

AGENDA ITEM 36

Discuss and consider authorizing additional environmental research in support of the karst mitigation bank.

Moved: **Commissioner Hays**

Seconded: **Commissioner Boatright**

Motion: To authorize the preparation of a proposal by Steve Paulsen for review by the court for additional environmental research in support of the karst mitigation bank.

Vote: 4 - 0

COMMISSIONERS' COURT RECESSED AT 10:40 A.M. ON JULY 23, 2002.

COMMISSIONERS' COURT RECONVENED IN THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT #3 COURTROOM AT 10:50 A.M. ON TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2002.

AGENDA ITEM 37

Hold public hearing on proposed amendments to the Williamson County Multi-Corridor Transportation Plan.

Judge Doerfler announced the public hearing open at 10:50 a.m. on Tuesday, July 23, 2002.

Nancy Ledbetter gave an overview of the Williamson County Multi-Corridor Transportation Plan.

Louis Repa of Granger inquired about the alignment of CR 301, and said that he thought the map showing the alignment was wrong.

Jim Vance of FM 1331 near Circleville addressed the court in opposition to the extension of Chandler Road. He stated that the map handed out at this public hearing is different from the map at the hearing on July 11, 2002. Mr. Vance stated that he has no confidence in the underlying technical work done as a basis of the transportation plan. He stated that he does not believe that the population forecasts for the project were done by an independent firm with no interest in the project.

Nancy Ledbetter stated that Commissioner Limmer had pointed out that there was an error on the map at the hearing held on July 11, and it was corrected by hand at that time. She stated that the population projections done by Texas Alliance Transportation Group were based on state data totals for the county. After the initial forecast was done, County staff and consultants reviewed them and the results were sent to the cities for review. After input from the cities, the forecasts were presented to and endorsed by the Williamson County Commissioners' Court. After approval by Commissioners' Court, the forecasts were submitted to CAMPO for another review and were sent to the Texas Transportation Institute for review and some corrections.

Hank Naizer, a landowner near Granger, spoke about bond issues and against the extension of Chandler Road beyond FM 1460. He said that he feels the bond issues are vaguely worded, and that many people believed that the bond issue would address repairs to existing county roads, rather than creating new roads. He expressed concern that the Chandler Road extension would impact the San Gabriel River.

Commissioner Limmer stated that the Chandler Road extension project lies within the Brushy Creek watershed.

Jim Jirasek of Taylor stated that he lacks confidence in the road bond program. He feels there are other issues that need to be taken in to consideration along with roads, such as water issues. He believes that SH 29 could serve as a traffic corridor between the eastern and western portions of the county.

Carol Fox of CR 374 near Circleville stated her opposition to the extension of Chandler Road past FM 1660. Ms. Fox said that if a road is built in a particular area, growth will follow. She stated that while development adds to the tax base, it also adds to needed services, and that the American Farm Federation has found that farmland actually nets the county more tax dollars.

Erlette McMinn of CR 109, Georgetown, stated that growth will come anyway, and that it is better to plan for it, as it will only cost more to attempt to address it after the fact.

Judge Doerfler announced the public hearing closed at 11:28 a.m. on Tuesday, July 23, 2002.

< Attachment >