

**AGENDA ITEM 26**

Discuss and take appropriate action on road bond program.

Mike Weaver of Prime Strategies addressed the court concerning road bond issues. He stated that the Williamson County delegation is to appear before the Texas Highway Commission regarding SH 79 on January 31, 2002.

< Attachment >

*SH 45 Toll Road  
Peer Review – Neighborhood Issues  
December 4-7, 2001*

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# *Peer Review Panel*

Bury+Partners

Jim Knight

Curtis Morriss

Edwards and Kelcey

Ken Stanley

Rob Schickel

Mark Rinnan

Mike Fann and Associates

Mike Fann

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## *Peer Review Objectives*

- Assure that Williamson County works cooperatively with neighborhoods (NASWC), TTA and the citizens of Williamson County in the development of regional solutions.
- Assure SH 45 is developed in a timely and responsible manner.
- Assure all issues and concerns, of both neighborhood residents and the traveling public, have been heard and evaluated.
- Evaluate positions of NASWC and TTA.
- Evaluate impacts to the community.

## *Guidance from NASWC Membership*

- SH 45 must be built in a *responsible manner*.
- NASWC wants the full 5 dB noise reduction solution proposed by TTA
  - Non-negotiable requirement
  - Request assistance from government agencies.
- NASWC wants the toll plaza moved to a location east of Parmer.
- NASWC wants to utilize an alternative criteria for toll plaza location selection.
- NASWC requests that the required letter of map redraw (LOMR) be completed before the drainage design is finalized.

## *TTA Summary*

- Site 1, west of Parmer Lane, is the preferred toll plaza site.
- The SH 45 Turnpike Project will not adversely effect the movement of groundwater.
- The SH 45 Turnpike Project will not worsen drainage conditions for the Forest North Estates or any other properties.
- Lighting conditions will have negligible effects upon the residential properties.
- Noise abatement measures do not satisfy TxDOT's criteria for noise mitigation.
- TTA is willing to take measures to minimize the overall impact of the SH 45 turnpike facility on the Forest North Estates.

