



State of the City 2023

Melissa is a Contemporary, Innovative, Ever-Evolving Community Where Our Residents Enjoy the Opportunity for a Meaningful Life!



Melissa City Council



Mayor Jay Northcut

Work Sessions - 5:15 p.m.
2nd and 4th Tuesdays

Regular Meetings - 6 p.m.
2nd and 4th Tuesdays

City Hall, 3411 Barker Avenue
Melissa, TX 75454

[Click here for Council Member
contact information](#)



Jennifer Clark – Place 1



Rendell Hendrickson – Place 2



Dana Conklin – Place 3



Joseph Armstrong – Place 4



Mayor Pro Tem
Craig Ackerman – Place 5



Sean Lehr – Place 6

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Governance

Updated Mission, Vision, Values

- Council began quarterly training sessions with The Elim Group

Vision

Melissa is a Contemporary, Innovative, Ever-Evolving Community Where Our Residents Enjoy the Opportunity for a Meaningful Life!

Mission

We provide a life of quality opportunities by encouraging collaborative participation in the development of the City of Melissa. We are forward thinking and focused on rich residential and commercial communities, deliberate infrastructure, open and active spaces, successful education and the effective stewardship of resources.

Governance

Successful Charter Amendment election

- Council called an election to proposed 13 amendments to the City of Melissa Home Rule Charter
- 9 person citizen commission reviewed the propositions
- Election held in November 2023, with 12 of the 13 propositions passing
- 12.1% turnout

Code of Conduct updated

- 2011 Home Rule Charter required a Code of Ethics to be adopted
- The Code of Ethics was retitled the Code of Conduct and updated in early 2023 to match state law changes

Commercial

Welcome to the Community



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New Certificates of Occupancy

Action Behavior Center

McDonalds

Public Storage Melissa

Bliss Nails

Melissa Family Chiropractic

Scooter's Coffee

Cornerstone Chiropractic

Melissa Med Spa

Sherwin Williams

Eternity Nail

Melissa Montessori Academy

Starry Nails & Spa

Hazel & Billie's

Melissa Pediatric Dentistry

Tia's Mexican Grill

Cardinal Carrier Express

Melissa Wellness Village

Whitewater Express Carwash

Jaguar Jiu Jitsu

Milrany Ranch Amenity Center

209 Salon

Lau Ba Thai

Downtown

- Road designs underway for Cooper, Harrison, and Red River
- Lighting standards upgraded to help identify when you are in the downtown area
- Cooper Street building retrofit
 - Redesigned an old metal building for city offices; still under construction but the exterior will look like turn-of-the-century structure
- Facade grant offered to existing Downtown buildings



