



# **Dripping Springs Southwest Connection Study**

Conducted by Hays County

**Citizens Advisory Panel (CAP)  
Meeting Summaries**

## **Citizens Advisory Panel (CAP) Members**

- Aaron Farmer, Dos Lagos
- Brent Gibbs, Creek Road Resident
- Cindy Figer, New Canaan Farms
- Danny Hubbard, Phillips Cemetery Association
- Sherry Huffman, Enchanted Oaks
- Susan Kimball, Dripping Springs Chamber of Commerce
- Travis Crow, City of Dripping Springs Representative

## **Role of the CAP**

- Attend the 6 CAP meetings over the course of the study
- Provide input on public participation activities and materials
- Assist in identifying stakeholders interested in the project
- Help promote public meetings to increase participation
- Serve as a liaison to the community and report back to other CAP members and the project team

**Time:** 4:30 PM

**Subject:** CAP Meeting #1

**Location:** Virtual Zoom Meeting

**CAP Members in Attendance:** Danny Hubbard, Brent Gibbs, Aaron Farmer, Susan Kimball, Travis Crow, Sherry Huffman, Commissioner Walt Smith

**Project Team:** Joe Cantalupo, Caroline LaFollette, and Camille Sico with K Friese + Associates; Winton Porterfield with Hays County; Adhar Johnson and Audrey Kuhl with CD&P

**Presenter:** Joe Cantalupo

### **Meeting Summary**

Joe Cantalupo started the meeting with introductions and welcome, review of the meeting agenda, project overview, project schedule, and the plan for future CAP meetings. Commissioner Smith thanked everyone for participating and summarized the purpose of the CAP. Below are highlights of discussions.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

- CAP and project team members introduced themselves

### **Getting the Most from CAP Meetings**

- Role of CAP and member expectations
- Meeting format & COVID-19 considerations

### **Project Overview**

- Hays County prepared the RM 150 West Character Plan including the concept of the Dripping Springs Southwest Connection to relieve current and future traffic congestion. Since the completion of the Character Plan, continued growth and development has sparked interest in further advancement of the Plan's identified improvements.
- The County is advancing preliminary engineering plans (20% design). An alignment has not yet been determined.

### **Discussion about possible connection routes:**

- Question about bringing southbound traffic off of US 290 and connectivity from Belterra and Sawyer Ranch
  - Project team explained connection at Holder Lane would bring traffic off of 290 and the connection to RM 12 would allow them to move east and west
- Discussion about concerns regarding RM 150 transition to Holder Lane connection because of impacts to houses and the historic landmarks including Phillips Cemetery
- Question about elevated roadways
  - Project team explained that the idea of elevating an entire roadway might not be feasible
- Question about McGregor Lane being a route option
  - Project team said they will look into this option

### **Project Schedule**

- 12-month project schedule with CAP Meeting, project coordination, and public and stakeholder input to inform preliminary engineering concepts.

### **CAP Meeting Schedule**

- Six CAP meetings and two public meetings planned

### **Next Steps**

- Discussion about what is expected from CAP members moving forward
- CAP Members to provide comments on map of project area to help the team define route concepts

Drippings Springs Southwest Connection Study  
February 10, 2021

**Time:** 4:30 PM

**Subject:** CAP Meeting #1B

**Location:** Virtual Zoom Meeting

**CAP Members in Attendance:** Brent Gibbs, Aaron Farmer, Susan Kimball, Sherry Huffman

**Project Team:** Joe Cantalupo, Caroline LaFollette, and Camille Sico with K Friese + Associates; Winton Porterfield and Summer Lawton with Hays County; Adhar Johnson, Claudia Arniella and Audrey Kuhl with CD&P

**Presenter:** Joe Cantalupo

### **Meeting Summary**

Joe Cantalupo started the meeting with introductions and explained purpose for this meeting, reason for feedback on map, and review of preliminary routes map. Below are highlights of discussions.

### **Review of draft map with Preliminary Route Options - Two major concepts**

- Option #1: Property lines concept - connections at Holder Lane and FM 165
- Option #2: Use an existing road

### **Highlights of Discussion:**

- Confirmation that RM 12 and RM 150 intersection will be eastern connection point
- Discussion about potential option to use road further south (Hog Hollow or Prochnow Rd.)
  - Not very feasible from a design/engineering standpoint
  - Roads have many twists and turns and issues with flood plains
- Question about intersection plans for crossing Mount Gainor Road
  - Team is not to the point of deciding these details yet. Detailed studies will take place to determine the best traffic control option when the designing process happens.
- Discussion about which option is best to show to the public out of the four presented
  - Team proposed we use Holder Lane and 165 routes and remove Creek Road option
    - CAP members supported presenting the two options
    - The FM 165 route makes sense because residents already take that route to get around town
    - Concerns about the Holder Lane route because of frequent crashes at intersection of US 290 and property impacts
- Discussion about avoiding cemetery at RM 150/RM 12 being the biggest challenge
  - Possibilities of shifting connection further south, have to weigh options
- Explanation of why road is being planned