## *Toll Plaza Location*

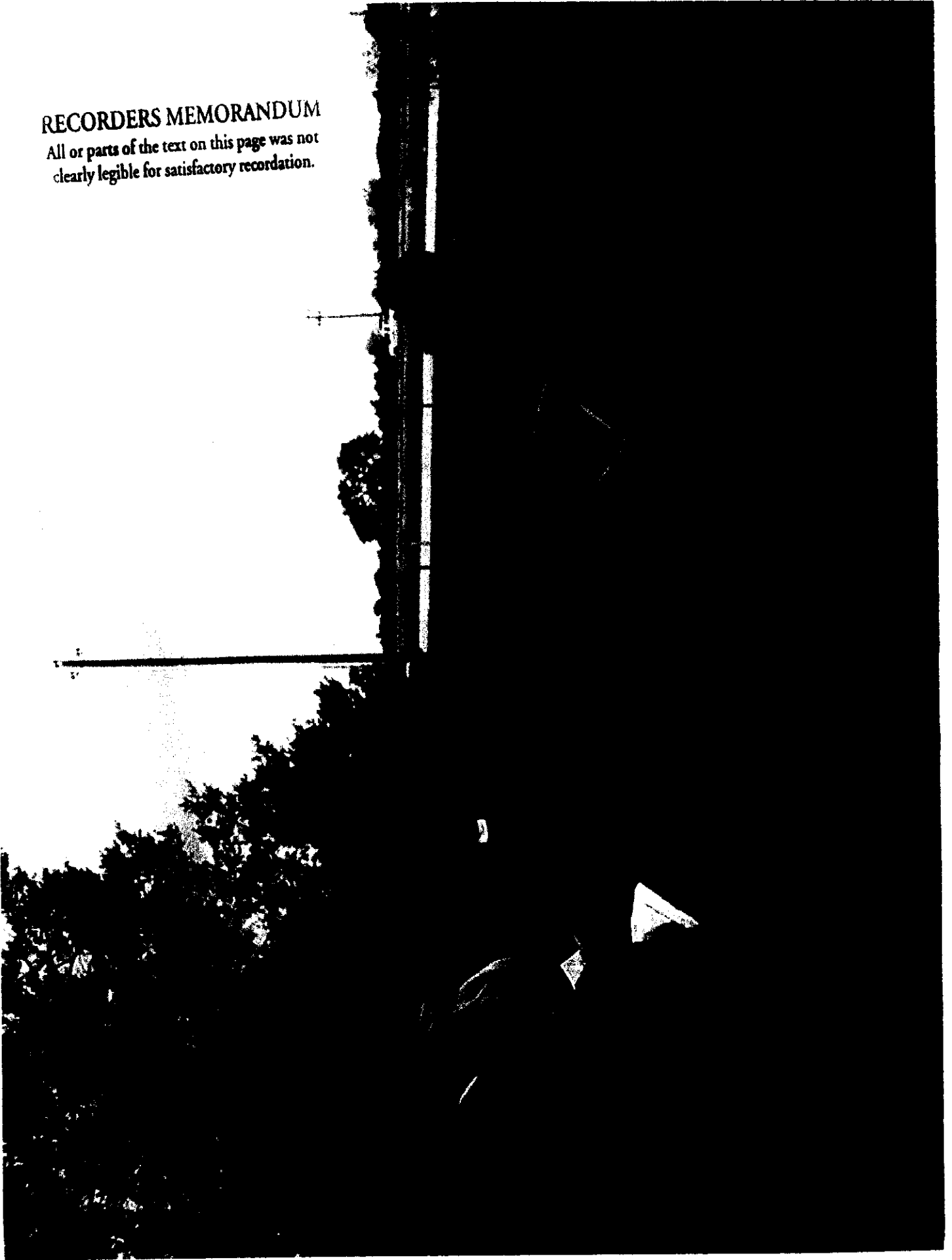
- NASWC has concerns with respect to perceived inadequacies within the FEIS.
- TTA and FHWA stated that the existing neighborhood and impacts were considered during FEIS process.
- FHWA considered 3 potential toll plaza locations in their review of the FEIS.
- FHWA confirmed validity of ROD to Williamson County on December 6, 2001.
- According to 12/6/01 FHWA letter, all workshop issues were addressed in the FEIS process.

## *Toll Plaza Location (continued)*

- Reviewed Plaza Locations 1, 2, and 3
  - Report “Evaluation of Toll Plaza Locations.”
- Report is insufficient to determine preferred site.



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## *Subsequent TTA Reports*

- Traffic Safety and Operations.
  - Environmental and Cultural Condition
    - Noise
    - Lighting
    - Endangered Species
    - Floodplains.
  - Project Schedule
    - Regulatory Review
    - Redesign
    - Right of Way.
-

## *Impact of the Plaza Location and Community Issues*

- Drainage.
- Noise.
- Roadway, plaza and sign lighting.

## *Conclusion*

- Neighborhood issues are independent of toll plaza location.
- No compelling evidence to relocate the toll plaza.

