



SESSOM CREEK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT- PHASE 1

TO: Bert Lumbreras – City Manager
THRU: Laurie Moyer, P.E. - Director of Engineering and Capital Improvement
FROM: Shaun Condor, P.E. - Senior Project Engineer
DATE: March 22, 2018
RE: Loquat Closure Update

As part of the Sessom Creek Improvements Project- Phase 1 project, the City must stabilize Canyon Road at Loquat where Sessom Creek crosses under Loquat. The Watershed Protection Division has requested that the City consider removing the portion of Loquat that crosses Sessom Creek as an alternative to rebuilding the intersection.

City staff has reached out to the public to receive feedback on closing Loquat at Sessom Creek and this memo will summarize the results of the outreach.

Outreach

- Public Meeting - Dec. 14, 2017
 - 11 residents attend meeting
 - Over 130 flyers mailed to residents in the area
- Survey Posted – January 3, 2018 until February 2, 2018
 - 31 responses received
 - Over 130 flyers mailed to residents in the area to take survey
 - Message board posted at intersection of Loquat and Canyon
- Emailed Neighborhood Representative to take survey
 - Received 2 response by email or phone
- Texas State Coordination – March 19, 2018
 - Met with Texas State staff to coordinate the closure of Loquat and Canyon with their future land purchase
 - Texas State is in favor of the closure and would like to see Loquat completely closed at Sessom due to safety concerns

Survey Results

Source	Alternative #1 T-Intersection	Alternative #2 Remove Loquat	Notes
Public Meeting		3	*11 responses received
On-Line Survey	7	23	1 person skipped this question
Other	1	1	
Total	8	27	35 Total Votes

*Residents also responded to on-line survey. Their vote will captured with the on-line survey numbers.

Emergency Access

- The major concern expressed in the on-line survey and by internal staff has been emergency access.
 - **Police** – No major concerns with either option. They prefer multiple routes; but they can adapt
 - **Fire** - Below are our two main objections to closing Loquat. Preferred to keep the road open.
 - Delayed response times (in and out). Responding units 1 3 4 and 5 would have to drive all the way around to Ridgeway to access Canyon Dr.
 - Safety - it's already tight on the roadway (Loquat and Canyon). If you remove the intersection. Units will have to back all the way up Canyon Dr. to exit. Not safe to do so. At least if the intersection says we can back up Loquat to turn around.
 - **Staff Response**
 - **Emergency Access** – we will use the cost savings from the stabilization work to build “Hammerheads” so large vehicles can safely turn around.
 - **Response Time** – nothing can be done on this project; but we can add a CIP to extend Canyon Road to Chestnut to provide an alternate route in the future will could help reduce response time.
 - **Pedestrian Access** – The San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance has committed to building and maintaining a hike and bike trail connecting Canyon Road to Loquat. The trail (non-ADA) will be a at grade crossing which will not be accessible during high rain events

For additional information please see attachments:

- Appendix A – Loquat Closure Details
- Appendix B – On-Line Survey Results

City of San Marcos, Texas



SUBJECT OF MEETING: Loquat Closure

PROJECT NAME: *Sessom Creek Improvements Project- Phase 1*

- 1) **Goal:** Need input on request by HCP design team to close Loquat Street
- 2) **Overview**
 - a) HCP is funding project to reduce erosion in Sessom Creek but HCP funds cannot be used on road projects.
 - b) City must stabilize Canyon Road due to creek washing it away. In order to stabilize Canyon Road, this Loquat Intersection must be addressed.
 - c) HCP came up with 3 alternatives
 - i) **Alternative #1** – Convert from a Y to a T intersection
 - ii) **Alternative #2** – Eliminate intersection (Remove Loquat) - *If this alternative is approved by the City, the HCP team wants cost savings from stabilization scope to be used to build hammer heads required for eliminating Loquat*
 - iii) **Alternative #3** – Maintain existing Y intersection – *This was removed from considering since the T intersection is more cost effective.*
- 3) **Alternative #1 (T-Intersection)**
 - a) Pros
 - i) Maintain access for residents
 - b) Cons
 - i) Not as good for water quality
 - ii) Leave a low water crossing in place
- 4) **Alternative #2 – Benefits**
 - a) Pros
 - i) Allow the reestablishment of the original stream channel and thereby:
 - (1) increase the area available for water to pass through, eliminate the choke point and reduce localized flooding in the area
 - (2) reduce peak flows, increase flow duration and thus reduce the potential for downstream flooding
 - (3) enable the natural stream bottom to adjust with flow events
 - (4) enable more natural sediment transport through the area, minimizing erosion and maintenance requirements
 - ii) Public safety item
 - (1) The lower part of Loquat is narrow and has no lights or guardrails to protect traffic from veering into an almost vertical slope down to Sessom Creek.
 - (2) Rather than install this level of infrastructure in a sensitive natural area; removal of the road is an attractive option.
 - b) Cons
 - i) Loss of vehicle access to Sessom for Residents.
 - (1) Pedestrian access will be maintained by a proposed pedestrian bridge.

(2) “Hammer Heads” will be installed to address the need for larger vehicles (like fire trucks) to turn around.

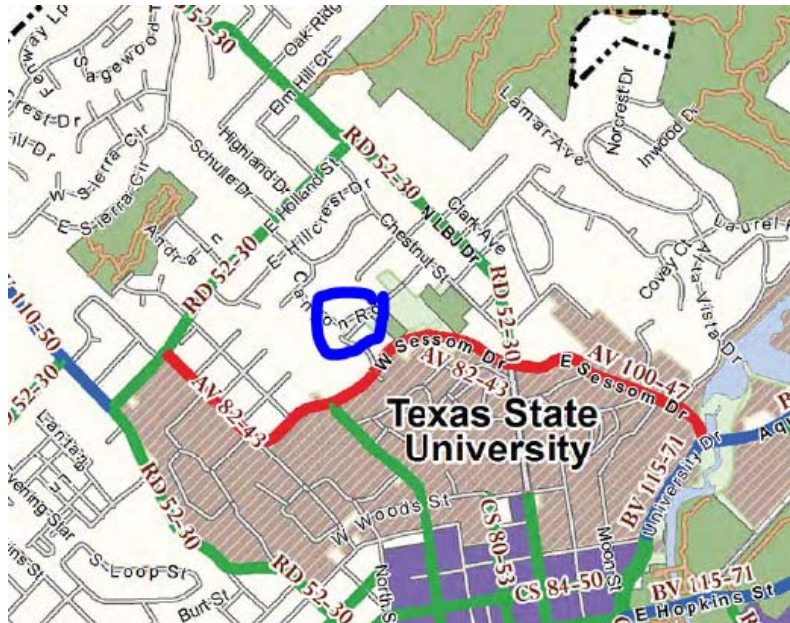
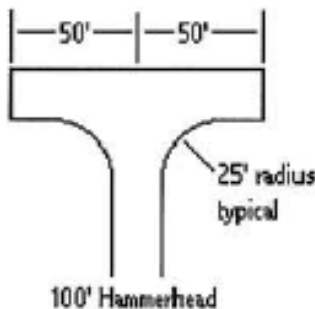
ii) Reducing alternative routes for traffic in the area

