



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: 4/17/12

Prepared By/Phone Number: Mo Mortazavi, P.E. (854-7589)

Division Director/Manager: Steve Sun, P.E., CIP Program Manager, TNR

Carol B. Joseph for
Department Head: Steven M. Manilla, P.E., County Executive-TNR

Sponsoring Court Member: Commissioner Davis, Precinct One

AGENDA LANGUAGE: Approve the setting of a public hearing on May 1, 2012 to receive comments regarding a request to close Old Highway 20 between Joyce Turner Drive and Parmer Lane in Precinct One.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

The existing bridge was built in 1936, and although it is structurally in good condition, the bridge deck is too narrow to accommodate two lanes of traffic, and effectively functions as a one lane bridge. The roadway is also on the Manor ISD bus route, which presents potential safety concerns for its buses. The proposed new bridge will have a wider deck to accommodate two lanes of traffic and a sidewalk on the north side.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff recommends closing Old Highway 20 according to the attached schedule (see Exhibits, below). Construction is scheduled to begin on or about June 1, 2012 and continue for an estimated 120 days to October 1, 2012, or until construction is complete. The road closure is required for the first phase of construction until the bridge deck is completed.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

The timing and the duration of the road closure is important in that TNR's goal is to complete the bidding process and obtain court approval and contract award by mid-May, so that construction can begin immediately after the last day of classes for Manor New Tech High School on Old Highway 20 and Joyce Turner Road, and open the road to traffic by the start of the Fall semester, or shortly thereafter.

Another important issue to consider is that in the event the construction of the new bridge is not completed before the start of the next phase of the US 290/Manor Expressway improvements at Parmer Lane, the county project will have to be delayed until the states project is complete. This is because the county will be using US 290 as the detour during the Old Highway 20 road closure. Construction of the last phase of Manor Expressway, which will extend to just east of Parmer Lane, has

already begun, but construction activities that could impact the county's project, are not scheduled to begin until late in the year or early 2013.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Several years ago, TxDOT and Travis County executed an Advance Funding Agreement (AFA) whereby TxDOT and the Federal Government would reimburse 90% of the construction cost of this project under the Off-System Bridge Program. However, in 2010, TxDOT notified TNR that due to the downturn in the economy, those funds were no longer available, and it was unclear when or if they would be restored. The county then requested and received approval from the voters for construction funding for this project in the 2011 bond referendum.

This closure will require some work by Travis County road maintenance crews to post public notices. Necessary detour routing signs will be installed by the contractor.

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

Cynthia McDonald	Financial Manager	TNR	854-4239
Steve Manilla	County Executive	TNR	854-9429

CC:

Don Ward, TNR (854-9317)		Stephanie Jensen COA Public Safety GIS, (974-6446)	
David Greear, TNR (854-7650)		TCSO Dispatch (974-0845 +3)	
Steve Schiewe, TNR (854-7580)		ESD #11 (243-3477)	
Howard Herrin, TNR (266-3314) Mo Mortazavi, TNR (854-7589)		Manor I.S.D. (278-4085) City of Manor (272-5555)	

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