# Drainage

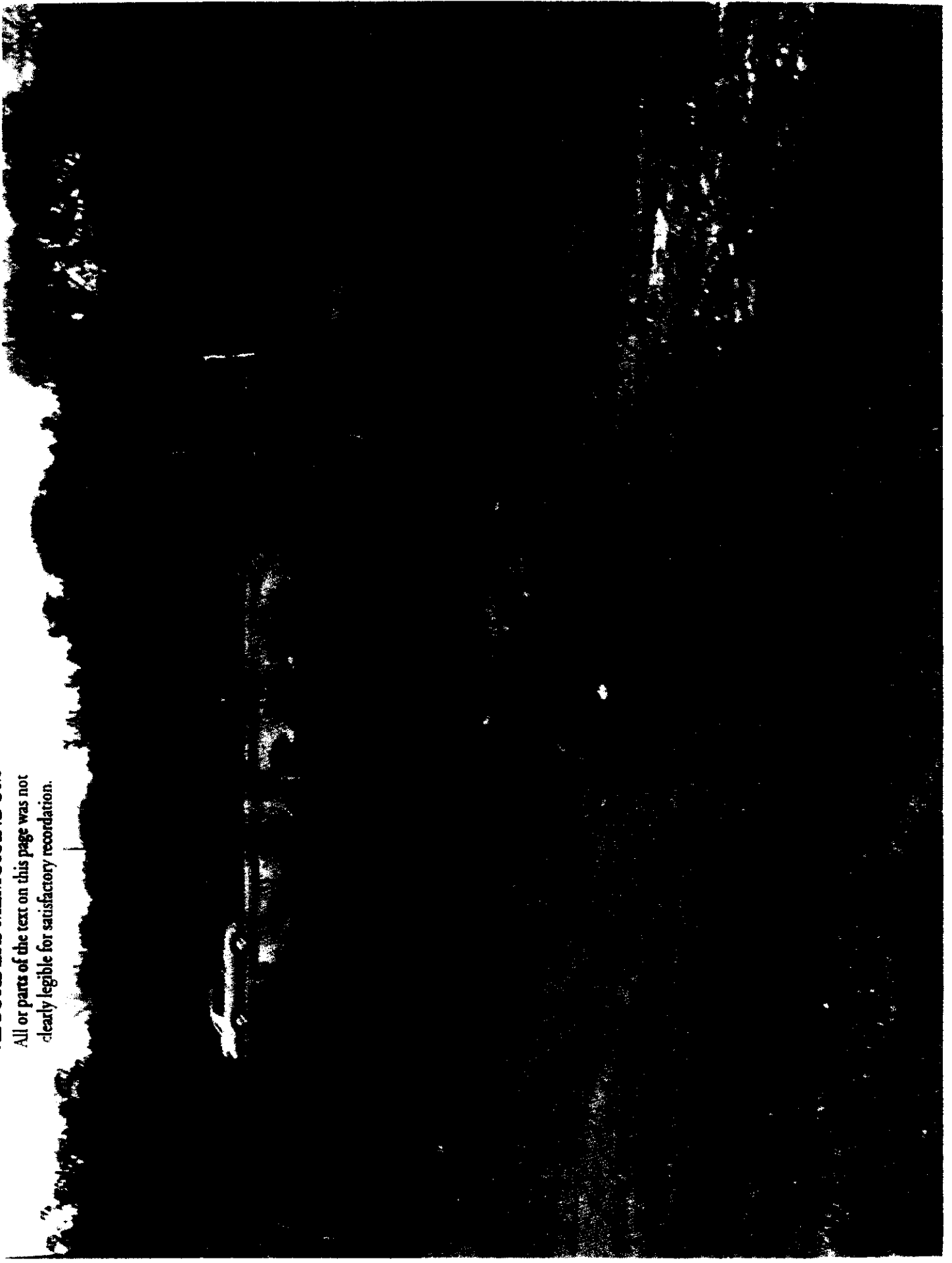
*TTA has designed a system that appears to not create any adverse conditions.*

## Issues

- How far downstream would drainage channel improvements have to extend? How much would this regrading affect the downstream floodplain?
- Upstream backwater is a concern.
- Any increase in floodplain elevation upstream or downstream of SH 45 is unacceptable.

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## *Drainage Solutions*

- TTA should participate with Williamson County in updating Lake Creek “Drainage and Floodplain Report” to include TTA proposed pond and determine the impacts on the surrounding property owners.
- Coordinate with Williamson County in developing an alternative plan for “regional” solution. This regional solution should include input from surrounding property owners, TTA and the City of Austin.
- Meet with the City of Austin to determine feasibility and possible participation.

## *Drainage Solutions (continued)*

- Meet with surrounding property owners to discuss easement acquisition or donation.
- “Regional” pond could meet Williamson County, TTA and surrounding property owner needs
  - cost savings for TTA
  - relieve drainage concerns for Williamson County and adjacent neighborhoods
  - Addresses City of Austin regional drainage issues.
- Estimated timeframe for conceptual design and program management – 6 to 9 months.



