



Item 10

Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: June 11, 2013

Prepared By: Steven Manilla **Phone #:** (512) 854-9383

Division Director/Manager:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven M. Manilla".

Department Head: Steven M. Manilla, P.E., County Executive-TNR

Sponsoring Court Member: Commissioner Daugherty, Precinct Three

AGENDA LANGUAGE: Consider and take appropriate action on a request to proceed with the 2005 Bond Program project to complete the design and construction documents for safety improvements to Hamilton Pool Road, in Precinct Three.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

In mid-2010, the Court approved halting work on the project because of opposition raised by area residents. Public attractions and private development along Hamilton Pool Road are contributing to the traffic and raising the risk of accidents. Included in the 2005 Bond Referendum was approximately \$922,000 for designing improvements to enhance the safety of Hamilton Pool Road for motorists and bicyclists. The funds are to be used for designing safety improvements to the section of Hamilton Pool Road from RM12 to the Pedernales River. The section of Hamilton Pool Road between SH 71 and RM12 is a TxDOT roadway. It is also in need of improvement and discussions are underway between the offices of Commissioner Daugherty and the TxDOT Area Engineer regarding project scope and funding.

TNR began the process of selecting a consulting engineering firm to provide the necessary professional services in December 2009. TNR and Purchasing presented its recommendations to begin contract negotiations with the highest qualified firm at the May 25, 2010 Voting Session. Three area residents testified in opposition to the project at the Voting Session. A ruling on the item was delayed until June 1, 2010 by the Court to allow the Precinct Three Commissioner Karen Huber time to speak with area residents. The subsequent court record is as follows:

JUNE 1, 2010 VOTING SESSION PAGE 10

16. AUTHORIZE PURCHASING AGENT TO COMMENCE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MOST HIGHLY QUALIFIED FIRM, HUITT-ZOLLARS, INC., RFQ NO. Q100091-LP, PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR HAMILTON POOL ROAD IMPROVEMENTS. (10:45 AM)

Members of the Court heard from: Steve Manilla, Director, Public Works, TNR; Annie Borden, Travis County Resident; Maura Uric, Travis County Resident; Hope Phillips, Travis County Resident; Nell Penridge, Travis County Resident; Charles Harrison, Travis County Resident; Ronnie Gjemre, Travis County Resident; Maurice Priest, Travis County Resident; Michael Ollick, Huitt-Zollars, Inc.; Tom Wald, Executive Director, League of Bicycling Voters; Cyd Grimes, Travis County Resident; and Tim Mulletts, Huitt-Zollars, inc.

Motion by Commissioner Huber and seconded by Commissioner Davis that the Court direct the Purchasing Agent not to proceed with negotiations for a contract for the design of improvements to Hamilton Pool Road; and that we hold the Bond funds in reserve for the time being, pending further review by Bond Counsel as to the possible reallocation of those funds to another project.

Motion carried: County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe yes
Precinct 1, Commissioner Ron Davis yes
Precinct 2, Commissioner Sarah Eckhardt yes
Precinct 3, Commissioner Karen Huber yes
Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez absent

Minutes of June 1, 2010 CC VS agreeing to project suspension

Therefore, judge, i would like to make a motion. I would like to move that the court direct the purchasing agent not to proceed with negotiations for a contract for the design of improvements to hamilton pool road.

>> second.

>> and that we hold the bond funds in reserve for the time being pending further review by bond counsel as to the possible reallocation of those funds to another project.

>> second again.

>> that reallocation brings into play a whole lot of legal standards. I'm not sure what was on the bond package. There were multiple projects, i take it, of which this was one.

>> yes, sir.

>> yeah. So that will require legal advice to transfer that to another project.

>> i've had conversations with rodney about that and he's had brief conversations with bond counsel. If you want two separate motions i can separate it owvment.

>> one motion is fine. I think that second part would be controlled by legal opinions anyway. Seconded by commissioner davis. Discussion? All in favor of the motion? Show commissioners davis, eckhardt, huber and yours truly voting in favor. That motion carries unanimously. That means basically we halt this project.