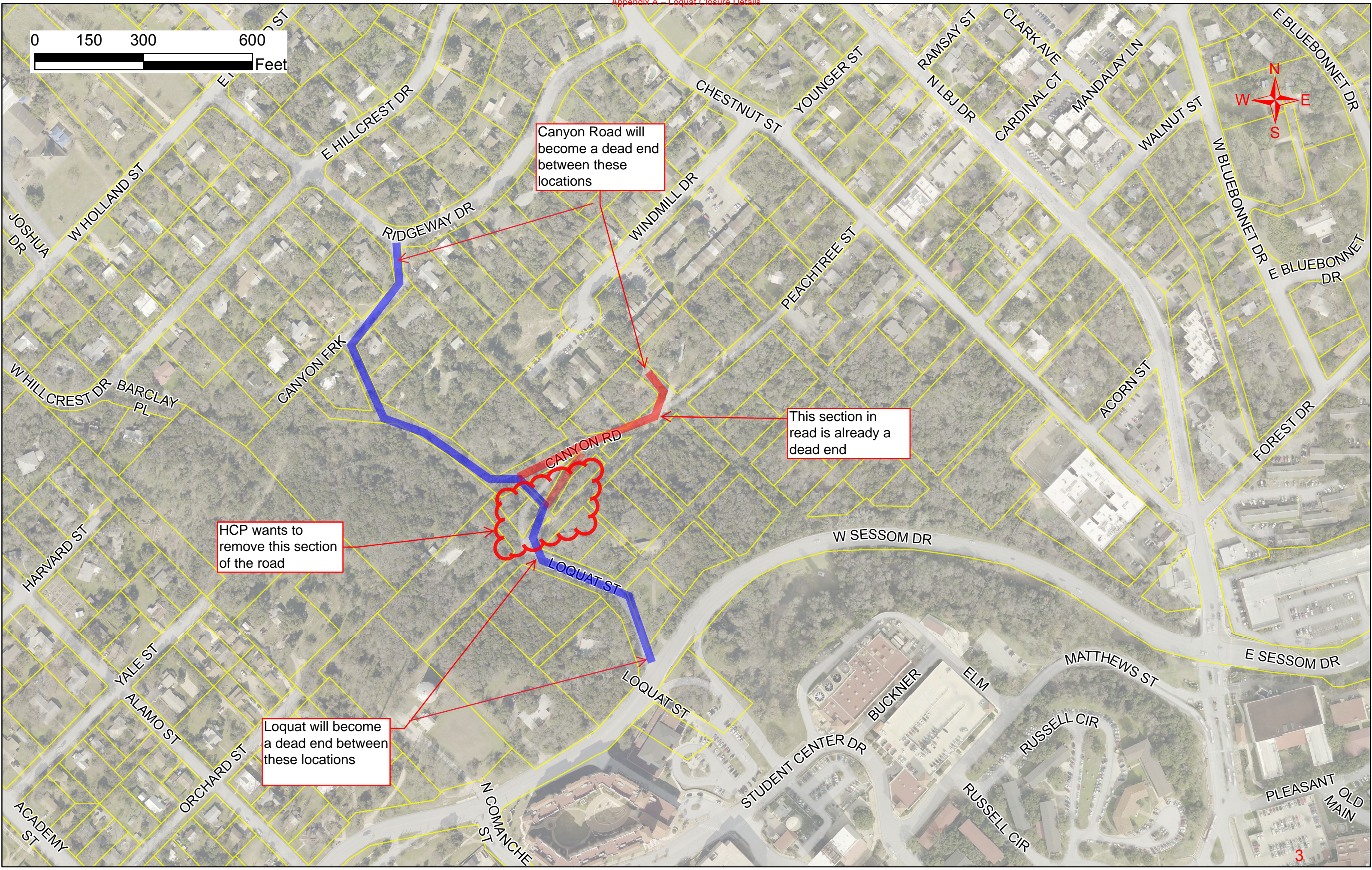
5) Comments From Departments

- a) **Fire** - below are our two main objections to closing Loquat. Preferred to keep the road open.
 - 1. Delayed response times (in and out). Responding units 1 3 4 and 5 would have to drive all the way around to Ridgeway to access Canyon Dr.
 - 2. Safety - it's already tight on the roadway (Loquat and Canyon). If you remove the intersection. Units will have to back all the way up Canyon Dr. to exit. Not safe to do so. At least if the intersection stays we can back up Loquat to turn around.
- b) **Police** – No major concerns with either option. They prefer multiple routes; but they can adapt.
- c) **Development Services** – Prefer to keep it open; if closed, need to account for pedestrian route
- d) **Transportation** – No major concerns with either option.
- e) **Engineering** – Only major concern is loss of connectivity.
 - i) Cost should be about the same for both alternatives.
 - ii) Traffic Count taken Monday(10/23/2017) = 132 Cars in a 24 Hour Period
 - iii) Transportation Master Plan – this road is not identified as a critical road

6) Comments From Public Meeting

- a) 11 Comments Card Received
 - i) 1 – Alternative 1 (T-intersection)
 - ii) 9 – Alternative 2 (Remove Loquat)
 - iii) 1 – Not Sure
- b) Four attending lived on Canyon Road. Several other attending where for Park improvements in the area.





