



February 26, 2009

CSJ: 0016-02-114
IH 35: From FM 1626
To Yarrington Road
Hays County

Dear Citizen:

On behalf of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and Hays County, we want to welcome you to tonight's Open House concerning proposed improvements to Interstate Highway (IH) 35 from Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1626 to Yarrington Road. Information regarding the proposed improvements is attached.

The Open House is being held from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. During this time, displays of the proposed improvements and other project information are available for review. TxDOT staff, Hays County representatives, and project team members are available to answer any questions you may have.

If you wish to present verbal comments during the Open House, please see the court reporter. 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 Open House should be mailed to: TxDOT Austin District, Environmental Coordinator, P.O. Box 15426, Austin, Texas 78761-5426 or faxed to (512) 832-7157. Written comments must be received on or before Monday, March 9, 2009, in order to be included in the Open House record.

All verbal and written comments received at the Open House, as well as written comments received by March 9, 2009, will be taken into consideration during future project development.

Thank you for attending tonight's Open House. 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 Open House, please call Shelly Eason at (512) 832-7001.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

IH 35 Frontage Road Improvements from FM 1626 to Yarrington Road Hays County, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation and Hays County are in the process of developing a frontage road improvement project in the vicinity of Kyle, Texas in Hays County. Attached is a project location map. This proposed project would be completed in multiple phases.

The purpose for the proposed project on IH 35 is to improve mobility and safety. Currently, Old Highway 81 within the city of Kyle serves as the southbound frontage road for IH 35. As the traffic increases due to further development of the Austin/San Antonio corridor along IH 35, there is a need to remove the frontage road traffic from within the city of Kyle and to improve the travel patterns on the frontage roads. The proposed project will be included as an amendment in the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization 2008–2011 Transportation Improvement Program and would be funded through the Pass Through Financing Agreement with Hays County.

Interim Improvements (Phases 1 & 2)

The first phase of this project includes improvements to the Interstate Highway (IH) 35 frontage roads from Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1626 on the north to approximately 3,500 feet south of Ranch-to-Market Road (RM) 150 (E. Center Street), a total distance of approximately 2.5 miles. The first phase would involve the construction of a new frontage road from approximately 3,500 feet north of E. Center Street to approximately 3,500 feet south of E. Center Street on the west side of IH 35. Old Highway 81 would no longer serve as the IH 35 frontage road in Kyle. The southern terminus of Old Highway 81 would be realigned to tie into the new proposed frontage road at an approximate 90-degree angle.

The first phase also includes the addition of one exit ramp and one entrance ramp, the removal of one existing exit ramp and one entrance ramp, and the conversion of the two-way frontage roads to one-way from FM 1626 to E. Center Street on both sides of IH 35. The existing frontage roads are comprised of two 12-foot lanes and 2-foot shoulders on either side. The proposed interim frontage roads would be comprised of one 12-foot lane and one 14-foot lane, a 2-foot curb and gutter on the outside and a 4-foot shoulder on the inside (typical sections are provided in this packet). The interim improvements are anticipated to start in December 2010 and be completed by August 2012. No additional right-of-way would be needed to complete this phase of construction.

The second phase of this project would take place after the completion of the RM 150 realignment project, which is expected to begin in December 2010 and completed by January 2012. This phase includes converting the frontage roads

