



March 3, 2011

On behalf of Travis County, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), welcome to tonight's Public Hearing concerning the proposed improvements to Frate Barker Road from Brodie Lane to Manchaca Road, a distance of approximately 1.3 miles. Information regarding the proposed project is included in the attached Project Overview, Project Location Map, and typical sections. The purpose of this Public Hearing is to present the results of the environmental and engineering studies, and to receive comments from the public.

Please feel free to examine the exhibits on display from 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Project team members will be available to answer your questions during this time. A formal presentation on the proposed improvements will begin at 7:00 pm, followed by a brief recess and public comment session. An Agenda for the hearing is attached.

If you wish to present verbal comments during the public comment portion of the Public 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 Public Hearing may be mailed to:

Mr. Chiddi N'Jie, Senior Project Manager
Travis County Transportation and Natural Resources Department
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767

Alternatively, written comments may be faxed to (512) 854-4626 or emailed to fratebarker@co.travis.tx.us. All written comments submitted by mail, fax, or email must be received on or before Monday, March 14, 2011 in order to be included in the Public Hearing record. All comments received 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 project development process for Travis County, FHWA, and TxDOT, and we sincerely appreciate your participation. If you have questions after the Public Hearing, please contact Mr. Chiddi N'Jie at Travis County by calling (512) 854-7585.



Frate Barker Road
PUBLIC HEARING
Thursday, March 3, 2011
Bowie High School Cafeteria
4103 Slaughter Lane, Austin, Texas 78749

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

INTRODUCTIONS AND HEARING FORMAT

John Hurt, TxDOT Austin District - Public Information Officer

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Dustin Elliott, HNTB

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Michelle Dippel, HNTB

RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE

Bob Harwood, TxDOT Austin District - Right-of-Way

BREAK

If you wish to present verbal comments during the *Public Comments* session of tonight's Public Hearing, please fill out a *Speaker Registration Card*, available at the registration table.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Each speaker will have three (3) minutes to make comments. No portion of a Speaker's three (3) minutes may be transferred or given to someone else.

ADJOURN

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Frate Barker Road From Brodie Lane to Manchaca Road Travis County, Texas

Travis County, in coordination with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is in the process of developing a project to improve Frate Barker Road from Brodie Lane to Manchaca Road, a distance of approximately 1.3 miles (see attached project location map).

The reason that Travis County and its partners are developing this project is because there is a need for safety improvements, which would include wider travel lanes and the separation of travel lanes on Frate Barker Road. The purpose of this proposed project is to improve mobility and enhance safety within the project area.

The proposed improvements would involve upgrading Frate Barker from a two-lane rural facility to a four-lane facility with a continuous center turn lane. Within the proposed project area, the five-lane section would consist of two 12-foot travel lanes in each direction, with a 14-foot continuous center turn lane separating directions of travel. In addition, concrete curb and gutter, six-foot sidewalks, and five-foot bike lanes are also proposed. The proposed usual right-of-way width would be 120-feet within the proposed project limits (see attached typical sections). The majority of the widening of Frate Barker is proposed to be on the south side of the existing facility. By widening this road, adding a center turn lane, and providing sidewalks and bike lanes, Travis County is proposing an upgraded Frate Barker corridor that will work more effectively and safely for the traveling public and its local users on their way home, to work, and to play.

In addition, this project is consistent with the Mobility 2035 Plan prepared and adopted by the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO). It is also listed in, and consistent with, the CAMPO Transportation Improvement Program.

Travis County studied three ways in which this configuration could be built. These alignments are called "alternatives", due to the environmental process required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, or NEPA. In addition to the three "build" alternatives, the fourth alternative included in the environmental study is the "no build" alternative. All four alternatives were presented to the public during an Open House in January 2008. Since then, and in response to public comment, Alternative 2 was eliminated from further consideration because it would result in substantially greater relocation impacts than the other alternatives.

Currently, Travis County is considering two build alternatives, Alternatives 1 and 3, and the "no build" alternative.

The **"No Build" Alternative** would leave Frate Barker in its current condition. The road would continue to be maintained, but no funds or energy would be expended for design improvements. The allocated funds for this project could therefore be used for other projects.

Alternative 1 would eliminate the live oak tree that stands near the intersection of Frate Barker and Marcus Abrams Boulevard. This alternative proposes 7.55 acres of new right-of-way, and it would also result in one commercial displacement; but no residential displacements.

