



January 2, 2018

Mayor John Thomaides
Bert Lumbreras, City Manager
City of San Marcos
630 East Hopkins
San Marcos, TX 78666

Via email: jthomaides@sanmarcostx.gov

Via email: City_Manager_Info@sanmarcostx.gov

Dear Mayor Thomaides and Mr. Lumbreras:

I am writing to ask you to schedule a presentation to the San Marcos City Council on a proposed regional trail to connect Kyle, Buda and San Marcos.

As you may know, the San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance (SMGA) has been spearheading an effort to plan for this trail, which would include a connection to the Violet Crown Trail that the Hill Country Conservancy is in the process of constructing from Austin to a point west of Buda. Last July, SMGA organized a work group for the project with representatives from Hays County, the cities of Buda, Kyle and San Marcos, the Meadows Center and the Geography Department at Texas State University, the Hill Country Conservancy, Take-a-Hike San Marcos, and the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust. Mr. Drew Wells has represented San Marcos on the Work Group.

You were recently copied on a letter informing SMGA of a commitment of community assistance for this effort from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program.

The Work Group has held several meetings to discuss the desired purposes and characteristics for the trail, and Emerald Crown Trail was selected as the name for the trail. Recently, a group of Texas State Geography Department GIS students completed a report to the Work Group with preliminary mapping of possible routes for the trail. The report included software allowing for analysis of other possible routes.

The Work Group, with assistance from the RTCA staff, would like to make a presentation on the proposed regional trail to the San Marcos City Council at an upcoming meeting. The presentation would take approximately ten minutes. We would appreciate it if you could schedule this presentation as soon as possible, and let me know the date and time so we can inform Work Group members and make other needed arrangements. We hope to make the same presentation to the Hays County Commissioners and to the Kyle and Buda city councils.

The Work Group is also planning to schedule a series of workshops on the proposed trail. The workshops will be in Kyle, Buda and San Marcos, hopefully some time in March, and they will be open to the public. We will work with your staff to schedule the San Marcos workshop, and we hope to announce the workshop schedule during our presentation.

Thanks for San Marcos' participation in the Work Group. I look forward to hearing from you on a date and time for the presentation to the San Marcos City Council.

Sincerely,

Mark Taylor
President

Cc: Council Members, Collette Jamison, Steve Parker, Drew Wells, Laurie Moyer (all via email)