

AGENDA ITEM 26

Discuss and take appropriate action on road bond program.

Road Bond Manager Mike Weaver discussed recent developments in RMA funding. He also noted that the court needs to give some thought to naming new roads as the County moves forward in acquiring right-of-way, as businesses and residents will want to know about and prepare for any address changes. He also presented the court with a draft of a proposed resolution for next week's agenda regarding the SH 79 and SH 130 interchange. He also noted that the State has funded the reconstruction of SH 79 through Taylor.

No action was taken on this agenda item.

< Attachment >

July 15, 2002

DRAFT

Mr. Michael Behrens, P.E.
Executive Director, TxDOT
DeWitt C. Greer Building
125 E. 11th St.
Austin, Texas 78701

Re: Williamson County – US 79 Improvements

Dear Mr. Behrens:

As we discussed with Bill Garbade at the Governor's press conference, Williamson County is very concerned that no action has been taken on our request to partner with TxDOT on the improvements to US 79. Since our appearance in January 2002, the following events have occurred:

- Segment 1 Schematic (McNutt Creek to Hutto) submitted to Georgetown Area Office on February 12, 2002;
- Segment 2 Schematic (Hutto to Taylor) submitted to Georgetown Area Office on June 10, 2002;
- Environmental assessment 90% complete, scheduled to submit October 1, 2002;
- Right of way maps and field notes completed for Segment 1;
- Appraisals complete and right of way negotiations for Segment 1 underway;
- Six Segment 1 parcels purchased;
- SH 130 contract approved by TxDOT; and,
- Ongoing meetings with TTA staff and LSI on design and timing of SH 130/US79 interchange.

While we have continued to move forward with our work, the Austin District has not reviewed any of our subcontracts because a CSJ number has not been issued and a funding agreement has not been approved by the Department. During this time, accidents continue and, unfortunately, there have been additional fatalities along US 79 since January, as well.

Last, we are at an impasse on acquiring additional right of way to protect this corridor. Without an authorized TxDOT project, the County does not have the jurisdiction to acquire right of way by condemnation. Growth and development is continuing and we are under significant pressure to not only preserve the corridor, but also acquire the right of way before land prices limit the ability of both the State and the County to complete this needed project.

Since our January 2002 offer was not accepted, the County wants to withdraw it. The attached resolution outlines our new proposal, which if acceptable, would allow the County to proceed with the development of Segment 1 in cooperation with the SH 130 project. Specifically, Williamson County proposes to fund 100% of the following:

- Environmental assessment – McNutt Creek to Milam County line;
- Right of Way acquisition – McNutt Creek to FM 685 (Segment 1) excluding SH 130 interchange;
- PS&E for US 79 tie-ins between McNutt Creek and SH 130 and between SH 130 and FM 685;
- Construction of US 79 tie-ins between McNutt Creek and SH 130 and between SH 130 and FM 685.

In addition, the County would fund 10% of all utility relocation cost for Segment 1 – McNutt Creek to FM 685.

In exchange for Williamson County committing all of its US 79 bond funding for Segment 1 (McNutt Creek to FM 685), we would request that TxDOT fund:

- 100% of right of way acquisition costs between Hutto and Milam County line;
- 100% of construction costs between Hutto and Milam County line; and,
- 90% of utility relocation costs between Hutto and Milam County line.

If this is acceptable, Williamson County would consider acquiring the right of way for TxDOT with a reimbursement agreement to cover our costs. Also, the County would agree to fund 100% of the PS&E, when TxDOT is ready to proceed with project construction, between Hutto and the Milam County line.

Again, Williamson County is at a complete standstill without guidance and approval by TxDOT. None of us want to continue to see the loss of life along this roadway. And, when traffic safety and the area's mobility is so bad now, no one in Williamson County can understand how we can let it get worse when SH 130 is complete five years from now. We need your help. We are willing to do our part and believe our offer addresses the immediate growth and mobility needs. But, we must be assured that TxDOT will finish the road and address the rest of the safety problems between Hutto and the Milam County line. We look forward to working with you on this important project.