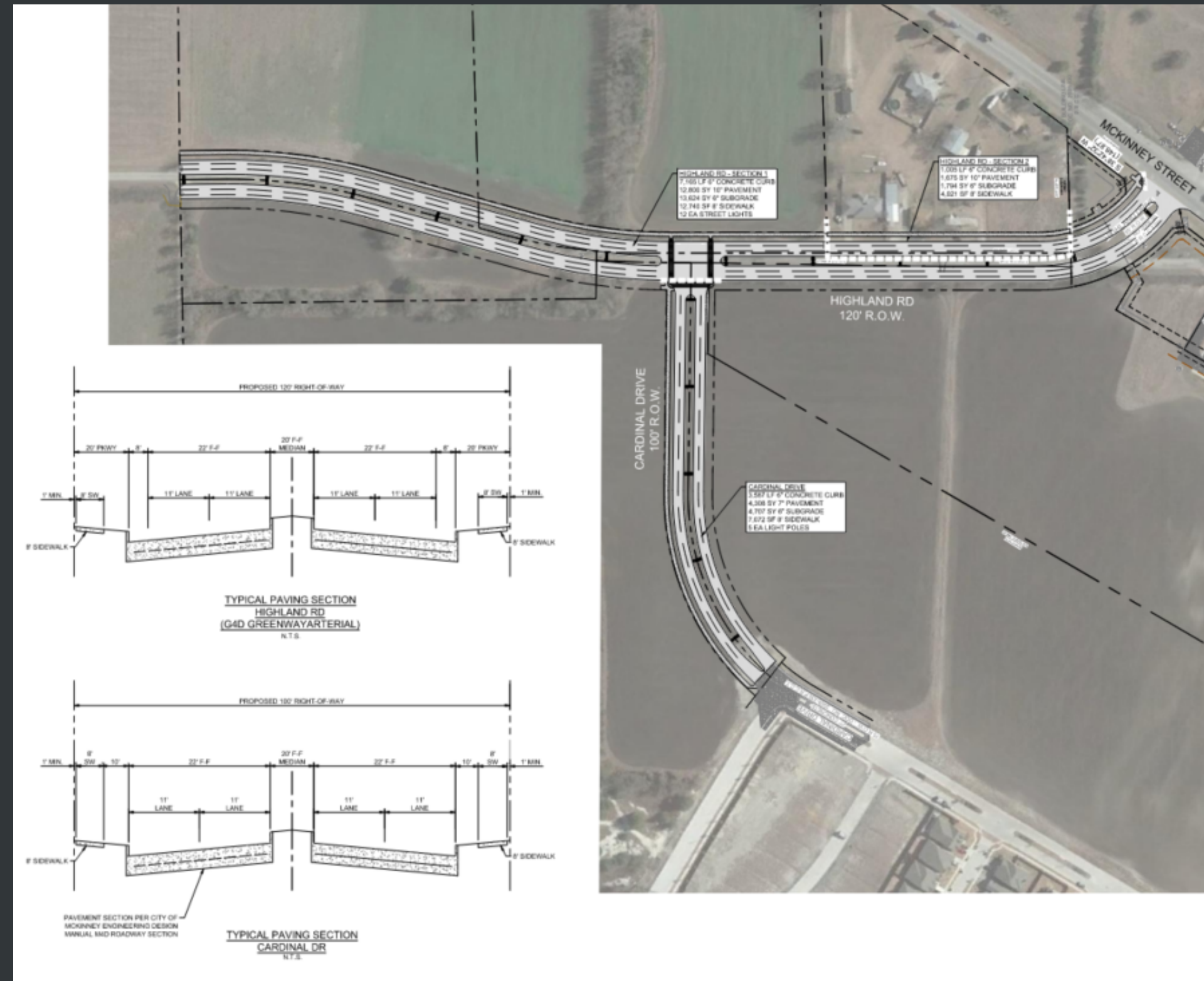
Mobility

- Cardinal/Highland Road Project
- High School Roads Project
- SH 5 widening through Melissa
(TxDOT project)



Cardinal /Highland Road Project

- This project extends Cardinal Drive to Highland Road and reconstructs Highland Road from Cardinal Drive to State Highway 5
- Project allows school traffic and general traffic around City Hall to have access to a signalized intersection at Highland Road and SH 5
- Signal should improve traffic flow in this particular area
- Project estimated to be completed in Spring 2024



Greer/Gleason/ Sparks Way

- Two major collector roads bordering Melissa High School were opened in 2023, creating a second point of access to East Melissa Road
- Project will soon allow connectivity from Melissa High School to the Z-PLEX so students could access the Z-PLEX without having to use East Melissa Road
- Signal study being conducted to provide TxDOT justification for a traffic signal at Greer Way and Melissa Road



SH 5 widening through Melissa

- TxDOT started the State Highway 5 widening project through Melissa in July 2023
- Current SH 5 will be widened to a four-lane highway with a raised median from the Outer Loop to SH 121
- \$43 Million, 2-year project
- Project has a completion date of Fall 2025



Financial

- Reduced tax rate from .456 to .454
- Implemented 5% homestead exemption for residential properties
- Bond rating increase by S&P and Moody's



