



December 8, 2009

Dear Citizen:

On behalf of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) we want to welcome you to tonight's Public Hearing concerning proposed improvements to Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1626 from Ranch-to-Market Road (RM) 967 in Hays County to Brodie Lane in Travis County. An agenda for the hearing and information regarding the proposed improvements are attached for your information.

Please feel free to examine the exhibits on display from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. Project staff members will be available to answer questions. A technical presentation on the proposed improvements will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by a brief recess and public comment period.

If you wish to make a verbal comment during the public comment portion of the hearing, please complete a speaker registration card (available at the registration table) and return it before the end of the recess.

Comments may also be presented in writing. For your convenience, a comment form is included in this information packet. Written comments not submitted during the hearing should be mailed to the TxDOT - Austin District, Environmental Coordinator, P.O. Box 15426, Austin, Texas 78761-5426 or faxed to (512) 832-7157. Written comments must be received by Friday, December 18, 2009, to be included in the official Public Hearing record.

All verbal comments received at the Public Hearing, as well as written comments received by December 18, 2009, will be taken into consideration during future project development.

Thank you for attending tonight's Public Hearing. Public involvement is a vital part of the TxDOT project development process, and we sincerely appreciate your participation. If you have any questions after tonight's hearing, please contact Dennis Nielsen at (512) 832-7056.

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO FM 1626 FROM RM 967 TO BRODIE LANE HAYS AND TRAVIS COUNTIES

DECEMBER 8, 2009

I. INTRODUCTION AND HEARING FORMAT

Marcus Cooper, TxDOT – Public Information Officer

II. TECHNICAL PRESENTATION

Don Nyland, P.E., TxDOT – South Travis Area Engineer

III. ENVIRONMENTAL PRESENTATION

Dennis Nielsen, TxDOT – Environmental Specialist

IV. RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE

*Bob Harwood, Attorney, TxDOT – South Regional Service Center
Right-of-Way Office*

V. BREAK

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

VII. ADJOURN

**Proposed Improvements to FM 1626
From RM 967 to Brodie Lane
Hays and Travis Counties, Texas**

OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), in cooperation with Hays County and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is in the process of developing a project to improve a section of FM 1626 from RM 967 in Hays County to Brodie Lane in Travis County. The project length is approximately 3.76 miles. Attached is a project location map.

Within the proposed project limits, existing FM 1626 has an overall pavement width that varies from 22 to 28 feet which accommodates two 11-foot travel lanes with shoulders that vary in width from 0 to 3 feet. The existing usual right-of-way width varies from 80 to 100 feet. An existing typical section is attached to this packet.

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve the safety and mobility of FM 1626 within the project limits. Safety would be improved by widening the travel lanes, providing shoulders, separating left turning movements from the through travel lanes, and increasing mobility. In addition, by improving both the horizontal and vertical alignments of the roadway and establishing a 30-foot clear zone, sight distances along the roadway would be improved thereby increasing the safety of the roadway. Mobility would be improved by adding a travel lane in each direction and separating left turning movements from the travel lanes through the installation of a continuous left turn lane. There is a need to address the increasing traffic volume on this segment of FM 1626. In 1985, the 24-hour average daily traffic volume (ADT) on FM 1626 within the limits of the proposed project was 2,600 vehicles per day (vpd). By 2004, the ADT had reached 12,800 vpd. In 2024, the ADT is projected to be 20,400 vpd. The proposed project is included in the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) 2030 Transportation Improvement Program (adopted June 6, 2005).