Alternative 3 is identical to Alternative 1 except that it would construct the proposed roadway to the south of the live oak tree, in an attempt to preserve the tree. This alternative proposes 7.85 acres of new right-of-way, and it would result in one commercial displacement and one residential displacement.

Although the type of impacts that would result from Alternatives 1 and 3 differ, they are similar in terms of severity and magnitude. Both alternatives satisfy the project's need and purpose, and neither alternative provides a distinct benefit when compared to the other. For all these reasons, both Alternatives 1 and 3 remain candidates for the preferred alternative that Travis County and its partners will ultimately recommend to FHWA for final approval. The two build alternatives are illustrated on the exhibits shown here tonight.

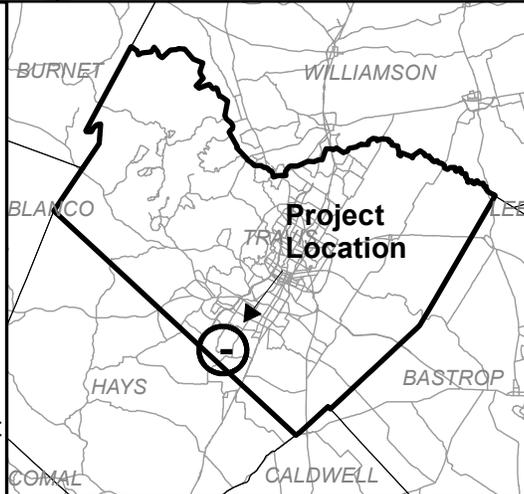
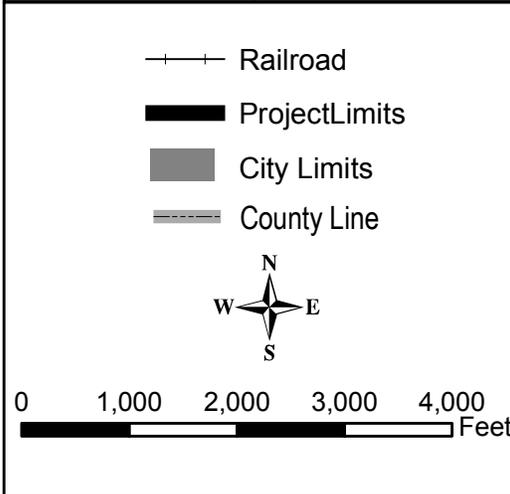
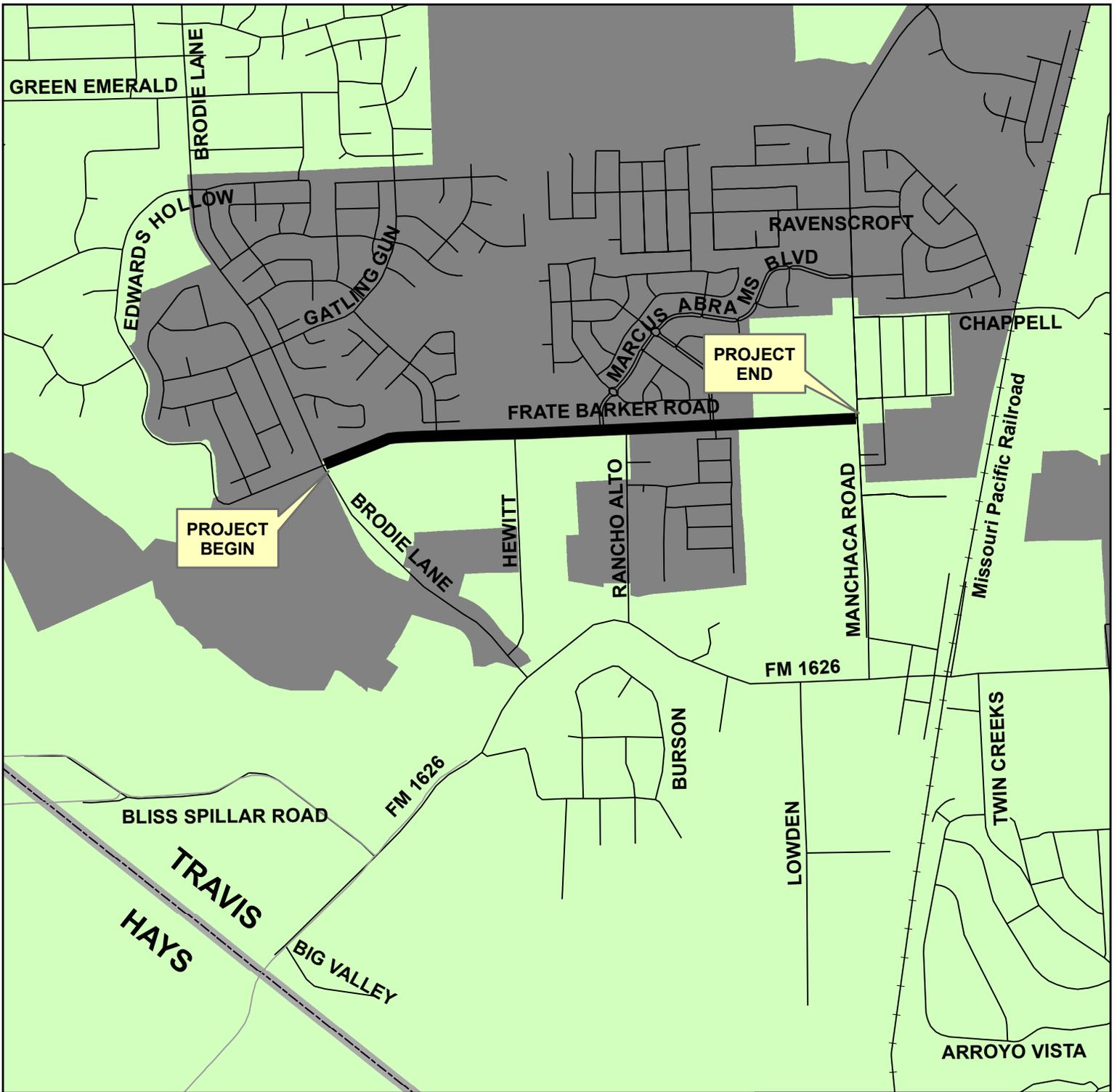
The proposed project is being developed in accordance with the rules and regulations of NEPA, and a draft Environmental Assessment has been prepared. The findings to date for this project indicate that the proposed improvements to Frate Barker would not cause significant social, economic, and environmental effects.