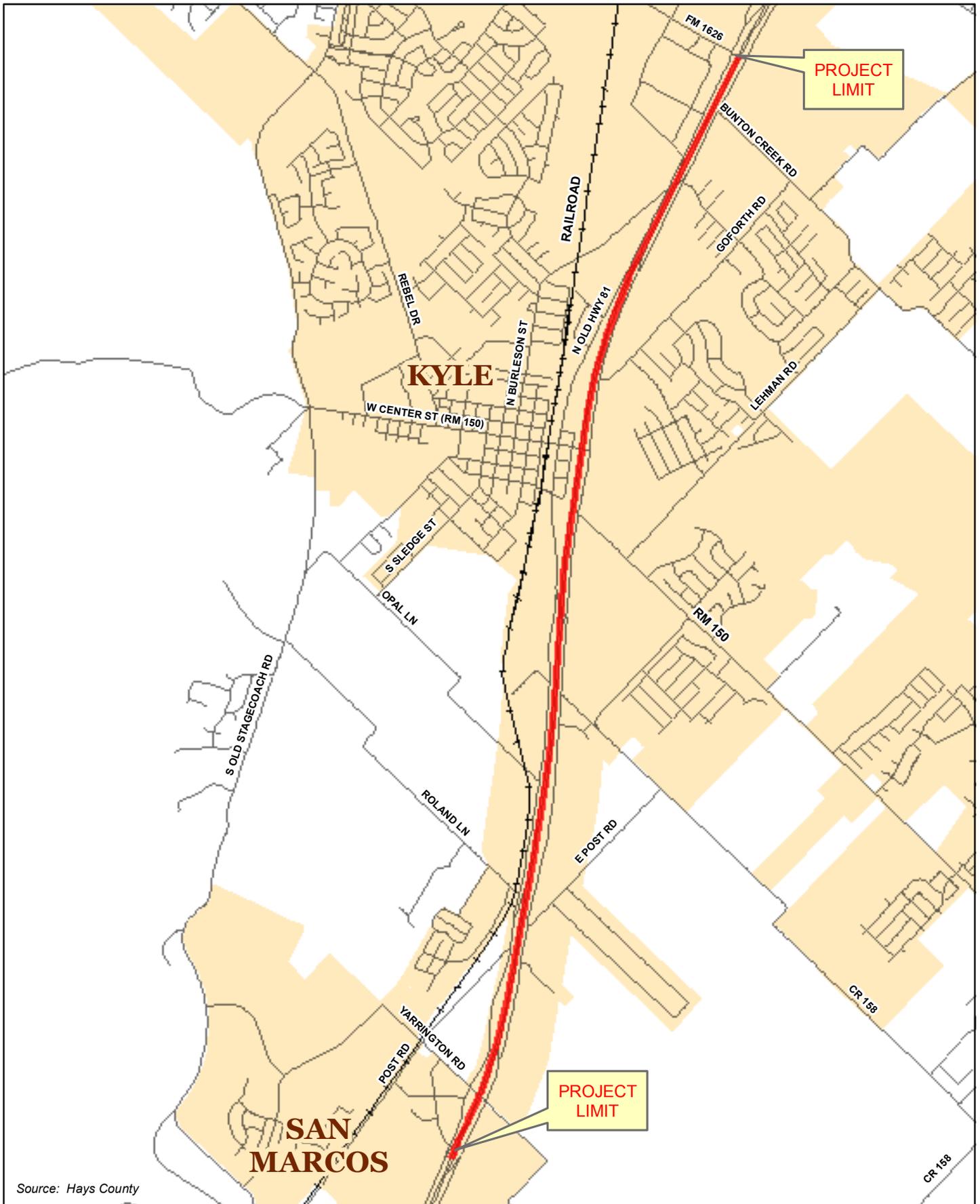
from RM 150 to Yarrington Road from two-way traffic operation to one-way traffic operation. No additional right-of-way would be needed to complete this phase of construction. Once complete, these interim improvements would provide continuous one-way frontage roads along IH 35 within the project limits.

Ultimate Improvements (Phase 3)

The third phase includes widening the IH 35 frontage roads from two to three lanes from FM 1626 to Yarrington Road (a distance of approximately 4.7 miles) and replacing existing entrance and exit ramps with seven new ramps at different locations. The ultimate frontage roads would each consist of two 12-foot lanes, one 14-foot lane, and 2-foot curb and gutters on either side (typical sections are included in this packet). Old Highway 81 would be realigned to connect to the frontage road approximately 1,000 feet south of the interim Old Highway 81 tie in. The third phase would require approximately 10.4 acres of additional right-of-way.

The objective of tonight's Open House is to distribute project information to the public and to obtain public input to be considered during the development of the project. Exhibits showing aerial photography, the proposed project corridor, environmental constraints, and preliminary schematics are on display at the Open House tonight. Other preliminary maps and displays of the proposed project are also on display.

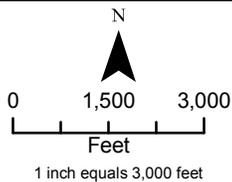
After tonight's Open House, all comments will be considered as we continue to develop the project. Additionally, during continued project development, the improvements would be evaluated based on a combination of the design criteria and constraints, environmental constraints, construction feasibility, and other factors.



