



## Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

**Meeting Date:** May 1, 2012

**Prepared By:** Mo Mortazavi, P.E.      **Phone #:** 854-7589

**Division Director/Manager:** Steve Sun, P.E., Engineering Division Manager

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

**Sponsoring Court Member:** Commissioner Davis, Precinct One

**AGENDA LANGUAGE:** Receive comments regarding a request to close Old Highway 20 between Joyce Turner Drive and Parmer Lane for bridge replacement beginning June 1, 2012 through August 31, 2012 or until construction is completed in Precinct One.

### **BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

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 beginning on or about June 1, 2012 through August 31, 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, because Joyce Turner Road, where Manor New Tech High School is located, is the proposed detour during the construction period. TNR's goal is to complete the bidding process and obtain Court approval and contract award as soon as funding becomes available on June 1, so that construction can begin immediately. The intent is to complete the construction of the bridge deck during the summer and open the road to traffic early in the Fall semester. Total Construction is expected to be completed in six months. 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 State's 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.

**ATTACHMENTS/EXHIBITS:**

Map of detour route

Pictures of public notice sign and affidavit

**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)	
Howard Herrin, TNR (266-3314)		ESD #11 (243-3477)	
Mo Mortazavi, TNR (854-7589)		Manor I.S.D. (278-4085)	City of Manor (272-5555)

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