## *Noise Issues*

- School and NASWC are significantly impacted.
- School deserves unique consideration
  - TxDOT Division of Highway Design Noise Guidelines dated 1992
  - Category B use for outdoor activities
  - Category E “is used only when there are no outside activity areas.”
- School mitigation should be implemented
  - “Cost factors should not be used in determining if a wall is reasonable for a school facility.”

## *Noise Issues (continued)*

- TxDOT “Guidelines for Analysis and Abatement of Highway Traffic Noise” dated June 1996
  - “Schools...should be examined on a case-by-case basis.”
  - Category E ... “is used only in areas where there is little, if any, frequent human outdoor activity.”

## *Noise Demonstration*

- President George Bush Turnpike mainline barrier plaza.
- Friday, 3:30 PM.
- Noise level measured 570 feet from toll booths.
- Noise level measured 225 feet from frontage road.

## *Wall Recommendations*

- Minimum to be provided
  - TTA recommended 3100-foot long by 9-foot high visual screen wall
  - Mainline location preferred.

## Visual Screen Buffers

Wall Aesthetics . perspective



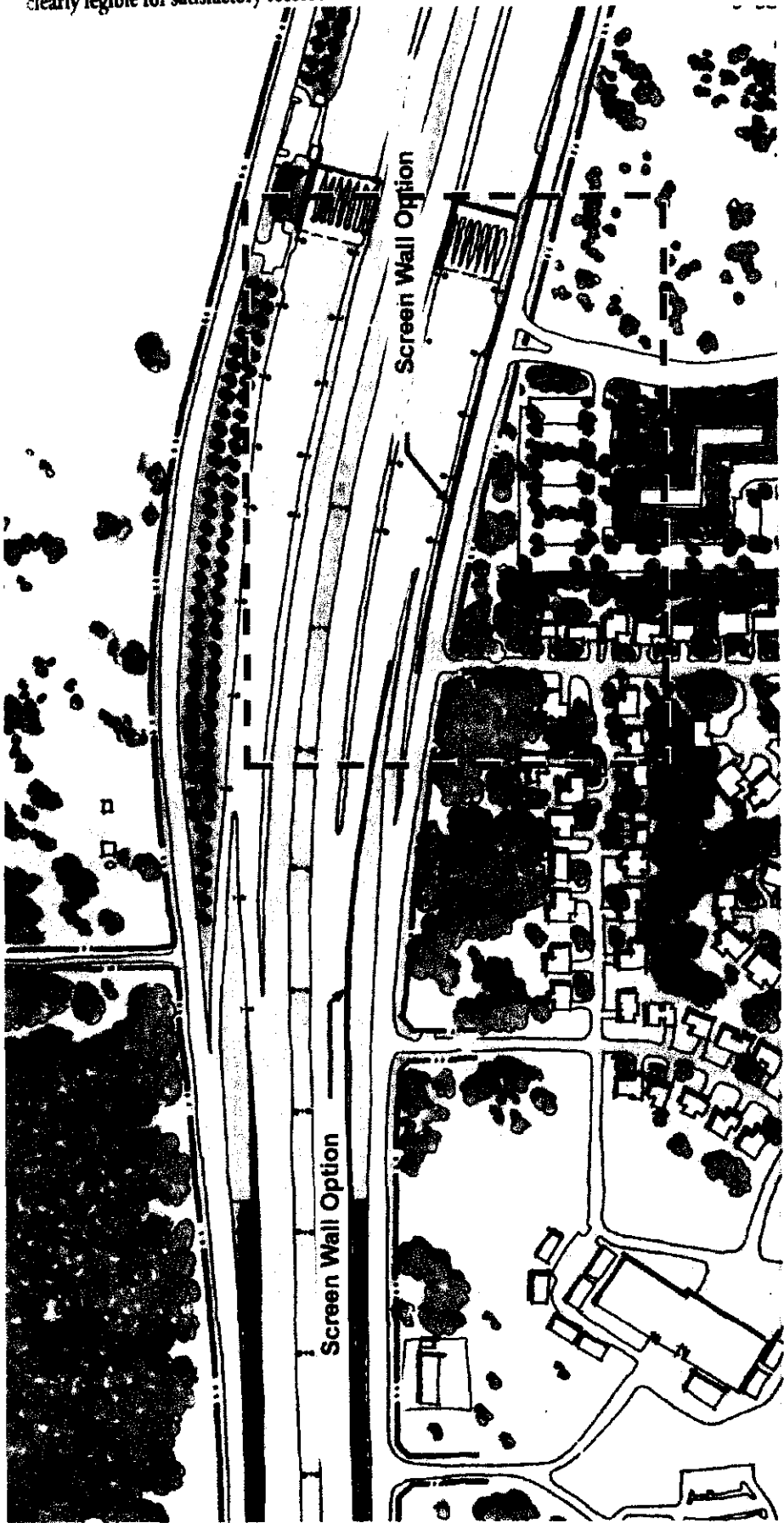
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Visual Screen Buffers