Source: Hays County



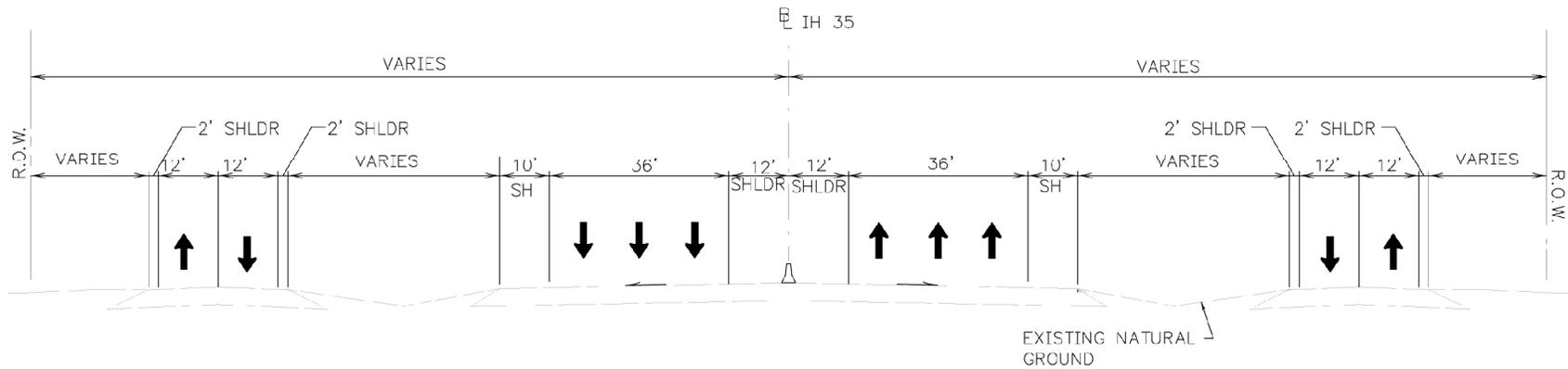
 Project Location



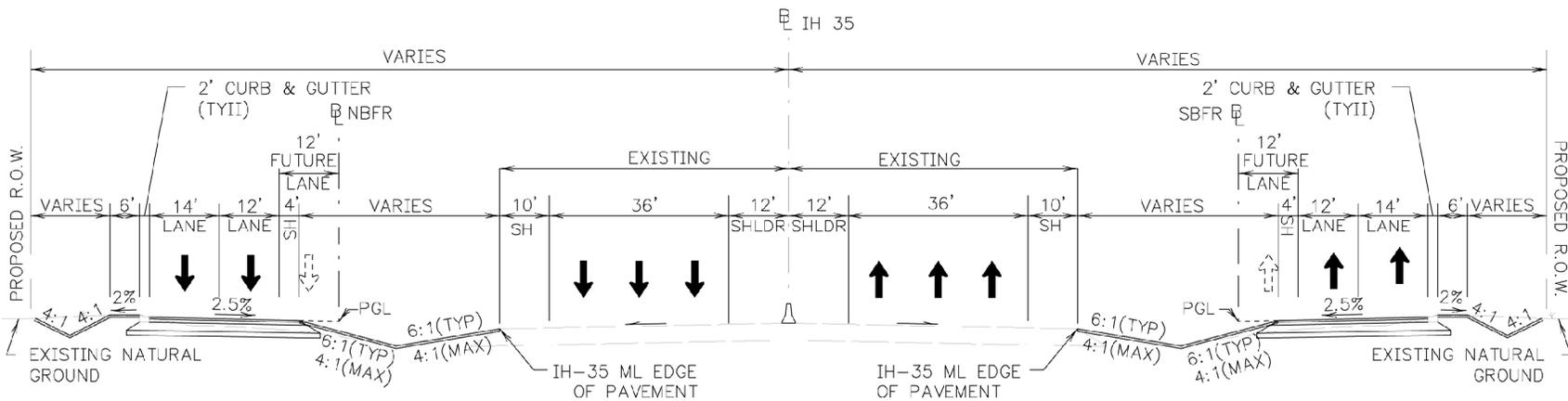
IH 35 Frontage Roads

FM 1626 to Yarrington Rd

Project Location Map



EXISTING CONDITIONS



PHASES 1 & 2 (INTERIM)



