
**FM 150 West Character Plan – Phase 2, Nature & Character Master Plan
Citizens Advisory Panel Meeting Notes**

Date: May 18, 2017

Time: 6:00 PM

Subject: CAP Meeting 6

Location: Dripping Springs High School, Cafeteria

Present: Hays County: Commissioner Whisenant and Commissioner Conley

CAP Members: David Braun, Dennis Dement, and Mike Pruitt

Project Team: Joe Cantalupo, Ryan Bell, and Eric Virag with K Friese + Associates; John Kuhl and Julie LeClair with Hicks & Company; Arin Gray and Jacqie Wilson with CD&P; Laura Harris with HNTB

14 Public members signed in

Meeting Summary

Commissioner Whisenant welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for attending. Commissioner Conley shared an update on CAMPO.

Joe Cantalupo started the meeting with introductions, review of the meeting agenda, meeting purpose, and the updated meeting and project schedule. He then reviewed the highlights of the character details and treatment preferences and noted the team would continue to define potential treatments.

- A member of the public asked about bicycle and pedestrian access and why accommodations are included in the FM 150 plan
- Another public member noted there would be a fair amount of resistance to bike lanes because of traffic
 - Joe shared that we have received input from the public on the need to consider bicycle and pedestrian facilities; these are ideas that are not yet defined in detail and we are including them in some of the concepts
- A CAP member noted interest in signage and asked if we could include that
 - Joe confirmed we would provide examples of transition and community signage

Ryan Bell began the update on the roadway sections revised due to comments received from the CAP and public at the last meeting and additional information gathered by the team. He shared

information on an alternative to the previous FM 967 section layout between the PEC substation near the Hill Country Conservancy (HCC) preserve. The updated section that could be considered does not impact the preserve by pushing the corridor north into the PEC substation and the first two lots of the Rutherford West subdivision along FM 967. This section update also largely avoids the Roger Ranch properties.

Ryan also shared the concepts previously shown of the Onion Creek crossing area south of Darden Hill. He explained the team further reviewed the existing bridge conditions and determined that the existing bridge could remain in place to carry two lanes but would likely not be able to be modified to provide bicycle and pedestrian accommodations on the bridge. The updated section more closely overlays the existing ROW within the new corridor.

Ryan shared the updated section of FM 150 south of Woods Loop near another HCC preserve which shifted the corridor ROW north off the preserve property.

- Public member asked what is the purpose of widening the road so much here
 - Ryan noted that the county is planning for the ultimate ROW corridor section
- Another public member asked how many lanes are included and why 200 feet of ROW is needed
 - Ryan noted that while we are planning for immediate improvements such as intersection improvements and turn lanes, we are also planning for the future when more capacity is needed, bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, and drainage
- A public member asked if the 200 feet of ROW is where the water pipe will go
 - Commissioner Whisenant noted that he is not aware of any water line or plans for water lines along the corridor, but shared that public easements are usually used for utilities
 - Commissioner Conley added that ROW needs to consider water quality measures and the larger ROW provides the ability to do this more naturally than a curb and gutter
 - Member of the public noted the wider ROW provides for safer travel
 - Joe noted that this also means we could treat the water running off the roadway within the ROW
- A member of the public noted the people who already live on the road think it is hard to give up property for bicyclist and wants us to consider this
 - Joe noted we are trying to think through what we would need to preserve all possibilities for the future

Ryan shared the previous concept for Area D near Woods Loop and a new alternative that flattens the curve and provides better sight distance. This section is shifted due to the previous section shift to avoid HCC Preserve property and that the CAP had shared previously that sight distance was a concern.

- A public member asked where the community zone extension was that was shared at the last meeting
 - Joe shared that it is through the river crossing south of Darden Hill

Before the group went to work sessions around the maps Joe shared a few housekeeping items. He

reminded the public and CAP members of the upcoming meeting dates and locations. Joe then gave an overview of the upcoming public meeting structure and content that would be available for the community to review.

The meeting closed with work groups around the FM 150 preliminary exhibits from FM 1826 to RM 12.

Work Session

There were two different areas set up to view large plotted maps. One area was for CAP members and the second area for members of the public. Below are notes from each area.

CAP Session Notes

Darden Hill Area

- Noted we should make the ROW lines brighter and to show up easier
- Public member noted the Odell and Wilson families own a state documented historic ranch (meaning documented as being in the same family for 100 years) that would be impacted here

FM 150 from RM 12 to FM 1826

- CAP member noted that there is a concern with 200 feet of ROW
 - Noted that they need flexibility and the next steps would be considering what development plans are
- CAP member noted the property south of Caliterra was sold and asked for information
 - Commissioner Whisenant noted a developer did purchase this property
- Public member asked about the future extension of FM 150
 - Commissioner Whisenant explained the developers plans and an idea to connect back to US 290
 - Public member asked if this connection could be a priority

Public Session Notes

Darden Hill Area

- Public member asked why so much ROW is needed
 - The County is working to plan for immediate and future safety and capacity needs and ROW preservation is for ultimate needs with open drainage
 - Noted growth and growth projections
- Public members noted the new school being built
 - Discussed traffic will use Darden Hill and shift away from Dripping Springs

FM 150 from RM 12 to FM 1826

- Public member noted concerns for ROW encroaching on people's homes and not the businesses, feels like businesses hold all the power in the County
 - The team explained planners are evaluating how to make the roadway safer

- Public member noted some ROW is shown on a preserve
 - Ryan noted that they can re-evaluate and consider widening from the center
- Public member shared they have seen bridge under water four times since 2002
 - Ryan noted bridge may need to be rebuilt before these plans are implemented and that any improvements will be tricky since in flood zone
- Discussed design for roundabouts and noted some preference for signals
 - Noted the roundabouts slow traffic and preserve the character of area and can accommodate large trucks
- Discussed a desire for beautification in areas with larger roundabouts

General Discussion

- Public member asked why we couldn't utilize existing County land or other roads
 - Noted that the team was tasked to study FM 150 though there are other areas roads and areas that also need transportation improvements
 - Discussed that the County has very little say in how land is developed
- Discussed how curves are the character of county
 - Noted the County is trying to keep the character while giving the driver a consistent experience for improved safety
- Public member noted that the curve near creek has multiple crashes (one time per month) and needs safety improvements

The meeting was ended with a reminder of the upcoming public meeting date and that materials from the CAP meeting would be available on the project website the following day.