Sincerely,

Judge John Doerfler
Williamson County

Cc: Senator Steve Ogden
Representative Mike Krusee
Commissioner Mike Heiligenstein, Precinct 1
Commissioner Greg Boatright, Precinct 2
Commissioner David Hays, Precinct 3
Commissioner Frankie Limmer, Precinct 4
William Garbade, P.E., TxDOT Austin District

Joe England, P.E., Williamson County Engineer
Charlie Crossfield, Sheets & Crossfield
Michael Weaver, Prime Strategies, Inc.
Bill Caffey, P.E., Carter & Burgess, Inc.

Resolution**DRAFT**

The State of Texas }

} Know All Men By These Presents:

County of Williamson }

That on this, the ____ day of July, A. D. 2002, the Commissioners Court of Williamson County, Texas, met duly called and convened lawful Session at the County Courthouse in Georgetown, Texas, with the following members present:

John Doerfler, County Judge, Presiding
Mike Heiligenstein, Commissioner Precinct One, and
Greg Boatright, Commissioner Precinct Two, and
David Hays, Commissioner Precinct Three, and
Frankie Limmer, Commissioner Precinct Four

WHERE, among other matters, came up for consideration and adoption the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, Williamson County requested to partner with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) on improvements to US 79 in January 2002, and

WHEREAS, since January, TxDOT has not reviewed any of Williamson County's work products because a CSJ number has not been issued and a funding agreement has not been approved, and

WHEREAS, without an authorized TxDOT project, Williamson County cannot proceed to acquire right of way by condemnation, and

WHEREAS, growth and development on US 79 is continuing and Williamson County is under significant pressure to preserve the corridor and acquire right of way before land prices limit the ability to complete this needed project, and

WHEREAS, safety of the travelling public is a priority to Williamson County in expanding and upgrading its transportation network,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Williamson County requests authority to fund 100% of the environmental assessment for US 79 from McNutt Creek to the Milam County line, right of way acquisition for US 79 from McNutt Creek to FM 685 excluding SH 130 interchange, PS&E for US 79 tie-ins between McNutt Creek and SH 130 and between SH 130 and FM 685, and construction of US 79 tie-ins between McNutt Creek and SH 130 and between SH 130 and FM 685, and

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FURTHER RESOLVED, that in addition, the County would fund 10% of all utility relocation costs for Segment 1 – McNutt Creek to FM 685, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that in exchange for Williamson County committing all of its US 79 bond funding for Segment 1 (McNutt Creek to FM 685), the County requests that TxDOT fund 100% of the right of way acquisition costs between Hutto and the Milam County Line, 100% of the construction costs between Hutto and the Milam County Line, and 90% of the utility relocation costs between Hutto and the Milam County Line, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that County Judge John Doerfler be, and is hereby, authorized to sign this Resolution as the act and deed of Commissioner Court and to execute any and all necessary documents in connection with this project.

The foregoing Resolution was lawfully moved by _____, duly seconded by _____, and was then adopted by a vote of _____ voting for and _____ voting against. County Judge John C. Doerfler was duly authorized to sign said resolution as the act and deed of Commissioner's Court of Williamson County and of said County.

John Doerfler, Williamson County Judge

Attest:

Nancy Rister, Williamson County Clerk

AGENDA ITEM 27

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

Ed Lee of Broaddus & Associates said that the contractor will be working on Saturdays in an attempt to make up for time lost due to the rain on the jail/parking garage project. He said that the full-time inspector will be starting on Monday, July 23, and will be there for 8 hours per day, 5 days per week.

Mr. Lee indicated that the letter from the contractor includes a sentence to address the issue of concessions by the contractor on change orders for the jail/parking garage project that were discussed at the last meeting.

No action was taken on this agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 28

Consider approving solid waste grant application.

Moved: **Commissioner Limmer**

Seconded: **Commissioner Boatright**

Motion: To approve a solid waste grant application.

Vote: **4 - 0**

< Attachment >