0 150 300 600
Feet



Canyon Road will become a dead end between these locations

This section in road is already a dead end

HCP wants to remove this section of the road

Loquat will become a dead end between these locations

Existing Conditions

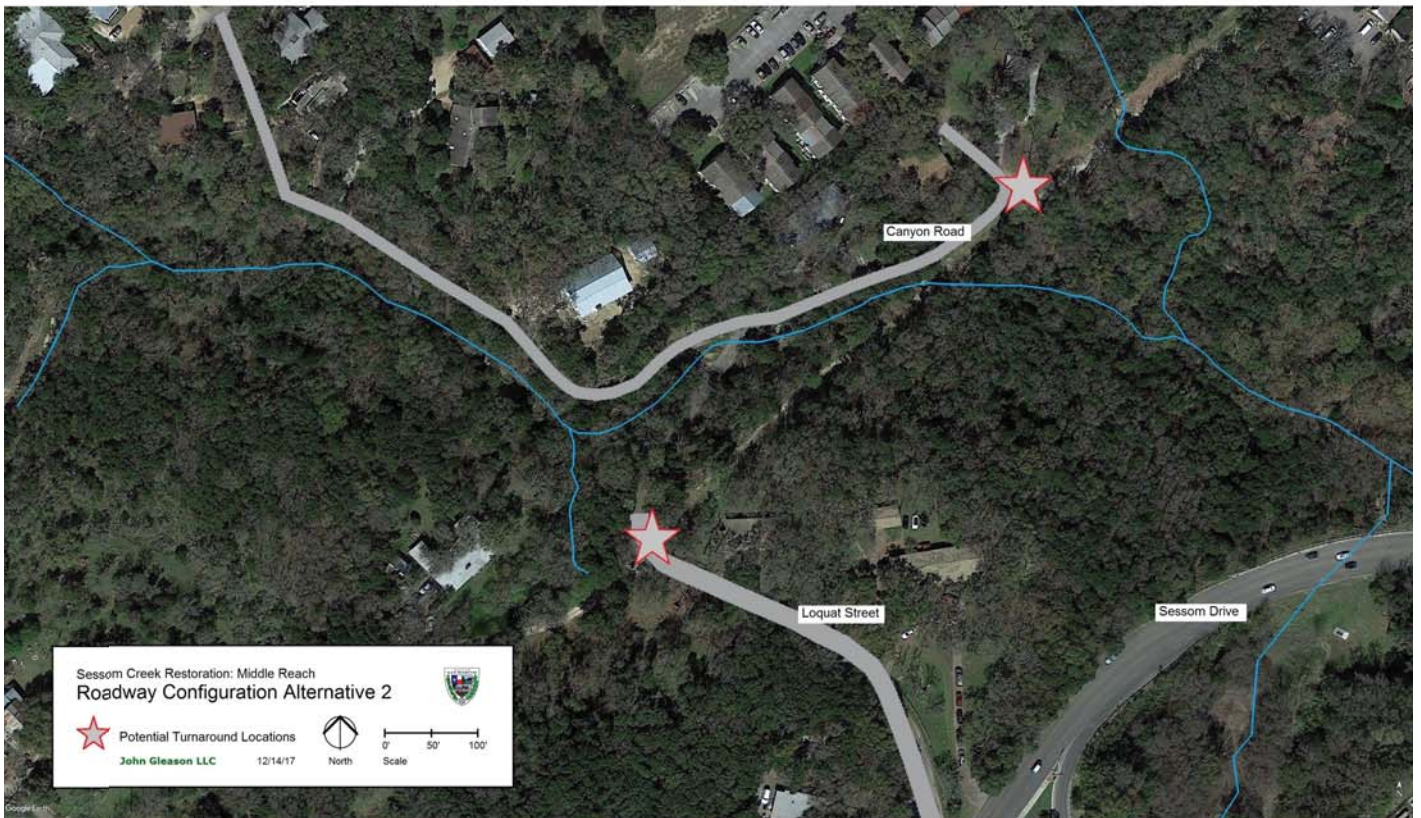


Section of Canyon
Road to be
stabilized



Centerline of
Sessom Creek

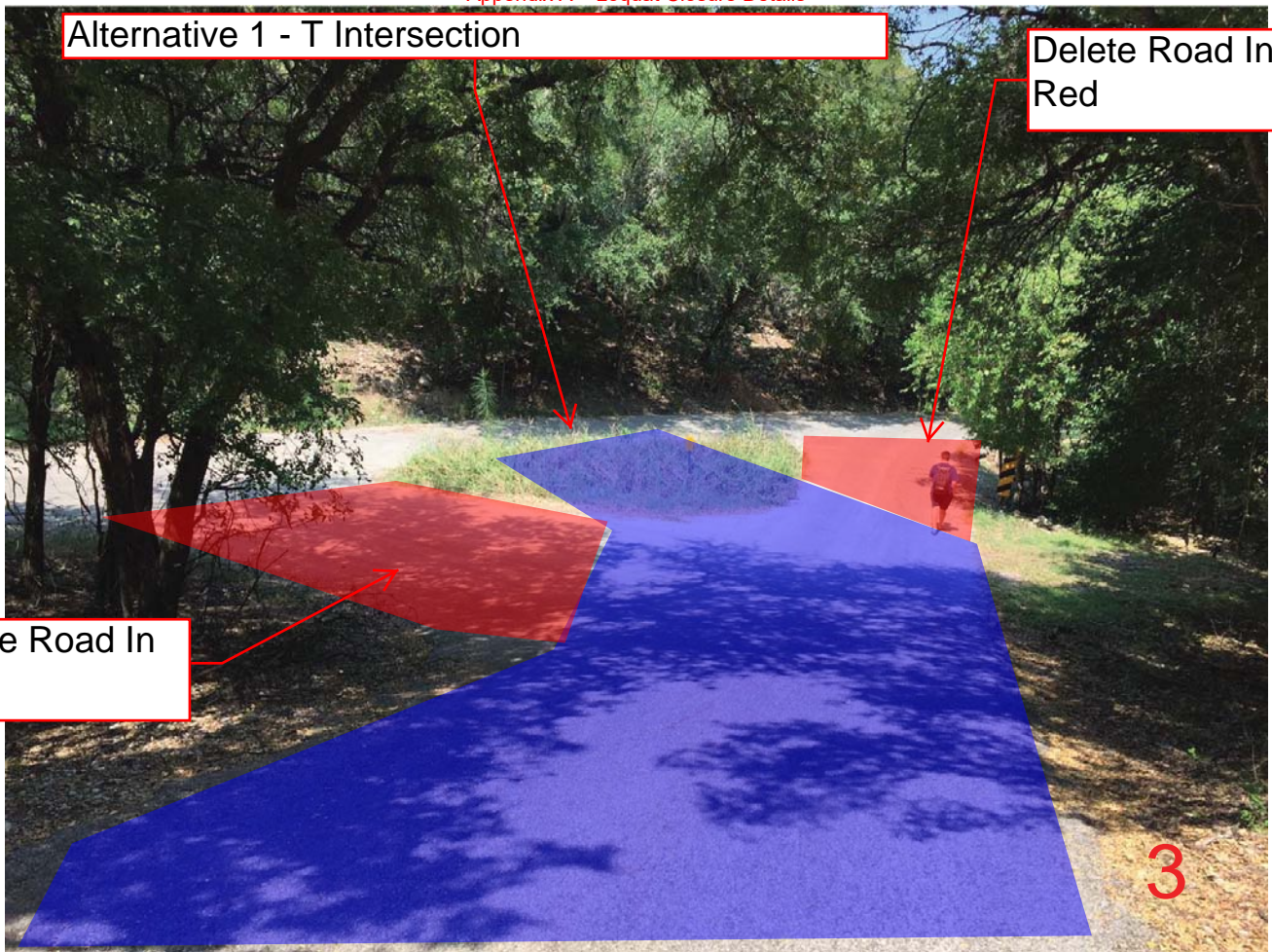




Alternative 1 - T Intersection

