can be found here.

House and Senate Committee Interim Hearings

The Texas House and Senate Committees are underway studying interim charges outlined by Speaker Phelan and Lt. Governor Dan Patrick.

Below is a full list of committee hearings set to hear certain city-related charges. All hearings will be held at the Texas Capitol unless otherwise indicated. If a committee has a newly posted notice and was not included in last week's edition of the *Legislative Update*, it is indicated as such.

House Committee on Natural Resources

The committee will meet on Tuesday, August 23 at 10:00 a.m. to hear the following interim charges:

Review the adequacy and efficiency of current mechanisms used to compensate water right holders when the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality temporarily transfers a water right under an emergency authorization. Make appropriate recommendations for the protection of private property rights of water right holders.

Information on the hearing, including how to register and submit electronic comment, can be found <u>here</u>.

House Committee on Natural Resources

The committee will meet on Wednesday, August 24 at 10:00 a.m. to hear the following interim charges:

Examine the condition of Texas' water and flood mitigation infrastructure capabilities and consider future infrastructure needs. Evaluate sustainable funding sources to provide for water project development and infrastructure repair and replacement. Examine and make recommendations for cost-effective improvements that enhance the state's available water supply.

Note: the desalination portion of this charge will be held at a later date.

Examine the state's groundwater management policy and regulatory framework. Include a review of large-scale water transfers and their impact on groundwater resources. Make appropriate recommendations for legislation or state agency action to:

- Promote the achievement of planning goals under Chapter 36, Water Code, including those involving desired future conditions;
- Provide adequate transparency to the permit application process;
- Further the state's groundwater quality protection efforts, including an assessment of risks posed to groundwater by abandoned and deteriorated water wells and orphan oil and gas wells; and
- Promote conservation and waste prevention.

Information on the hearing, including how to register and submit electronic comment, can be found <u>here</u>.

House Committee on Pensions, Investments, and Financial Services

The committee will meet on Thursday, August 25 at 11:00 a.m. to hear the following interim charge:

Review the impact of investments by public retirement systems of their endowment and other trust funds in businesses and funds owned or controlled by the Russian government or Russian nationals, and determine the need for investment restrictions. Consider the impact of any proposed investment restrictions on fund performance.

Information on the hearing, including how to register and submit electronic comment, can be found <u>here</u>.

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