

# SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL DISTRICT URBAN STREETScape

TEXAS TREES FOUNDATION

Imagine a Medical District where brilliant minds and hopeful patients from around the world can thrive in an innovative, healthy and safe environment. Texas Trees Foundation, with support from the Southwestern Medical District, the City of Dallas, NCTCOG and numerous stakeholders are changing the way we think about public/private partnerships and public rights-of-ways. Together we are seeking to bring to life the Southwestern Medical District Urban Streetscape Plan to change the tone of the District, so that people are better connected: to the great institutions, the natural environment and especially to each other. The transformation of the rights-of-ways within the Southwestern Medical District are being reimagined to better support health, safety, connectivity, transportation, economic development and beautification. The impact of the streetscape will be the restoration of the natural environment and improved human well-being that serves as a model for other cities to emulate.



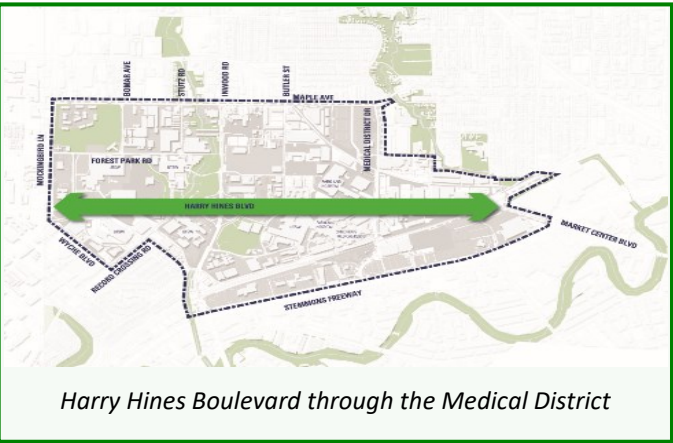
**GREEN SPINE: HARRY HINES BOULEVARD**

# MORE THAN A STREETScape BUT AN OPPORTUNITY TO CENTER THE PROJECT AROUND THESE KEY ELEMENTS:

- **ROBUST EQUITABLE ENGAGEMENT** in which all people have a direct bridge to express their needs, goals, desires and incorporate their voices into an actionable plan.
- **EVIDENCE-BASED DESIGN** that will model, optimize and validate design concepts to have the greatest health and environmental benefit.
- **HEALTH RESEARCH** to quantify nature as the equalizer that provides mental, physical, spiritual and economic restoration for all people.
- **BEST PRACTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE** to bring accomplished experts in the fields of education & research, environment, economic development, transportation & mobility, art & humanities who can offer innovative advice and dynamic perspective on issues the public spaces face in the District.

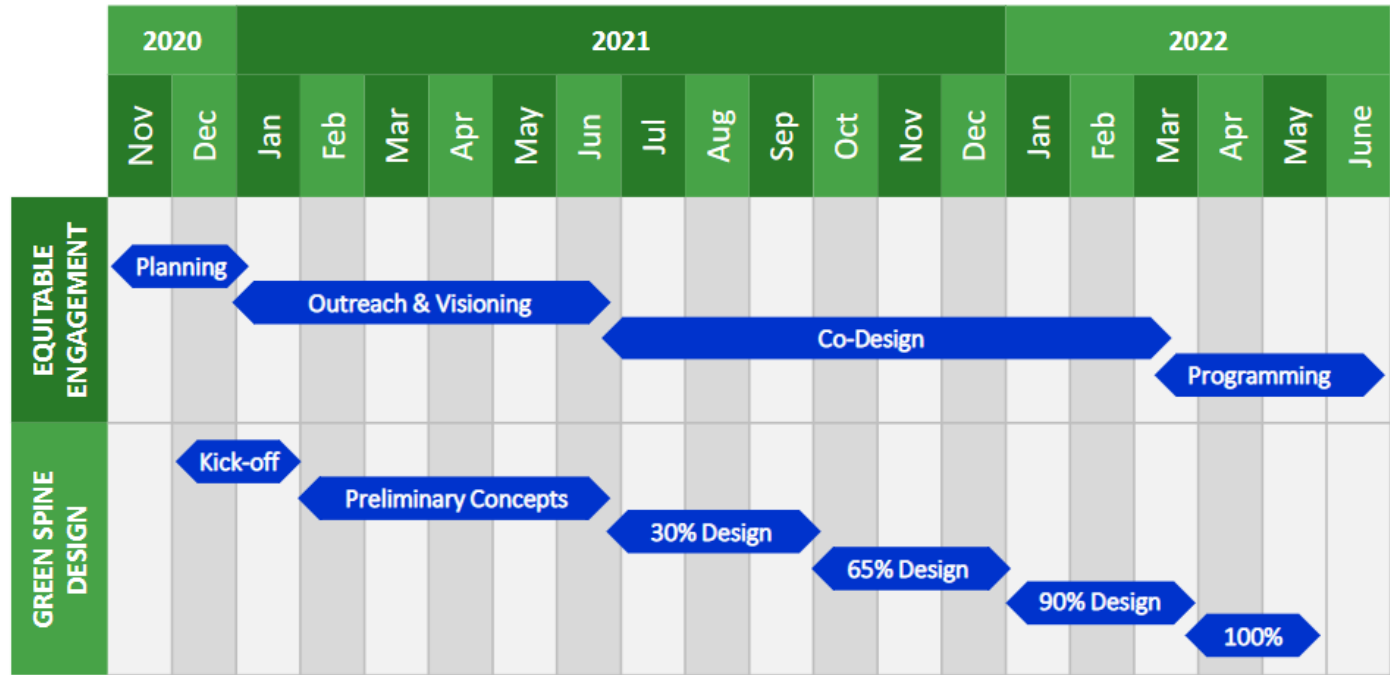
## GREEN SPINE DESIGN TEAM:

Texas Trees Foundation has assembled a multi-disciplinary team of talent to lead the design and engagement effort and deliver construction documents to transform the Harry Hines Boulevard corridor.



- Landscape architecture and urban design team led by **PWP Landscape Architecture**
- Equitable engagement team led by **MIG Equity Studio**
- Engineering and technical services team led by **Kimley-Horn**

## GREEN SPINE TIMELINE:



## **ISSUES IDENTIFIED:**

### **PEDESTRIAN ACCESSIBILITY & SAFETY**

- Sidewalk gaps, narrow broken sidewalks and areas with no sidewalks in the SWMD make navigation for pedestrians challenging and nearly impossible
- The Harry Hines Boulevard bridge crossing over Inwood Road has no sidewalk making pedestrian crossing in the heart of the District impossible
- Existing sidewalks are mostly narrow and are located immediately back-of-curb with no buffer between busy high speed streets
- Intersections are excessively wide making crossing extremely dangerous

### **NATURE DEFICIT DISORDER**

- Lack of nature in our urban environments is a contributing factor to mental health and depression
- SWMD is in need of more greenspace and naturalistic settings

### **AGING INFRASTRUCTURE**

- Street infrastructure and public rights-of-way in the SWMD were originally designed over 50 years ago for industrial use and do not meet today's transportation or environmental priorities
- SWMD is plagued with excessive stormwater runoff and flooding during periods of extreme rainfall

### **URBAN HEAT ISLAND EFFECT**

- Dallas ranks second to Phoenix as U.S. city heating up the fastest and the SWMD is the hottest urban heat island in Dallas making detrimental effects to the health and wellbeing of SWMD and its users
- DFW ranks 13th for high ozone days out of 228 metropolitan areas
- SWMD has only a 7% tree canopy cover compared to the minimum 30% needed to effectively reduce ambient air temperature

## **SOLUTION ORIENTED DESIGN GOALS IDENTIFIED:**

### **HEALTHY PEOPLE**

- Increase human comfort through enhanced landscaping and amenities and pedestrian/bicycle friendly circulation
- Improve user health by reconnecting with nature through greenspaces and trails connectivity
- Define District as destination by providing amenities and nodes
- Express SWMD history through interactive amenities and public art
- Implement a biophilic strategy to connect people to nature and bring new possibilities of wellness, stewardship and learning

### **HEALTHY SYSTEMS**

- Economic development opportunities for private and public sectors
- Improve pedestrian safety with improved sidewalks, buffers, crossings, and lighting
- Utilize smart technologies to enhance user experience and reduce carbon footprint
- Improve access & connectivity with multi-use paths and designated bus lanes
- Maximize overall energy usage on streets with energy saving lights and amenities

### **HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT**

- Mitigate heat island effect through energy saving materials, green infrastructure and increased tree canopy
- Improve air quality/reduce carbon footprint through increased tree canopy

## 21ST CENTURY HEALTH DISTRICT

**The end product of this project will be a 21st Century District that integrates healthy spaces with innovative design and state of the art approaches to become a model for other medical districts.**

Harry Hines Boulevard (Green Spine) and its intersection with Inwood Road (Green Park) have been selected as catalytic projects to implement the streetscape plan.

### IMPLEMENTATION:

#### GREEN SPINE: HARRY HINES BOULEVARD

The Green Spine project seeks to elevate additional modes of transportation such as walking, bicycling and transit to the benefit of those visiting, working and living in the District. As the signature street of the Medical District, the Green Spine will make a positive impression while aspiring to the highest standards of safety, health, cohesion, aesthetics and environmental stewardship.

- Of the anticipated project cost of \$32.5 million, \$26 has been secured from the City of Dallas, NCTCOG, Dallas County and private donors. Design is fully funded by private donors and in progress.
- Estimated design to construction completion timeline: 2020 to 2024

#### GREEN PARK: HARRY HINES BOULEVARD AT INWOOD ROAD

At the center of the District the Green Park will create an iconic hub that connects and serves the whole Medical District. The Green Park will be a landmark destination that provides an important link to nature in order to promote wellness, makes pedestrian connections across the District, provides programmed park spaces, enhances economic development, and improves multi-modal connectivity.

- Privately funded vision document is completed and anticipated project cost are being refined.



Existing Condition: Harry Hines Blvd and Inwood Rd



Proposed Improvement: Green Park at Harry Hines Blvd and Inwood Rd