The recommended preferred alternative will be determined after the Public Hearing is conducted, and input received through the public involvement process has been evaluated. The final Environmental Assessment for the proposed improvements to Frate Barker Road will identify the recommended preferred alternative.

The main objective of tonight's Public Hearing is to present the proposed improvements and the results of the environmental assessment, and to allow citizens the opportunity to comment on the project. Verbal and written comments may be presented tonight. Written comments not submitted during the Public Hearing may be mailed to: Mr. Chiddi N'Jie, Senior Project Manager; Travis County Transportation and Natural Resources Department; P.O. Box 1748; Austin, Texas 78767. Alternatively, written comments may be faxed to (512) 854-4626 or emailed to fratebarker@co.travis.tx.us. All written comments submitted by mail, fax, and email must be received on or before Monday, March 14, 2011 in order to be included in the Public Hearing record. All comments received will be taken into consideration during future project development.

All comments received before the close of the comment period (March 14, 2011) will be summarized and a report will be prepared for review by FHWA. FHWA will review the public hearing summary and comment response report as well as the final Environmental Assessment. If FHWA issues a "Finding of No Significant Impact", or FONSI, right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation may begin. Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E) would be completed and the project would be scheduled for construction.

Finally, it is estimated that the proposed improvements to Frate Barker would range in cost from approximately \$7.4 to \$7.6 million depending upon the alternative selected, and would be paid for by a combination of federal, state, and local funds.