Reduced tax rate from .456 to .454

Tax comparisons with Collin County cities

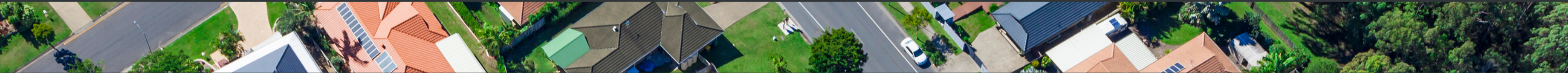
City	HS Amount	Total Rate
Lucas	8.00% (\$5,000 min)	0.256758
Fairview	\$0	0.311683
Murphy	\$0	0.408046
Plano	20.00% (\$5,000 min)	0.4176
Allen	5.00% (\$5,000 min)	0.4205
McKinney	\$0	0.427513
Frisco	15.00% (\$5,000 min)	0.432205
Princeton	\$0	0.440226
Melissa	5.00% (\$5,000 min)	0.454728
Prosper	15.00% (\$5,000 min)	0.51
Anna	3.00% (\$5,000 min)	0.510717

City	HS Amount	Total Rate
Wylie	\$0	0.538882
Van Alstyne	\$0	0.553713
Carrollton	20.00% (\$5,000 min)	0.55375
Richardson	\$0	0.56095
Royse City	\$0	0.584
Celina	\$0	0.612154
Sachse	\$0	0.650416
Garland	10.00% (\$5,000 min)	0.689746
Farmersville	\$0	0.7124
Dallas	20.00% (\$5,000 min)	0.7357

Collin County cities with Adopted Residential Homestead Exemptions

Entity	HS Amount
Plano	20.00% (\$5,000 min)
Carrollton	20.00% (\$5,000 min)
Dallas	20.00% (\$5,000 min)
Frisco	15.00% (\$5,000 min)
Prosper	15.00% (\$5,000 min)

Garland	10.00% (\$5,000 min)
Lucas	8.00% (\$5,000 min)
Allen	5.00% (\$5,000 min)
Melissa	5.00% (\$5,000 min)
Anna	3.00% (\$5,000 min)
Lavon	1.00% (\$5,000 min)



City General Fund positions per 1,000 population

City	Positions	Population	Positions per 1,000 people	City	Positions	Population	Positions per 1,000 people
Denison	258	25,179	10.25	Prosper	214	35,410	6.04
Plano	2,515	291,200	8.64	McKinney	1,242	206,654	6.01
Flower Mound	684	78,570	8.71	Celina	198	31,796	6.23
Highland Village	134	16,670	8.04	Princeton	108	20,046	5.39
Sherman	360	43,239	8.33	Anna	121.5	20,243	6.00
Frisco	1,564	222,849	7.02	median			6.80
Allen	741	109,039	6.80	Melissa	58	22,000	2.64
Corinth	155	22,800	6.80				

Bond ratings increased

S&P rating increased from ‘AA-’ to ‘AA’

Moody’s rating increased from ‘Aa3’ to ‘Aa2’

Bond ratings explained:
Think about your own credit score. Credit scores and credit ratings are similar. Companies use credit scores (ranging from 300 to 850) to assess people’s ability and willingness to make car or mortgage payments. Investors in municipal bonds use credit ratings to assess creditworthiness, or the ability and willingness of the state or local government issuing the bond to pay investors their money back, plus interest. Credit ratings are symbols (e.g., AAA).
Source: Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board

