
FM 150 West Character Plan Citizens Advisory Panel Meeting Notes

Date: September 17, 2015

Time: 6:00 PM

Subject: CAP Meeting 8

Location: Driftwood Community Center

Present: Hays County: Commissioner Conley and Commissioner Whisenant

CAP Members: David Braun, Casey Cutler, Dennis Dement, Shelby Eckols, Mark and Lisa Oechsner, and Maile Roberts

Project Team: Joe Cantalupo, Joe Skidmore and Greg Blackburn with K Friese & Associates; John Kuhl and Julie LeClair with Hicks Environmental; Paula Gruber with PSI; Stephanie Russell and Laura Harris with HNTB; Arin Gray and Julie Richey with CD&P; Brian Ray and Kelly Laustsen with Kittelson & Associates

Public members that signed in: Valerie Anderson, Dean Blackmor, Jerry Allen, David Crowell, Ben Woodland, Todd Cearley, Theresa Jones, Raymond Ray, Jeanne Merritt, Melodie King, Charlotte Donoso, Betty G. Hall, Sherman Eckols Carl and Sylvia Frandsen, Pat Seiders, Jack Lyle, Les Carnes, Laura Tansey, Andrew Backus, and Eilish Evans

Meeting Summary

Joe Cantalupo welcomed attendees and shared a brief project overview and schedule. He gave an overview of the upcoming public meeting and walked through the presentation for the public meeting and asked for input on the materials and presentation.

Below is a summary of comments, questions, and discussions:

- Noted that we should site where the source of the population projection data
- Noted that the public would like to review what the CAP documented as their values of the area at the public meeting
- It was suggested that we put the website URL in the beginning of the presentation
- When will the County begin acquiring the 150 foot of ROW to meet long-term needs?
 - This is not known at this time as we are still in early pre-planning stage to develop concepts. It is not known when these projects would be needed at this point and no funding has been identified. Once the need for projects is identified, these concepts will

go into their own planning processes and ROW timing would then be identified. The County would continue to work with the community throughout.

- Will the County identify if FM 150 needs to be 4 lanes in phase 2?
 - We are studying for 4 lanes of capacity, but not stating that all of it has to happen on the existing alignment
- Is the typical section for the southern section bigger than US 290 and what is the other 70 feet of ROW used for if not for pavement?
 - US 290 is larger and we are going through this process to make sure it does not look like 290. Currently, we do not have a proposed layout as we are still identifying concepts. The ROW that is not pavement may be used for medians, drainage, and utilities.
- Noted we need to get input from the two businesses near FM 150 and 3237
 - Commissioner Conley noted that we have been in close coordination with them and will continue to communicate with them throughout this project
 - The owner of Hays City Store noted that they want what is best for the community but that something definitely needs to be done to this intersection as there are a lot of people stopping quickly and honking horns, as people try to make the turn
- How would we keep people out of the river at double low water crossing?
 - Noted that this would be addressed as this specific section was planned. The County and community would work to further identify what is preferred here.
- What does match grade mean?
 - This is where we would try to match the existing elevation
- There is an investor building warehouses along Darden Hill claiming that it will look like US 290 soon. Is that the plan?
 - Commissioner Whisenant noted the County has no plans to make Darden Hill look anything like US 290
 - It was noted that US 290 has a much larger footprint and is near 200 feet of ROW with plans to increase ROW for future expansion
 - Commissioner Conley noted this would undergo a similar process to RR 12 and there are many different ways this could be done. The County insists expansions go through Context Sensitive Design.
- Noted we should include depictions of what the 4 lane road could look like in the presentation
- Noted confusion on what the process is that roads will undergo and when the public is able to share their input
 - Commissioner Whisenant noted this is the purpose of the public meeting, as we will be looking for comments and participation in the planning process, and that input will be collected and considered throughout the planning process
- If the expansion of FM 150 is being driven by the population growth around the County, where will the building and growth take place and is this the right road to accommodate this growth?
 - We are not suggesting this is where the development will occur but this is one of many solutions that will be needed
 - Commissioner Conley noted there will be a lot of cross county travel to accommodate the population growth

- Where is the Rutherford development being planned?
 - Across from FM 967 and noted we have not met with them at this point
- Will the presentation used tonight be posted?
 - Noted all materials are available but we will not post this presentation until it is refined for the public meeting
- Noted we should consider moving the center section of the road up in the presentation so the crowd would understand what the four lane section may look like
 - We will look into the order
- Are we trying to take truck traffic off US 290 and put it on the new section of FM 150?
 - No, FM 150 is not being studied to address specifically truck traffic but yes, we are trying to provide solutions to handle more traffic
- Noted economic development committees should be involved in this process as it could have an impact to community
- A community member wanted to make an official statement that preserving Driftwood and the little post office will not be necessary if we put a highway through Elder Hill Road
- Is Elder Hill Road planned for 4 or 2 lanes of capacity?
 - It is not known, it is just a concept
- CAP member Casey Cutler read a comment from a member of the public
- Noted it would be helpful to explain the Hays County Transportation Plan process and how it came about