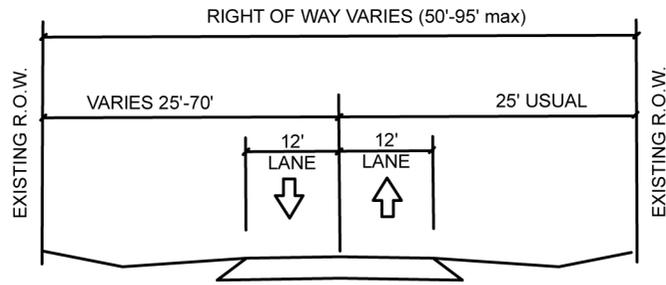



PROJECT LOCATION MAP

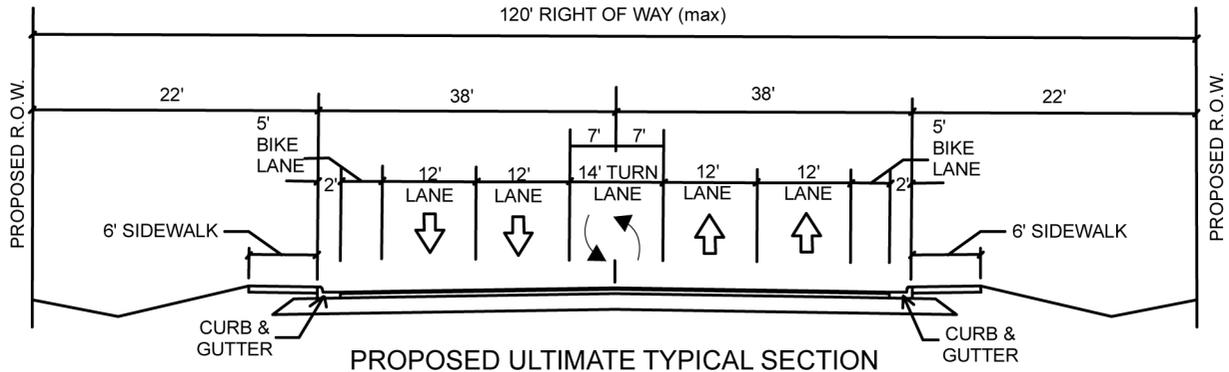
Frate Barker Road:
From Brodie Lane to Manchaca Road

Travis County, Texas

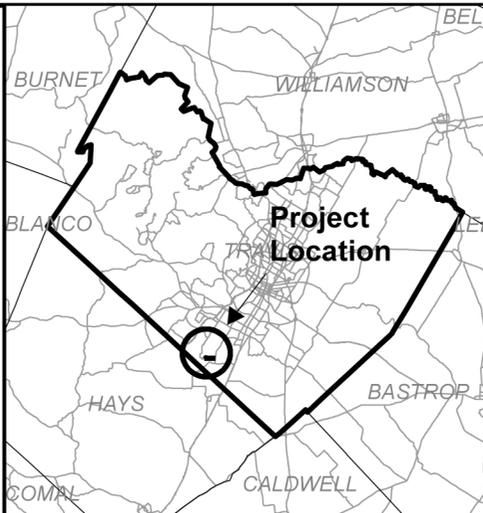
DISCLAIMER: This map was generated by HNTB Corporation using GIS (Geographic Information Systems) software. No claims are made to the accuracy or completeness of the information shown herein nor to its suitability for a particular use. The scale and location of all mapped data are approximate.



EXISTING TYPICAL SECTION



PROPOSED ULTIMATE TYPICAL SECTION



**EXISTING AND PROPOSED
TYPICAL SECTIONS**

**Frate Barker Road:
From Brodie Lane to Manchaca Road**

Travis County, Texas

RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE

The subject of tonight's Public Hearing is the proposed improvements to Frate Barker Road from Brodie Lane to Manchaca Road in Travis County Precinct 3. The proposed project is described in the Project Overview handout included in this information packet.

The acquisition of right-of-way would be required to construct either of the build alternatives presented tonight. It is anticipated that the acquisition of this right-of-way could affect properties and businesses along the right-of-way. Travis 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 Travis County. Expenses eligible for reimbursement generally include recording fees and other expenses incidental to conveying the real property to Travis County 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 Travis County 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. Additionally, the right-of-way acquisition manuals are accessible on TxDOT's website (<http://onlinemanuals.txdot.gov/manuals/AlphaList.html>). A representative from the TxDOT Austin District Right-of-Way Office is available at this Public Hearing to answer questions you may have.



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COMMENT FORM

Optional:

- Please indicate your preference (*check one*):
- Alternative 1** (remove tree; 1 commercial displacement)
 - Alternative 3** (keep tree; 1 commercial & 1 residential displacement)
 - The "**No Build**" Alternative

For further description of each alternative, please see "Project Overview" in your information packet or speak with a project representative.

Name (please print): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Please include your name and mailing address with all written comments. Written comments not submitted at the Public Hearing may be mailed to: Mr. Chiddi N'Jie, Senior Project Manager, Travis County Transportation and Natural Resources Department, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Alternatively, written comments may be faxed to (512) 854-4626 or emailed to fratebarker@co.travis.tx.us. All written comments received on or before Monday, March 14, 2011, will be included in the official Public Hearing record. Submission of written comments does not preclude your making verbal comments at this Public Hearing.

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.