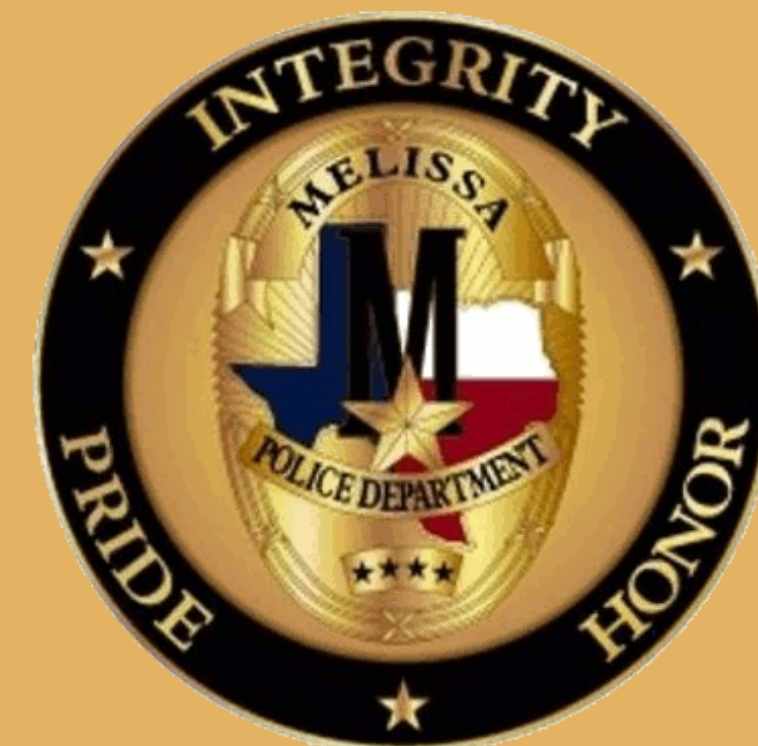
MOODY’S	Aaa	Aa1	Aa2	Aa3	A1	A2	A3	Baa1	Baa2	Baa3
S&P	AAA	AA+	AA	AA-	A+	A	A-	BBB+	BBB	BBB-

Police

New chief selected



- Former Police Chief Duane Smith retired after 22 years as Chief
- Erik Stokes was selected as the new Police Chief in July 2023



Fire