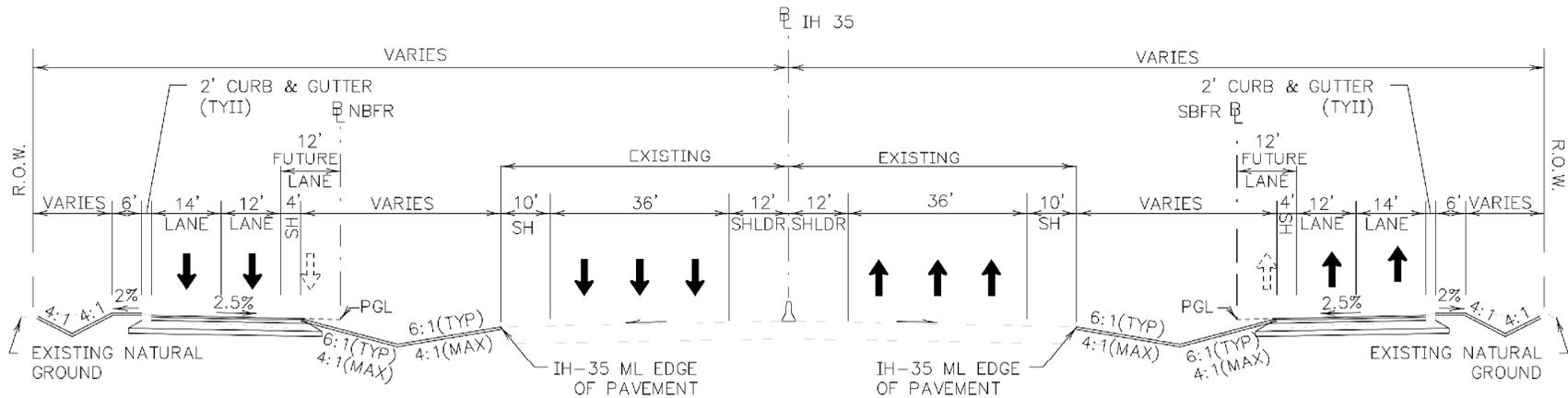
IH 35 Frontage Roads

LIMITS:

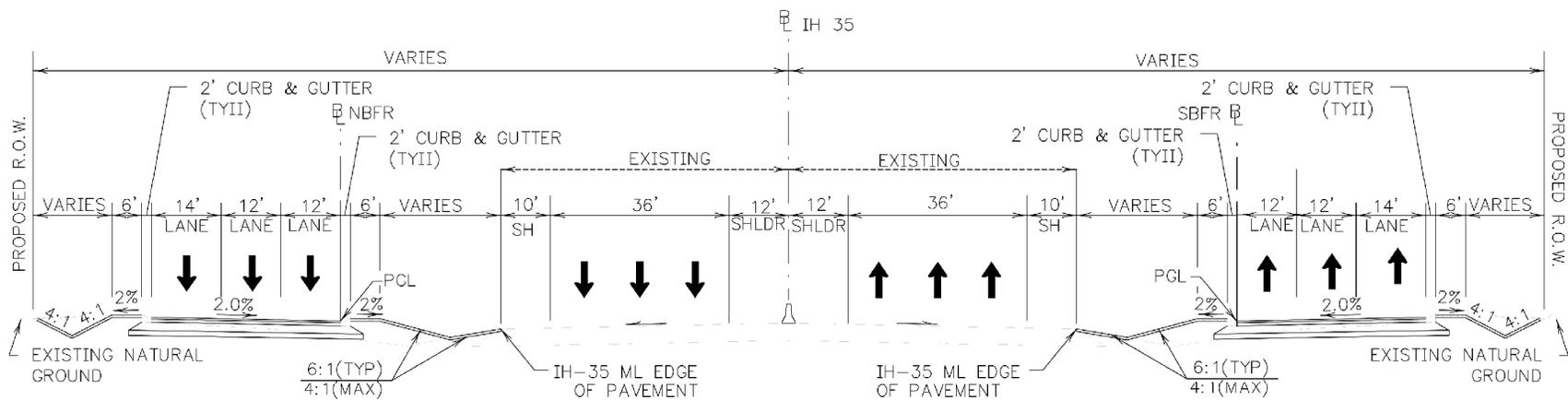
West of IH 35: FM 1626 to 3500' South of Center St

East of IH 35: FM 1626 to Center St

**Phases 1 and 2 (Interim)
Typical Sections**



EXISTING CONDITIONS (AFTER PHASE 1 AND 2)



PHASE 3 (ULTIMATE)



IH 35 Frontage Roads
FM 1626 to Yarrington Rd

Phase 3 (Ultimate)
Typical Sections

RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE

The subject of this evening's Open House is the proposed improvements to the IH 35 frontage roads and ramps from FM 1626 to Yarrington Road in Hays 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 project. However, no commercial displacements or residential relocations are anticipated as a result of the right-of-way acquisition process.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and 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, transfer taxes, 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.

No commercial displacements or residential relocations are anticipated as a result of the proposed project. Even so, 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 brochures *Relocation Assistance* and *State Purchase of Right-of-Way* are available at tonight's Open House and can be found in both English and Spanish. These brochures are also available online on the TxDOT website. The direct link for the brochure *Relocation Assistance* is: ftp://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/row/booklet_15.636.pdf; the direct link for the brochure *State Purchase of Right of Way* is: ftp://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/row/booklet_15.500.pdf.

The *Relocation Assistance* 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. A representative from the TxDOT Austin District Right-of-Way Office is available to answer questions you may have.