The Hamilton Pool Road project is a Precinct Three bond project approved by voters in the 2005 Bond election. Funds were provided only for design. This project will

enhance safety for the segment of Hamilton Pool Road extending from RM 12 to the top of the eastern bank of the Pedernales River; approximately 5.7 miles. The proposed project includes improving the existing 2-lane configuration to include two 11-foot travel lanes with 5-foot bike lanes, 18" ribbon curb and open drainage ditches. Turn lanes will be provided at key intersections and spot improvements to improve sight distance may be required. Attention will also be given to mitigating or eliminating hazards presented by pavement edge drop offs, non-traversable ditch side-slopes, and non-traversable obstacles located in unsafe positions near the road.

This project will not include the roadway from the eastern top of bank down to the Pedernales river or the Hammett's Crossing bridge.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

TNR recommends proceeding with the design of safety improvements for Hamilton Pool Road between RM12 and the eastern top of the bank of the Pedernales River. If approved to proceed, TNR will work with Purchasing to prepare a Request for Qualifications to determine the highest qualified firm. Purchasing and TNR will then return to Court to obtain approval to negotiate a contract for services and return again to obtain the Court's approval of the Professional Services Agreement.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

The Hamilton Pool Road safety project was approved by voters in November 2005. The project was intended to improve the safety of the roadway for motorists and bicyclists, some of whom are attracted to the area by Hamilton Pool Preserve, the Reimers Ranch County Park & Pogue Springs Preserve, and West Cave Preserve.

At the May/June 2010 Commissioners Court hearings for this project a segment of the community that resides in the area and regularly uses Hamilton Pool Road expressed opposition to changing the roadway. They did not believe the proposed safety improvements are necessary, particularly if motorists will slow down. They also believe that these improvements will encourage the development of other transportation projects that will encourage additional development and associated traffic. Area residents also objected to the addition of bike lanes and felt that they would make the road less safe for bicyclists by encouraging motorists to drive faster, and by confining bicyclist to a narrow path.

The bridge on Hamilton Pool Road that crosses Hamilton Creek is recommended for replacement by Brian Merrill of TxDOT in the following message received on May 28, 2010: "Mr. Mortazavi - I am the State Bridge Construction and Maintenance Engineer for TxDOT. My office is largely responsible for developing and implementing repair or rehabilitation plans and policies for our bridges. I was asked to provide you my opinion and recommendations for Bridge #AA445-002 on

Hamilton Pool Road over Hamilton Creek. Testing performed on the concrete girders has confirmed that extensive damage due to alkali-silica reaction (ASR) has occurred in the prestressed concrete box beams. TxDOT has a large number (the exact number is not known at this time) of structures affected by ASR and my office has been dealing with this issue since 1994. I do not recommend any repairs or treatments to this bridge. I understand there may be plans to widen this road and the bridge. In this case, I recommend that at least the superstructure (Beams) be replaced and not re-used in the widened structure. I do not have enough information to assess the condition of the existing substructure. If there are no widening plans, I still recommend that plans be made to replace the superstructure in the near future (5 - 10 years at the most)".

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Funding for the 2005 project has been issued and is currently available to complete the design of the safety improvements. Construction and right-of-way funding is currently anticipated to be requested through a future Bond Referendum.

ATTACHMENTS/EXHIBITS:

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

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|-------------------|-------------------|-----|----------------|
| Cynthia McDonald | Financial Manager | TNR | (512) 854-4239 |
| Steven M. Manilla | County Executive | TNR | (512) 854-9429 |
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CC:

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| Cyd Grimes | Purchasing | Marvin Brice | Purchasing |
| Cynthia McDonald | Financial Services-TNR | Tawana Gardner | Financial Services |
| John Hille | County Attorney's Office | Allen Miller | PBO |
| Steve Sun | Public Works-CIP | | |

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: **3101 - Public Works/CIP -**