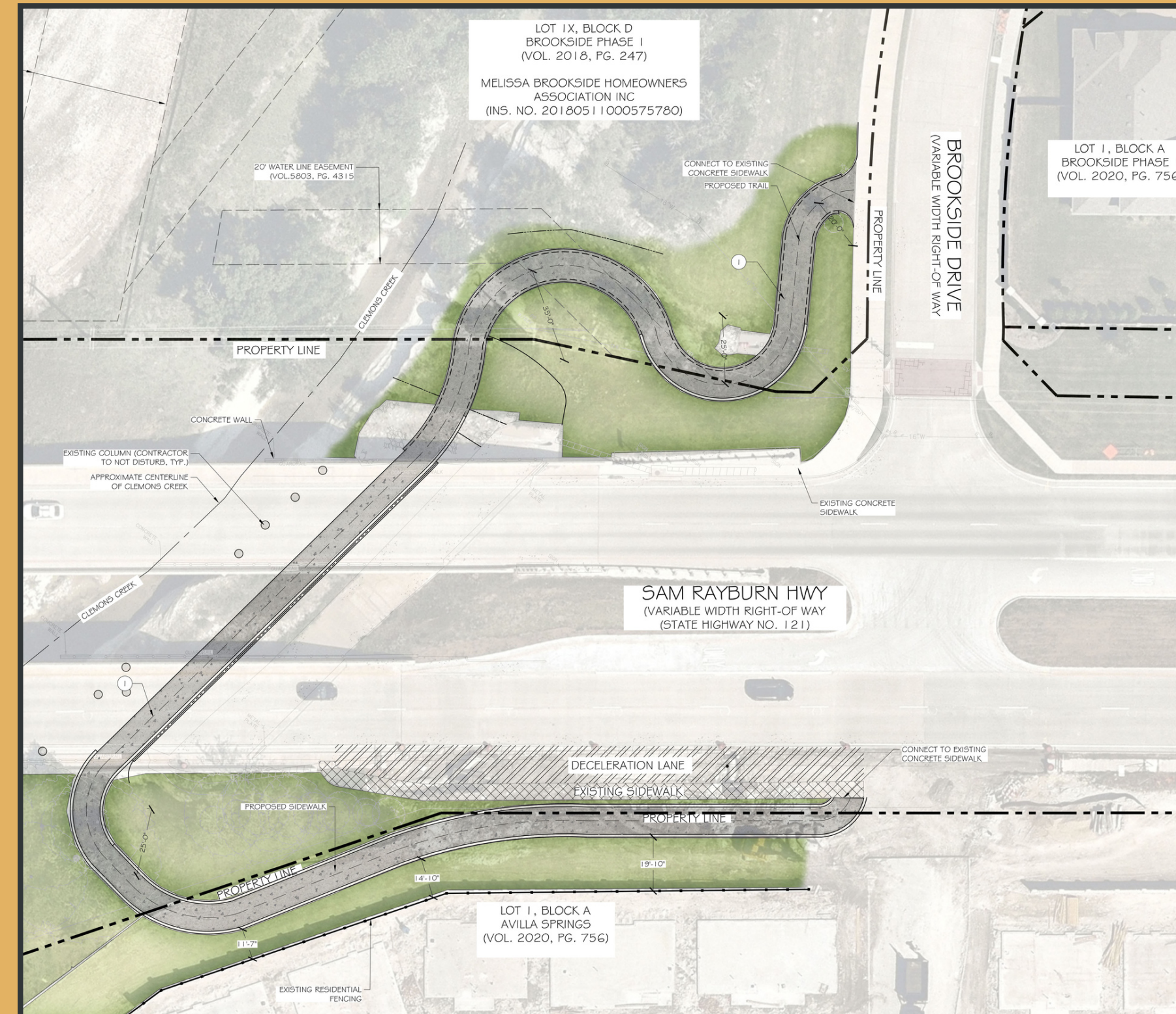
- HEART Safe community designation
 - Awarded in November 2023
 - Presented in January 2024
- CPR training for all employees
 - All employees are trained on CPR as part of onboarding
- Melissa Fire Clowns Squad taught Fire Safety Programs at local elementary schools



