

Business US 190 Improvements

History and Schedule

In August 2012, City staff presented the strategic plan for the City to City Council, which addressed how to develop a sustainable community. There were five strategic initiatives recommended with one of the five being, “Develop overlay districts within the City within five years”. The purpose of an overlay district was described as, “Overlay districts are a good measure to help improve the appearance of the City”. The City Council approved the strategic plan, which provided guidance to the staff.

In March 2013, the City Council discussed developing a Business US 190 Master Plan. The discussion included updating the building code, access analysis, intersection analysis, urban design and retail market analysis. The City Council provided direction to the City Manager to prepare a Business US 190 Master Plan.

In September 2013, the City Council was briefed on the Governor’s Community Achievement Award (GCAA), which was awarded to Keep Copperas Cove Beautiful in the amount of \$210,000.00. At a previous council meeting, it was suggested that the award money be put toward project(s) along the Business US 190 corridor. Council provided direction to the City Manager to create a Business US 190 Workgroup, which would recommend projects that could be completed using the award money.

The Business US 190 Workgroup was formed, led by Chris Stewart of Stewart Planning, and comprised of citizens, stakeholders, council members, planning and zoning commissioners and city staff. The workgroup met on several occasions in 2014. Stewart prepared a concept proposal based on the input from the workgroup. In February 2015, Stewart presented the proposal to City Council during a Council Retreat. It was proposed that raised, landscaped medians be constructed along the Business US 190 corridor, as well as reducing the lanes of traffic from three in each direction to two lanes in each direction. The Business US 190 Workgroup suggested this idea as a way to improve the economic potential of the area and transition from a thoroughfare section to a business district. Improved pedestrian and bicycle mobility were key components to this vision for the Business US 190 corridor. City Council directed the City Manager to move forward in identifying a funding strategy that would be needed for completion of plans.

In June 2014, a raised median project was proposed from the intersection of Constitution Avenue to Dewald Street that coincided with a maintenance project Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) was completing in the same area. The raised median components of the project were consistent with the overlay district concepts that had been presented to the City Council on several occasions from the Business US 190 Master Plan. The award money from the GCAA would fund elements of the project, which would be designed and administered by TxDOT. The project was let for construction in March 2016, but the Business US 190 elements in the project were significantly over budget and pulled from the project.

In November 2015, the City Council approved the City Manager to enter into a professional services agreement with BSP Engineers for the completion of an

access analysis, intersection analysis, engineering analysis, environmental surveys, geotechnical reports and testing and easement or right-of-way acquisitions for the Business US Highway 190 Master Plan. In July 2016, the Consulting Engineer presented the results of the analysis and the schematic concept to the City Council.

In the summer of 2016 Killeen-Temple Metropolitan Planning Organization (KTMPO), a regional transportation planning organization, was reprioritizing projects in their Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), which is a multimodal transportation plan addressing transportation needs over a 20 year planning horizon. All cities within the MPO were requested to submit their projects for inclusion and ranking in the MTP. Project ranking provides guidance on which projects are selected for construction as funding becomes available through TxDOT. Copperas Cove submitted nine priority projects and four future projects for consideration in the reprioritization, which was authorized by the City Council in Resolution 2016-30. The BUS US 190 project was presented as one of Copperas Cove's priority projects in Resolution 2016-30 and submitted for scoring as a transportation project in KTMPO's MTP. In September of that same year, the City Council approved Resolution 2016-32 declaring support for 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan project submission.

In May 2017, KTMPO Policy Board approved funding for the construction of the BUS US 190 project for the City of Copperas Cove. The project scored high enough during the ranking process that it was selected for funding and was awarded \$10 million dollars for construction. The scope of the project was from FM 1113 (Avenue D) to Constitution Drive and was for the construction of a raised median with pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

The construction of this project ties in with four other Copperas Cove projects that were also selected by KTMPO for construction during the reprioritization of the MTP. The additional projects include ADA compliant sidewalks and bike lanes along FM 116 and FM 3046 from BUS US 190 to Dennis Street and pedestrian and bicycle facilities for all three phases of The Narrows Business and Technology Park. All five projects improve pedestrian and bicycle mobility in many areas that currently do not have those features.

The funding received by the BUS US 190 project requires a 20% match. Since this project is designated an "on-system" roadway, TxDOT will provide the 20% match. The only financial responsibility the City of Copperas Cove will have for the BUS 190 project will be if the final engineer's estimate is over \$10 million dollars. The final engineer's estimate will be developed after the construction plans are finished and the project is ready to let. The money the BUS US 190 project received was awarded by the KTMPO for this project and cannot be used for other projects in Copperas Cove. If this project is not constructed, the money will be awarded to the next project within KTMPO's MTP per recommendations of the Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Board members.

In August 2017, the City Council authorized BSP Engineers to proceed with the design phase of the Business US 190 project. The City of Copperas Cove, BSP Engineers, and TxDOT met in October 2017 to discuss the status of the project and established a timeline for the project, with the primary goal being to get this project to a Public Meeting. This group

has held bi-weekly meetings since January 2018 to discuss progress on the project and identify any issues with the project related to design, utilities, ROW, and environmental impact.

A public meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, May 31, 2018, to present information about the proposed improvements to the public for comment and questions.