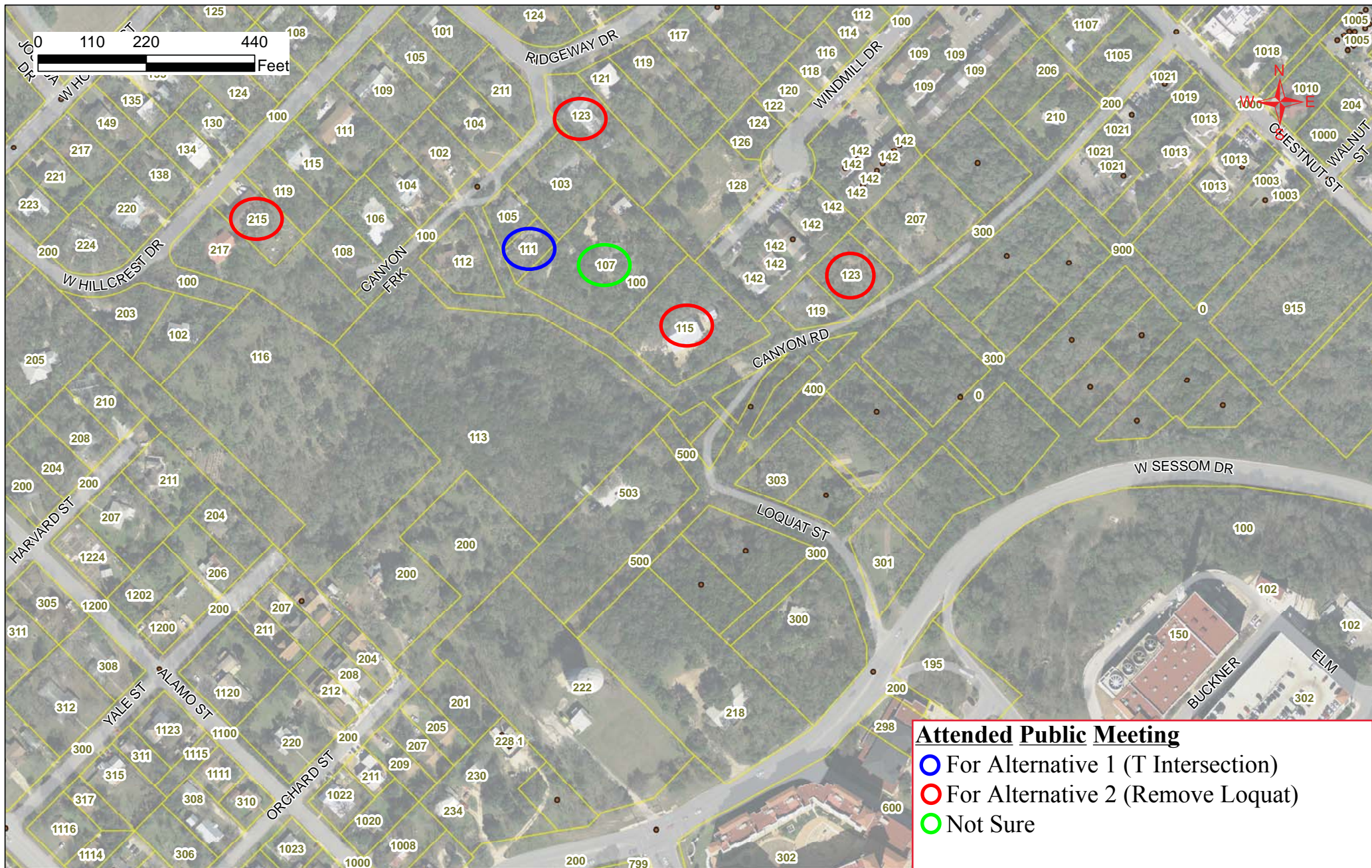
Delete Road In Red

Delete Road In Red



Alternative 2: Delete Entire Road in Red





Q1 Please provide your name, street name and email address

Answered: 31 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Name	100.00%	31
Company	0.00%	0
Address	100.00%	31
Address 2	0.00%	0
City/Town	0.00%	0
State/Province	0.00%	0
ZIP/Postal Code	0.00%	0
Country	0.00%	0
Email Address	96.77%	30
Phone Number	0.00%	0