Trail Connectivity

Grant for Trail connection under SH 121

- Project to connect the north side of SH 121 to the south side of SH 121 by utilizing the bridge structure at Clemmons Creek
- Project designed and awaiting TxDOT approval
- Project partially funded with a grant from Collin County Open Spaces



Events

- Melissa Road Tribute Fest
- Tree Lighting Ceremony



Melissa Road Tribute Fest

- Free music festival was first city-organized community event
- Will be an annual event
- Estimated attendance was 1,500



**MELISSA ROAD
TRIBUTE FEST**

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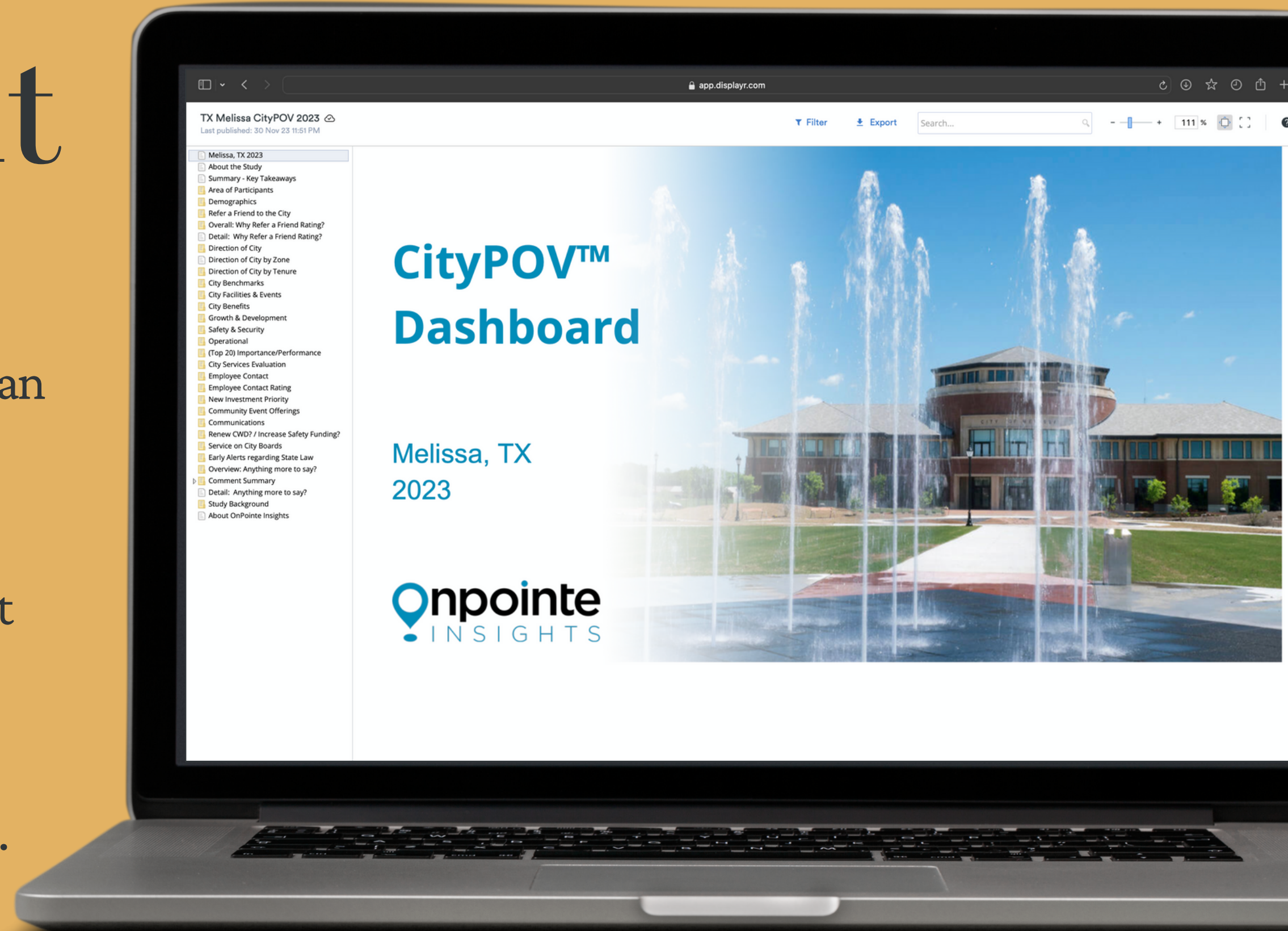
Tree Lighting Ceremony

- 2023 was the first year for the citywide Tree Lighting Ceremony
- Will be an annual event
- Community event creates a small-town feel
- Estimated attendance was 350 for the inaugural ceremony



Engagement

- Citizen Survey completed
 - 1,600 responses.
 - Feedback to serve as an action plan for the next 12 months.
 - View report at www.cityofmelissa.com.
- Internal communications department created.
- 49 Melissa Minute Newsletters sent.
- Instagram account added.
- 1,368 new Facebook followers gained.





Contact Us

The City of Melissa offers many ways our residents to stay connected and informed about the latest happenings within the City:

- Visit our [News Center](#)
- Sign up for [The Melissa Minute e-newsletter and updates](#) (generally every Friday)
- Sign up for notifications of press releases, news items, meetings, and more with [Notify Me](#)
- [Follow us on X](#)
- 'Like' us on Facebook:
 - [City of Melissa Facebook page](#)
 - [City of Melissa Police Department Facebook Page](#)
 - [Melissa Fire Department Facebook page](#)
 - [Melissa Public Library Facebook page](#)
- Receive emergency notifications and weather alerts from [CodeRED](#)
- View [Press Releases and other Legal Notices](#)

Posting/Commenting Guidelines

Please be sure to view our [Community](#)

[Posting/Comment Guidelines](#) if you will be participating with us on one of our social media platforms.