Screen Wall Option - Location



## *Wall Recommendations (continued)*

- School mitigation
  - 14 to 18-foot high wall
  - Mainline location preferred
  - Extend from west of Lyndhurst to east of Broadmeade
  - Confirm 5 to 10 dbA reduction provided.

## *Summary*

- Neighborhood issues with or without toll plaza
  - Drainage
  - Noise
  - Lighting.
- Impacts to the neighborhood are independent of toll plaza location.
- Based on information presented, there is no compelling evidence to relocate toll plaza.



## *Summary (continued)*

- TTA and Williamson County cooperatively address regional drainage solutions.
- TTA should provide visual walls as recommended.
- TTA should provide 5 to 10 dbA school mitigation.
- TTA, working cooperatively with Williamson County and Round Rock ISD, should obtain consensus on school mitigation.

**AGENDA ITEM 27**

Discuss and take appropriate action on jail/courthouse annex expansion.

Gilbert Gallegos of Broaddus & Associates addressed the court concerning the expansion project.

Moved: **Commissioner Limmer**

Seconded: **Judge Doerfler**

Motion: To approve historical research up to the amount of \$900.00 for the jail expansion site.

Vote: 4 – 0 with Commissioner Hays absent from the dais.

**COMMISSIONERS' COURT ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:15 A.M. ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2001. AGENDA ITEM 21 WAS ALSO DISCUSSED DURING THE EXECUTIVE SESSION, AT THE REQUEST OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY.**

**AGENDA ITEM 28**

Discuss personnel matters (EXECUTIVE SESSION as per VTCA Govt. Code sec. 551.072 pertaining to personnel.)

No action was taken in Executive Session.

**COMMISSIONERS' COURT RECONVENED FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:37 A.M. ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2001.**

**AGENDA ITEM 29**

Discuss and take any appropriate action on any personnel matters.

Moved: **Commissioner Limmer**

Seconded: **Commissioner Boatright**

Motion: To authorize the County Judge to place the switchboard operator and assistant under the authority of a department head or elected official.

Vote: 4 – 0 with Commissioner Hays absent from the dais.

**AGENDA ITEM 30**

Consider declaring an emergency and approving a budget amendment to acknowledge additional revenue for debt service:

|                  |               |              |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 0600-0000-370400 | Bond Proceeds | 1,707,298.80 |
| 0600-0000-361200 | Bond Interest | 217,253.25   |

Moved: **Commissioner Boatright**

Seconded: **Commissioner Heiligenstein**

Motion: To declare an emergency and to approve approving a budget amendment to acknowledge additional revenue for debt service:

|                  |               |              |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 0600-0000-370400 | Bond Proceeds | 1,707,298.80 |
| 0600-0000-361200 | Bond Interest | 217,253.25   |

Vote: 4 – 0 with Commissioner Hays absent from the dais.

Moved: **Judge Doerfler**

Seconded: **Commissioner Boatright**

Motion: To clarify that Agenda Item 30 refers to the 2000/2001 budget.

Vote: 4 - 0

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