
FM 150 West Character Plan Citizens Advisory Panel Meeting Notes

Date: January 21, 2016
Time: 6:00 PM
Subject: CAP Meeting 9
Location: Stonehouse Villas Driftwood
Present: Hays County: Commissioner Conley and Commissioner Whisenant

CAP Members: Cassie Gresham on behalf of David Braun, Dennis Dement, Shelby Eckols, Sharon Michaelis, Mark Oechsner, and Judge Bob Shannon

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

Public members that signed in: Kathleen Collins, Collen & Bob Moreau, Raymond Ray, Randy Robertson, Jerry Allen, Elizabeth Cray, Mike and Lisa Pruitt, Denton Ragland, David Crowell, Robin Melanson, Martha Brown, Janice Daneman, Lynn Fichtner, Jarred Gammon, Darcy Bickham, Nica Eckols, Jeff Jones, Becki Smith, Sherron Abernethy, Kristen Weathers, Jane Ward, Deborah Herczog, Andrew Backus, David Carlson, Sylvia Frank, Sherman Eckols, Kasey Mock, Alma S. King, Pier King, Theresa Jones, Sara Cutler, Casey Cutler, Randy McWilliams, Kim Staub, Jeff Eichelber, Melodie King, Pat & Dale Caudill, Dale Burnett, John Church, Judy Templeton, Ed Viele, Arlene Viele, Travis Tindol, Sally Fletcher, Donna Burns, Lisa Pruitt, Joe Anderson

Meeting Summary

Commissioners Conley and Whisenant welcomed attendees and thanked the CAP members for their services, and others for attending. Joe Cantalupo then briefly covered a project overview and history. He gave an overview of public input received at the October 2015 public meeting. He then reviewed all concepts that would move forward and noted the Elder Hill extension was not moving forward as a part of this study. He noted that the project team and County were finalizing a report of Phase 1 activities and work would begin to identify next steps for the Character Plan study, but that next steps had not been finalized. The Commissioners and Joe Cantalupo then opened up the meeting for questions and discussions.

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

- Which developers are the County talking to when proposed neighborhoods, electrical lines, water lines, and pipelines were planned? What meetings has the County had with developers, PEC, and water lines?
 - Commissioner Whisenant answered that water plans come from the statewide water resource planning for Regions L & K; not aware of any PEC plans; and that he was not currently talking with any developers.
 - Commissioner Conley noted he does meet with PEC as he believes collaboration is good. He would like to work with them to make projects efficient and complete them in a responsible way. He also noted the County has a very good record of working transparently. This is their home too and they want to work to protect it.
- How many subdivision permits were issued by the County along the corridor? What were current traffic numbers and crash rates? Noted she would like be better informed to participate
 - Commissioner Conley noted he is not aware of any subdivision permits along the corridor, but that often times these come out of city jurisdictions. An example is the new subdivision near RM 12 which came out of the City of Dripping Springs jurisdiction.
 - Joe Cantalupo noted that traffic data was posted on the project webpage.
- Noted they would like to see the Driftwood Community Zone extended to the west of RM 1826 as this was a residential, community area.
 - The Commissioners noted that the County can look into extending it and also noted that the County needs to consider the larger amount of traffic near RM 12 and RM 1826.
- The Commissioners explained they are currently looking at many different projects, study efforts, and plans to accommodate growth projections. They also noted the County doesn't have planning and zoning authority, but is working to coordinate with other entities as they plan, so the County can share input. Noted one example is the Habitat Conservation Plan set up by the County.
- What is planned for Rutherford Ranch and who met with them?
 - Commissioner Whisenant stated he did not know of the plans for this area. He had attempted contact by phone as well as stopped by the property and left his card a few times, but has yet to meet or visit with them. A CAP member and Joe Cantalupo did speak with them, but that is the only coordination that has occurred to date.
- Casey Cutler noted that the Commissioners have done a great job of being open and promoting democracy. He reminded everyone that the County and Study Team were initially just focused upon the FM 150 corridor and it was the CAP who proposed the bypass as well as Elder Hill extension and that the County and Study Team listened and were receptive to expanding options, and that almost everything the CAP asked for was included in the recommendations.
- What is a time frame for some of the safety improvements such as curve smoothing?
 - Commissioner Whisenant stated they don't have funding identified, but estimated safety improvements might happen in 5 to 10 years. Larger improvements would be longer.

- Commissioner Conley noted that they do want to work to preserve right-of-way so they don't have to be reactive when growth occurs.
- Will property owners be included in future coordination and planning?
 - Commissioner Whisenant answered yes and that he couldn't image it any other way.
 - Commissioner Conley noted that the County values transparent processes and coordination with the community and property owners and there are many more opportunities to come for all to work together.
- Commented that trucks are already going over 50 mph and the pavement is a hazard. Will trucks be speeding up on straighter roads?
 - Commissioner Whisenant commented the objective was not to make roads faster, but safer.
- What is the expected date for the Phase 1 report?
 - Joe Cantalupo noted that the consultant team plans to finalize the report and publish it to the website in late March. An email will be sent to notify all that it is posted.
- Noted that would like to consider the area west of RM 1826 as a community zone and questioned if the speed limit can be lowered
 - Commissioner Whisenant noted that if this section was moved to County jurisdiction, the Commissioners Court could potentially make a speed change, but currently the road is managed by the State. Commissioner Conley explained that speed limit review goes through a state process.
- Commented that the City of Kyle started annexing the GLO Tract and PEC is planning poles. The Kyle area of FM 150 does not get a CAP or representation like this project. Commented that his organic farm was at risk.
 - Commissioner Conley asked where his farm was located and it was noted about 1 mile from I-35.
 - Commissioner Conley noted that the FM 150 Alignment project is much further along in the process and that the need for the FM 150 Alignment Project was greater compared to the Character Plan study area where the County has time to study this way.
 - Commissioner Whisenant noted that the FM 150 Alignment project was a different process but it involved many public meetings and coordination with property owners.
- Are turn lanes currently being constructed at FM 150 and RM 1826?
 - There is currently no funding identified for any turn lanes but a developer is adding a turn lane into his property.
- Commissioner Conley asked if attendees felt this was a good process. The majority of the crowd agreed with a show of hands that the process was good for the FM 150 Character Plan.

Commissioners Conley and Whisenant thanked everyone for attending and the CAP members for their service.