Also Provided Comments At Public Meeting

#	NAME	Also Provided Comments By Email	DATE
1	Jennifer Ortiz		2/2/2018 8:42 AM
2	jim harrison		1/31/2018 2:20 PM
3	Peter Ingwersen		1/31/2018 8:31 AM
4	Beth Rawlings		1/30/2018 5:28 PM
5	Ernest Pecina		1/29/2018 7:28 PM
6	Don Anders		1/29/2018 4:42 PM
7	jan rudnicki		1/28/2018 9:05 AM
8	Melissa Croan		1/27/2018 5:29 PM
9	Todd		1/26/2018 8:50 PM
10	Meredith Murray		1/26/2018 10:55 AM
11	Lino Bailey		1/25/2018 2:33 PM
12	Tracy Weinberg		1/25/2018 9:09 AM
13	Gordon Sabin		1/24/2018 1:54 PM
14	Jesse Crider		1/24/2018 1:11 PM
15	Sharon O'Neil		1/24/2018 12:10 PM
16	Dennis Combrink		1/24/2018 11:27 AM
17	Sheila Torres-Blank		1/24/2018 8:51 AM
18	LILA RAMOS		1/23/2018 4:37 PM
19	Kristina McGuire		1/23/2018 4:36 PM
20	Tracy Mock		1/23/2018 4:30 PM
21	Ron		1/23/2018 3:40 PM
22	Paul Murray		1/23/2018 2:27 PM

23	Jim Keith	1/23/2018 3:58 AM
24	Larry Mock	1/22/2018 9:25 PM
25	Heather Demere	1/22/2018 8:58 PM
26	Michael Fruit	1/22/2018 5:48 PM
27	Kim Clogston	1/22/2018 5:46 PM
28	Drew Callahan	1/22/2018 4:48 PM
29	Taylor Felan	1/22/2018 1:19 PM
30	1	1/11/2018 4:40 PM
31	Nancy Hyde	1/8/2018 1:27 PM

#	COMPANY	DATE
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There are no responses.

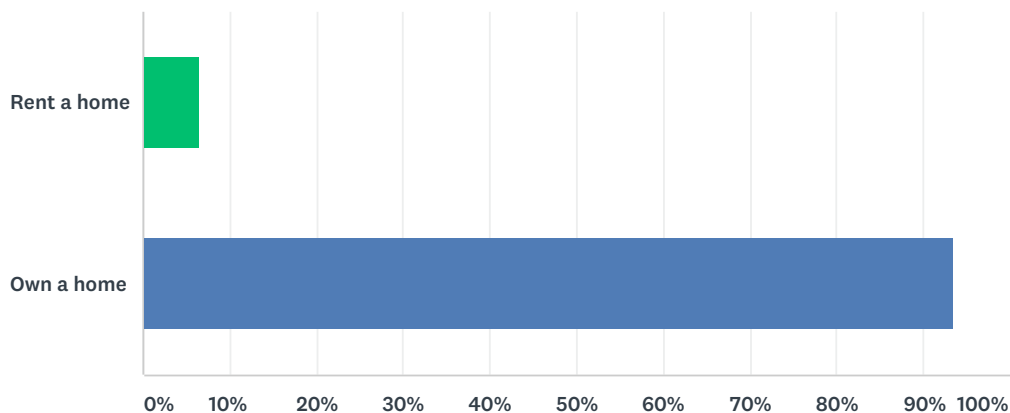
#	ADDRESS	DATE
1	112 Canyon Rd	2/2/2018 8:42 AM
2	111 canyon rd 78666	1/31/2018 2:20 PM
3	124 W. Hillcrest Dr.	1/31/2018 8:31 AM
4	133 W.Holland St. San Marcos, Tx	1/30/2018 5:28 PM
5	111 Canyon Rd	1/29/2018 7:28 PM
6	1221 Chestnut	1/29/2018 4:42 PM
7	123 Ridgeway dr	1/28/2018 9:05 AM
8	211 Ridgeway Drive	1/27/2018 5:29 PM
9	1410 Progress	1/26/2018 8:50 PM
10	102 Barclay St	1/26/2018 10:55 AM
11	78666	1/25/2018 2:33 PM
12	114 East Hillcrest	1/25/2018 9:09 AM
13	122 East Holland Street	1/24/2018 1:54 PM
14	Ridgeway Dr	1/24/2018 1:11 PM
15	121 E. Hillcrest Drive	1/24/2018 12:10 PM
16	122 Ridgeway	1/24/2018 11:27 AM
17	217 W. Hillcrest Dr.	1/24/2018 8:51 AM
18	102 E HILLCREST DR	1/23/2018 4:37 PM
19	215 W. Hillcrest Drive	1/23/2018 4:36 PM
20	107 Canyon Road	1/23/2018 4:30 PM
21	121 Ridgeway	1/23/2018 3:40 PM
22	102 Barclay St	1/23/2018 2:27 PM
23	200 HARVARD STREET	1/23/2018 3:58 AM
24	107 Canyon Road	1/22/2018 9:25 PM
25	104 Rudgeway dr	1/22/2018 8:58 PM
26	123 Canyon Road	1/22/2018 5:48 PM
27	808 W. Bluebonnet Dr.	1/22/2018 5:46 PM
28	124 Ridgeway Dr	1/22/2018 4:48 PM
29	115 Canyon Rd	1/22/2018 1:19 PM

30	1	1/11/2018 4:40 PM
31	116 W Laurel Lane	1/8/2018 1:27 PM
#	ADDRESS 2	DATE
	There are no responses.	
#	CITY/TOWN	DATE
	There are no responses.	
#	STATE/PROVINCE	DATE
	There are no responses.	
#	ZIP/POSTAL CODE	DATE
	There are no responses.	
#	COUNTRY	DATE
	There are no responses.	
#	EMAIL ADDRESS	DATE
1	jfo@ctesc.net	2/2/2018 8:42 AM
2	jmhmasterflorist@yahoo.com	1/31/2018 2:20 PM
3	swtheo@hotmail.com	1/31/2018 8:31 AM
4	bethrawlings@gmail.com	1/30/2018 5:28 PM
5	epрадtherapist@yahoo.com	1/29/2018 7:28 PM
6	don@andersphoto.com	1/29/2018 4:42 PM
7	janrudnicki@yahoo.com	1/28/2018 9:05 AM
8	melissakemp55@gmail.com	1/27/2018 5:29 PM
9	tobetoo2002@yahoo.com	1/26/2018 8:50 PM
10	merepaul@grandecom.net	1/26/2018 10:55 AM
11	l@lglb.com	1/25/2018 2:33 PM
12	trweinberg@yahoo.com	1/25/2018 9:09 AM
13	gordonpsabin@gmail.com	1/24/2018 1:54 PM
14	jessecrider@yahoo.com	1/24/2018 1:11 PM
15	shacha@grandecom.net	1/24/2018 12:10 PM
16	dennis.combrink@gmail.com	1/24/2018 11:27 AM
17	sheilatb2@gmail.com	1/24/2018 8:51 AM
18	lila.r.ramos@gmail.com	1/23/2018 4:37 PM
19	kmcguire39@yahoo.com	1/23/2018 4:36 PM
20	tmock@austin.rr.com	1/23/2018 4:30 PM
21	paulcmurray333@gmail.com	1/23/2018 2:27 PM
22	jim.keith30@yahoo.com	1/23/2018 3:58 AM
23	lbm1957@austin.rr.com	1/22/2018 9:25 PM
24	heatherdem@yahoo.com	1/22/2018 8:58 PM
25	sasheemoto@gmail.com	1/22/2018 5:48 PM
26	kim@pfq.com	1/22/2018 5:46 PM
27	drewcallahan123@hotmail.com	1/22/2018 4:48 PM
28	taylor.felan@gmail.com	1/22/2018 1:19 PM