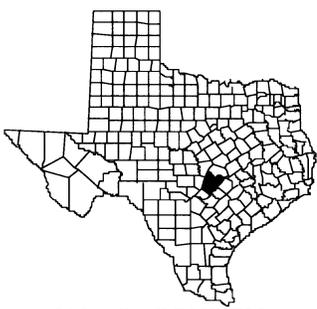
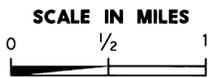
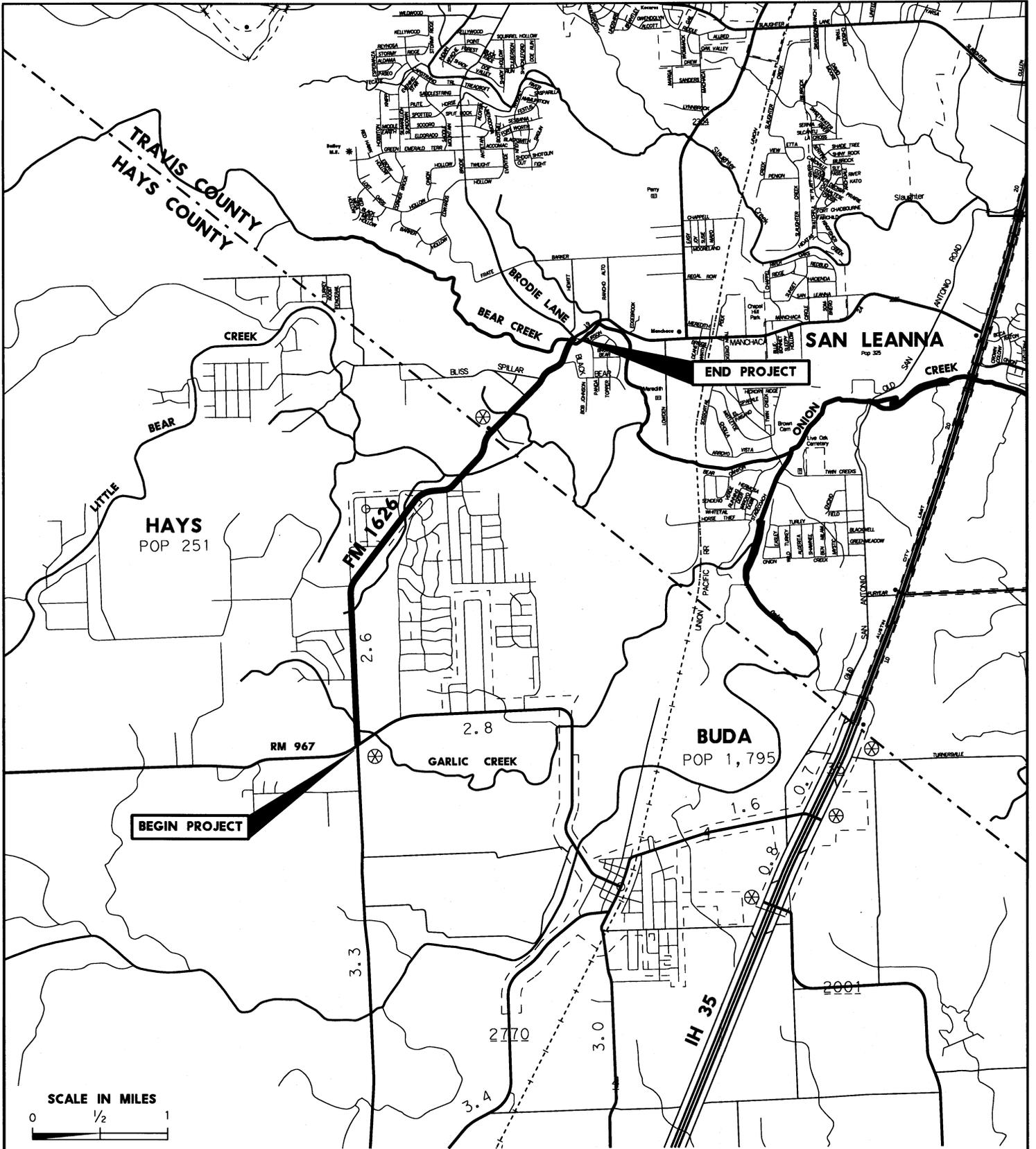
Proposed improvements include widening FM 1626 to an overall pavement width of 82 feet that would consist of four 12-foot travel lanes (two in each direction), a 14-foot continuous left turn lane, and 10-foot shoulders. The proposed usual right-of-way width would be 160 feet. A proposed typical section is attached to this packet.

The proposed improvements were evaluated based on a combination of the design criteria and constraints, environmental constraints, construction feasibility, and other factors.

Approximately 36.9 acres of new right-of-way and drainage easements would be needed to complete the proposed improvements. During project planning, designers evaluated the corridor to determine where additional right-of-way could be acquired while avoiding and/or minimizing impacts to adjacent properties and other environmental features. As a result, new right-of-way would be added to one or both sides of the existing right-of-way depending on constraints. No business or residential displacements are anticipated at this time.

There is no potential habitat for federal and/or state listed endangered or threatened species within the project limits. The proposed project would encroach upon a floodplain but would not encroach upon a wetland. Potential impacts to waters of the U.S. would be permitted by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permits for Linear Transportation Crossings. Portions of the proposed project are located over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone and would require a Water Pollution Abatement Plan approved by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality prior to construction. The proposed project would not require the acquisition of public land designated and used as a park, recreation area, wildlife refuge, historic or cultural site, or scientific area.

After tonight's hearing, responses to all comments will be compiled into a Summary and Analysis/Comment and Response Report. Changes to the proposed design may occur as a result of the comments we receive. FHWA will review the Summary and Analysis/Comment and Response Report, and the draft environmental document. If FHWA issues a Finding of No Significant Impact, right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation may begin. Plans, Specifications, and Estimates would be completed and, as funding is secured, the project would be scheduled for construction.



