

Hays County, TxDOT Agree on FM 110 Improvement Exchange

Swap of City-funded road improvement on FM 110 for bridge replacement retains previous rate of funding reimbursement

Hays County Courthouse, San Marcos, TX – The Hays County Commissioners Court learned Tuesday that the County would continue to reap the benefits of innovative and flexible road construction programming. The County's Pass-Through Finance Program Management Team told the Court that TxDOT has agreed to swap an already completed portion of FM 110/East McCarty Lane paid for by the City of San Marcos with much-needed improvements to the IH-35 overpass bridge at Yarrington Road, maintaining the County's original pass-through reimbursement level.

"This is great news," Hays County Precinct 1 Commissioner Debbie Ingalsbe said. "TxDOT was prevented from reimbursing the County for road improvements already completed by the City of San Marcos. Knowing that the bridge presented a different but significant safety and mobility problem at the north end of the same project, our team and TxDOT worked together to resolve that issue and maintain our reimbursement funding."

The County had been in jeopardy of losing approximately \$8 million in reimbursement funds from TxDOT after the City improved a 1.2-mile section of FM 110 from the IH-35 frontage road east on McCarty Lane. That improvement was needed to provide better and safer access for children, bus drivers and the public traveling that section of road to and from San Marcos High School.

"Re-working that section of FM 110 was an immediate, time-sensitive need," Ingalsbe said. "We're extremely pleased that TxDOT understands the safety concerns we all had for that stretch of road, and could substitute another much-needed improvement. Although the City's financial contribution to the McCarty Lane project more than makes up for what the County would have lost in reimbursement funds, taxpayers will now see that reimbursement money come through to help fund the bridge improvements."

The current narrow, two-lane bridge at Yarrington Road will be reconstructed to accommodate up to six lanes with shoulders in the future and include Texas turnarounds in both directions. Construction is anticipated to begin late this year and be completed by 2014.

Under the new Pass-Through Amendment, the County will receive a \$7.92 million maximum reimbursement for the FM 110 project and \$7.92 million for the Yarrington Road bridge project.