29	1	1/11/2018 4:40 PM
30	nrhbelize@yahoo.com	1/8/2018 1:27 PM
#	PHONE NUMBER	DATE
There are no responses.		

Q2 Do you:

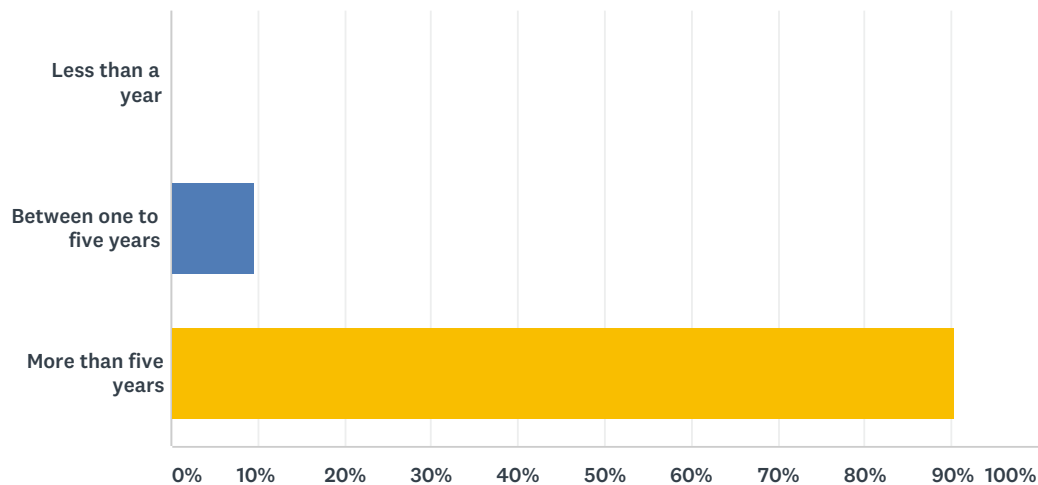
Answered: 31 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Rent a home	6.45% 2
Own a home	93.55% 29
TOTAL	31

Q3 How long have you lived in San Marcos?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 0

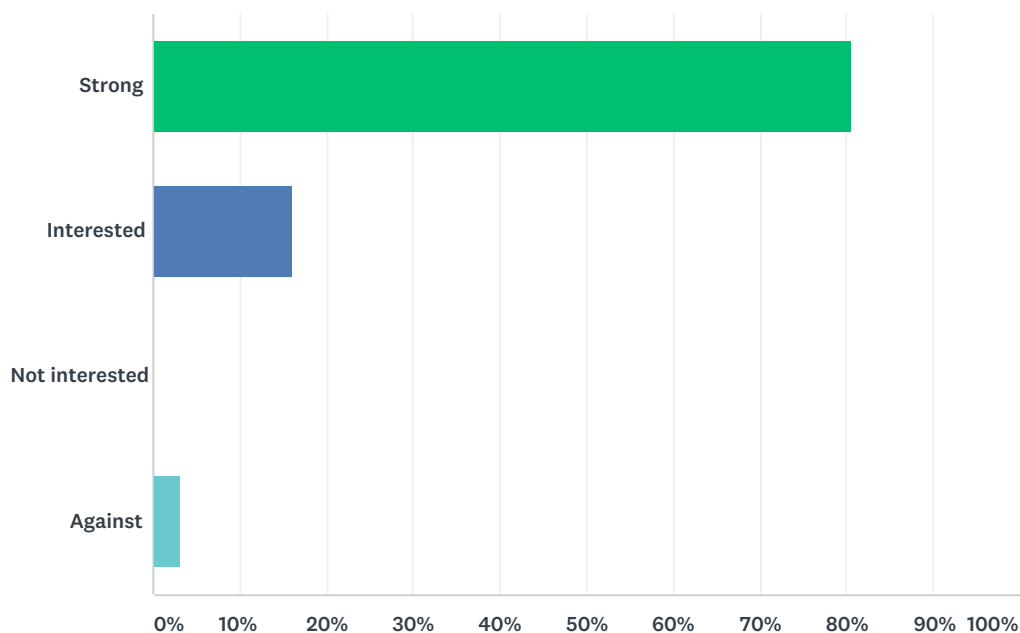


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Less than a year	0.00% 0

Between one to five years	9.68%	3
More than five years	90.32%	28
TOTAL		31

Q4 How would you classify your attitude toward protecting the San Marcos River?