HAYS COUNTY
TRAVIS COUNTY

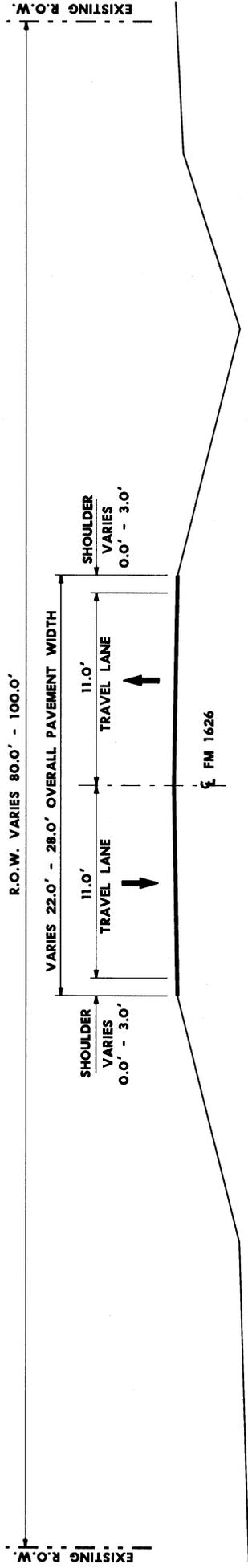


PROJECT LOCATION MAP

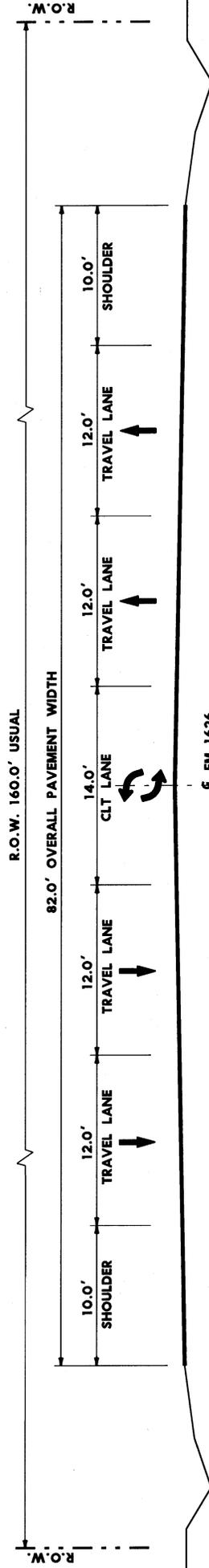
FM 1626: FROM RM 967 TO BRODIE LANE

CSJ: 1539-01-005, etc.

**HAYS COUNTY
TRAVIS COUNTY**



EXISTING TYPICAL SECTION



PROPOSED TYPICAL SECTION

TYPICAL SECTIONS

FM 1626: FROM RM 967 TO BRODIE LANE

CSJ: 1539-01-005, etc.

HAYS COUNTY

TRAVIS COUNTY

NOT TO SCALE

RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE

The subject of tonight's Public Hearing is the proposed improvements to FM 1626 from RM 967 in Hays County to Brodie Lane in Travis County. The proposed project is described in the Project Overview, which is included in this information package.

The acquisition of additional right-of-way would be required to construct the proposed improvements to FM 1626 within the project limits. At this time it is not anticipated that the proposed improvements would result in displacements of residences or businesses.

At this time it is anticipated that Hays County would be responsible for the cost of the acquisition and relocation of qualifying utilities. For each property acquired, with the exception of donated properties, an appraisal would be completed to determine just compensation under the laws of the State of Texas. The determined value would then be offered to each property owner. Each property owner would be afforded the opportunity to accompany the appraiser(s) during the inspection of the property.

In all cases, the property owner would be reimbursed for any reasonable, incidental expenses necessarily incurred in transferring title to the property for use by TxDOT. Expenses eligible for reimbursement generally include recording fees and similar expenses incidental to conveying the real property to the State and penalty costs that are required for prepayment of any pre-existing recorded mortgage entered into in good faith encumbering the real property.

It is the policy of TxDOT and the United States Department of Transportation that no family or individual would be required to relocate unless and until adequate replacement housing has been made available to all affected persons. Further, replacement housing must be offered to all affected persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. All replacement housing must be fair housing, open to all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

The information brochure *Relocation Assistance* is available at this Public Hearing. The brochure outlines the services offered and any payments for which displaced individuals, families, businesses, and non-profit organizations may be eligible to receive, such as moving expenses and replacement housing payments for residential owners and tenants. The brochure also outlines the eligibility requirements for receiving these payments. Another brochure titled *Purchase of Right of Way by Counties and Cities* is also available at this Public Hearing. This brochure outlines the basic procedures for right-of-way acquisition when it is acquired by a local public agency acting on behalf of the State of Texas. A representative from the TxDOT South Regional Service Center Right-of-Way Office is available to answer questions you may have.

COMMENT SHEET

**Public Hearing
Proposed Improvements to FM 1626
From RM 967 to Brodie Lane
Elm Grove Elementary School, Buda, Texas
December 8, 2009**

Name (Please Print): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please include your name and mailing address with all written comments. Comment sheets and/or letters should be mailed to: District Environmental Coordinator, P.O. Box 15426, Austin, Texas, 78761-5426 or faxed to 512-832-7157. **All written comments received on or before Friday, December 18, 2009, will be included in the official hearing record.** Submission of written comments does not preclude your making verbal comments at this hearing. If you wish to make a verbal comment, please fill out a speaker registration card and leave it at the sign-in table. If you have any questions, please contact Dennis Nielsen at 512-832-7056.

This form may be used to provide written comments on this project. Any questions placed on this form will not be considered an open records request and will not be treated as such. If you have an open records request it must be submitted under a separate letter.