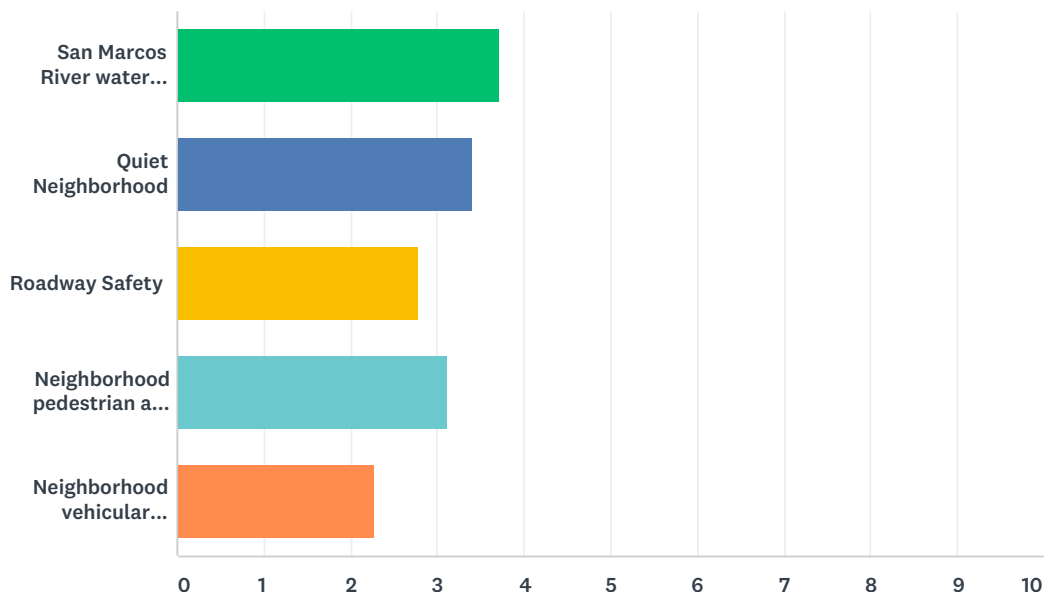
Answered: 31 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strong	80.65%	25
Interested	16.13%	5
Not interested	0.00%	0
Against	3.23%	1
TOTAL		31

Q5 Rank features in order of preference (1 – most important and 5 – least important).

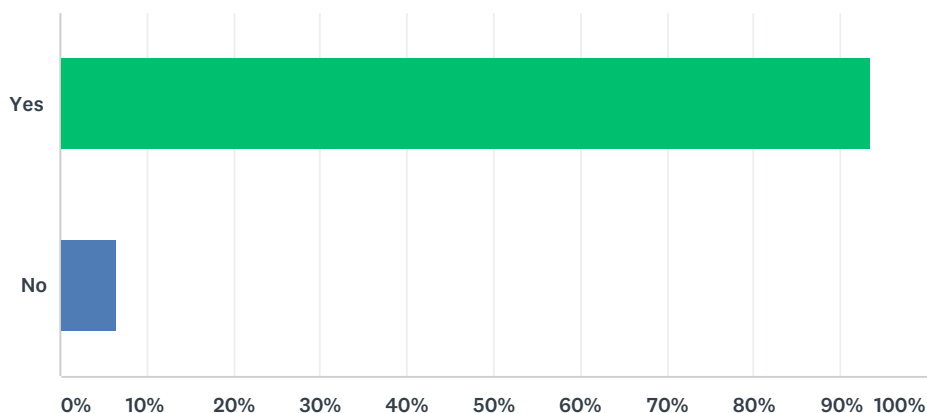
Answered: 30 Skipped: 1



	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	SCORE
San Marcos River water quality	42.31% 11	23.08% 6	11.54% 3	11.54% 3	11.54% 3	26	3.73
Quiet Neighborhood	25.93% 7	29.63% 8	14.81% 4	18.52% 5	11.11% 3	27	3.41
Roadway Safety	10.71% 3	7.14% 2	39.29% 11	35.71% 10	7.14% 2	28	2.79
Neighborhood pedestrian and bike access	10.71% 3	32.14% 9	28.57% 8	14.29% 4	14.29% 4	28	3.11
Neighborhood vehicular access through the neighborhood to major streets	16.67% 5	10.00% 3	6.67% 2	16.67% 5	50.00% 15	30	2.27

Q6 Were you aware that Sessom Creek, which flows into to the headwaters of the San Marcos River, is directed through two culverts under the Loquat/Canyon Road Y-intersection?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 0



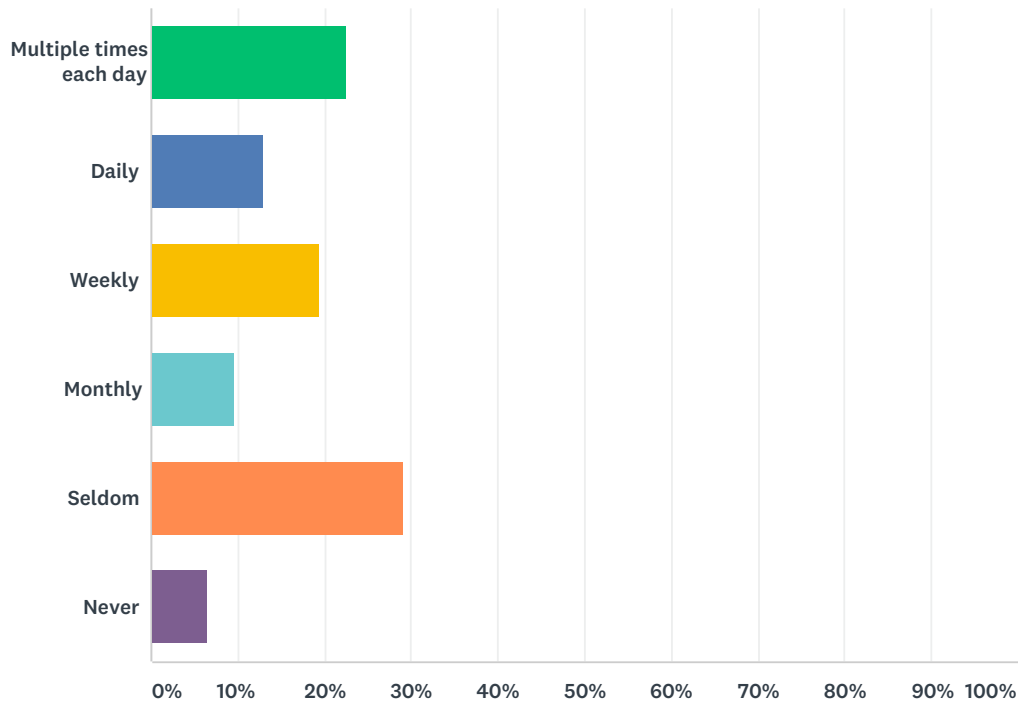
ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

Yes	93.55%	29
No	6.45%	2
TOTAL		31

Q7 How often do you use the Loquat/Canyon Road Y-intersection?

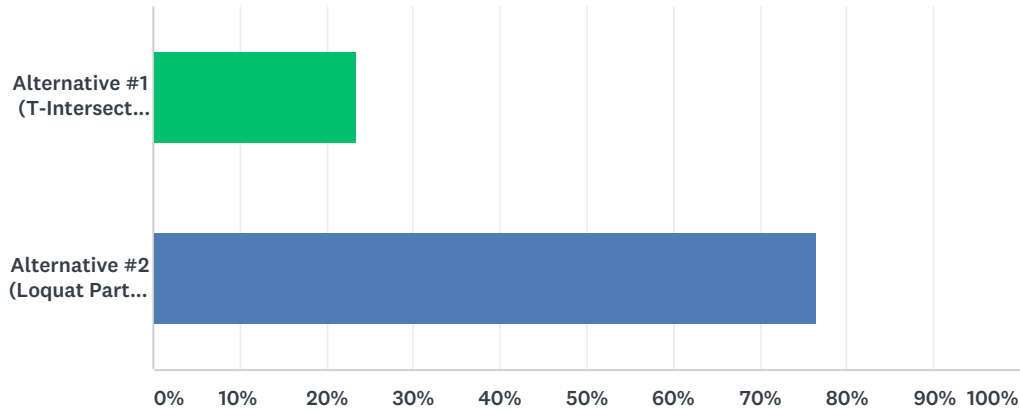
Answered: 31 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Multiple times each day	22.58%	7
Daily	12.90%	4
Weekly	19.35%	6
Monthly	9.68%	3
Seldom	29.03%	9
Never	6.45%	2
TOTAL		31

Q8 Which alternatives would you prefer? (information and map below)

Answered: 30 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Alternative #1 (T-Intersection)a) Pros - Maintain access for residentsb) Cons - Negative impact on water quality; Leaves a low water crossing in place	23.33% 7
Alternative #2 (Loquat Partial Removal)a) Pros - allow the reestablishment of the original stream channel and thereby: - eliminate point of constriction thus reducing localized flooding the area, minimizing erosion and maintenance requirements that is narrow, steeply-sloped, with no lights or guardrails maintenance costs in an ecologically sensitive area b) Cons - Loss of one vehicle access route to Sessom Dr. for neighborhood residents. (Pedestrian/bike access will be maintained by a pedestrian/bike crossing.)	76.67% 23
Total Respondents: 30	

Q9 Comment Box

Answered: 15 Skipped: 16

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I live on Canyon Road. Last night a neighbor needed a fire truck and ambulance, and it highlighted the the absolute need to keep Loquat open for vehicular traffic. In the event of an emergency or natural disaster, we on Canyon road would be in danger by having only one way to exit this area. I believe that residents on this road should have a stronger voice for the outcome of this project as it impacts us directly on a daily basis.	2/2/2018 8:42 AM
2	i will greatly miss the connection. I have lived on Canyon for 42 years. Losing the connection seem like the best way to go. Alternative #2.	1/31/2018 2:20 PM
3	I just cannot support a partial closure of loquat street ...This street provides a Direct Route for Any Type of Emergency vehicle to get down into the Canyon . Thank you	1/29/2018 7:28 PM
4	Please do not cut it off. please leave it open.	1/29/2018 4:42 PM
5	The Loquat "cut-off" is handy for residents - me included - but it is also being increasingly used by others as a short-cut through the neighborhood to avoid major congestion on Sessom. Who wouldn't? But the negative impact of increased traffic in our neighborhood and safely considerations on that road far out-weigh the convenience. Members of our family have had two collisions at the sharp, up-hill turn. Once we were completely stopped, but the other vehicle was going too fast on the steep, slippery road, making it impossible for them to stop. Also, I've personally helped several stranded (and sometime not quite sober) drivers who have gone off the steep, slick road. The near-by trees confirm the fact, and show evidence of many more incidents. If you factor in pedestrian and bike safety, and the environmental impact on the river, alternative #2 just makes the most sense - by far!	1/28/2018 9:05 AM
6	Question 5 is not a good question. It should read "pick the two (or three) most important statements below" or something like that. But having a survey is an excellent idea. Thanks.	1/26/2018 8:50 PM
7	I think it would be a good idea to close off Loquat St.	1/26/2018 10:55 AM

8	- Join Loquat to Peach Tree - Reroute all lines higher uphill, out of creek, and AWAY from Seesom (stay away from Sessom now and in the future for repairs - already the most critical [only] road through that area and already a bottleneck for utilities.) Lines should be down new utility easement, or better along side new road, parallel to Chestnut	1/25/2018 2:33 PM
9	Keeping high density (student) housing out of the neighborhood North of Sessoms Drive is my main concern	1/24/2018 1:54 PM
10	I use this daily on foot and by vehicle. There should be a bridge option instead of these two alternatives. Proposal a bridge option for vehicles and pedestrians up the hill on loquat and canyon to maintain all the pros of both situations.	1/24/2018 1:11 PM
11	This also allows the Sessom Creek Natural Area to be secluded.	1/24/2018 12:10 PM
12	Where is the city on better bi-ped access from this neighborhood to campus? The cross walk at Sessoms and Comanche is unusable due to the lack of a side walk on the N side of Sessoms. There are no other cross walks or other facilities between Holland and N. LBJ. I ride my bike to work on Alamo and see many pedestrians using this route as well. For those who choose to cross there, there is a retaining wall blocking access to the sidewalk on the South side of Sessoms. There needs to be more.	1/24/2018 8:51 AM
13	As long as pedestrian and bicycle access is maintained, which also protects the river by promoting alternative transportation, I'm in favor of closing the street.	1/23/2018 4:37 PM
14	I am a 30 year owner of property adjacent to Sessoms creek (gulch). Loquat and Canyon streets are obsolete and dangerous. Erosion and hazards caused by the old designs and street layouts should be changed asap. It is difficult for me to see how these proposed changes will provide long term solutions without addressing all the drainage, infrastructure, and erosion issues up stream from the Sessoms Phase 1 proposals. Seems that only a part of the problems are being addressed which will greatly reduce the effectiveness of any of this work down stream. The only question I would like to have answered is, will there be a Sessoms Creek Improvements Phase 2 up stream from phase 1??? Email address provided.	1/23/2018 3:58 AM
15	this survey seems a little biased towards cutting off loquat. I am not convinced that a small culvert would cause that much damage to the water quality of Sessom creek.	1/22/2018 9:25 PM