### **Next Steps**

- Discussion about next week meeting - group will determine which options to take to the public and ask for input on the public meeting outline

Dripping Springs Southwest Connection Study  
March 3, 2021

**Time:** 4:30 PM

**Subject:** CAP Meeting #2

**Location:** Virtual Zoom Meeting

**CAP Members in Attendance:** Aaron Farmer, Susan Kimball, Sherry Huffman

**Project Team:** Joe Cantalupo, Caroline LaFollette, and Camille Sico with K Friese + Associates; Winton Porterfield with Hays County; Summer Lawton with HNTB; Claudia Arniella, Arin Gray, and Audrey Kuhl with CD&P

**Presenter:** Joe Cantalupo

### **Meeting Summary**

Joe Cantalupo started the meeting with introductions and welcome, project overview, review of the previous meetings, review of preliminary routes, project schedule and the plan for future CAP meetings. Below are highlights of discussions.

### **Follow up from CAP Meetings 1 (and 1B)**

- Joe Cantalupo shared background on the project purpose and the selection of preliminary routes
  - The Dripping Springs Southwest Connection was identified as a needed connection in the Hays County RM 150 West Character Plan
  - Intended goal is a connection between RM 150 to US 290 based on current and future travel demand
  - Joe discussed the options to route using existing roads or existing property lines
    - Property line option would minimize interruption to homes, businesses, and bisecting properties
    - Using existing roads would be challenging due to many twists and turns, low water crossings and flood plains
  - Discussed environmental constraints and development considerations such as floodplains, existing and future residential developments, and cemetery

### **Highlights of Discussion:**

- The next round of public involvement will present potential routes to the community
- Creek Road route option may be helpful for public to see in showing context for property line route but explain constraints
- The group discussed the option to only present two alignment alternatives: connecting to Holder Lane and FM 165 with the potential that one or both alignments could be developed to add additional capacity and connectivity
  - CAP member supported the proposal to show the 165 and Holder Lane routes and not the two additional options. Also noted that Holder Lane has a significant amount of residential development planned. The FM 165 option would provide more capacity without cutting through heavy residential area.
  - CAP member also likes the option of going all the way to 165 for main bypass and making Holder Lane a smaller connection
- Discussion about general timeline
  - Property line route looks simple right now but might not be when this is built
  - No identified funding for environmental - will present our study to County at the end of the year

### **Virtual Open House Planning**

- Overview of Virtual Open House plan

- Question about public comment format
- Details about Improve150 website updates
- Outreach plan and coordination with CAP members

### **Review Project Schedule & Next Steps**

- Overview of remaining CAP meetings and schedule

### **Final Discussion**

- CAP Member described the school district patterns that have students commuting through the intersection of RM 150 and RM 12.

Dripping Springs Southwest Connection Study  
June 16, 2021

**Time:** 4:30 PM

**Subject:** CAP Meeting #3

**Location:** Virtual Zoom Meeting

**CAP Members in Attendance:** Aaron Farmer, Susan Kimball, Sherry Huffman, Travis Crow and Brent Gibbs

**Project Team:** Joe Cantalupo and Caroline LaFollette with K Friese + Associates; Winton Porterfield with Hays County; Summer Lawton with HNTB; Claudia Arniella, Arin Gray, and Audrey Kuhl with CD&P

**Presenters:** Joe Cantalupo and Caroline LaFollette

### **Meeting Summary**

Joe Cantalupo started the meeting with introductions and welcome, review of the previous meetings, review of preliminary routes and feedback from the virtual open house, technical work update, project schedule and the plan for future CAP meetings. Below are highlights of discussions.

### **Brief Project Overview**

- Follow up from CAP Meetings 1 (and 1B) and 2
- Summary of Virtual Open House and Feedback
- Joe Cantalupo gave overview of the project purpose and the selection of preliminary routes that were presented to the public during the virtual open house
- Caroline LaFollette discussed open house promotion, participation, and feedback
- The group discussed the number of comments received and the overarching themes heard

### **Summary of Stakeholder Meetings**

- Discussed stakeholder meetings held with property owners on Holder Lane, in Caliterra and Howard Ranch neighborhoods, and Lauren Concrete employees

### **Technical Work Update/Preliminary Routes**

- Discussed alternative route considerations and adjustments
- Discussed potential impacts to property owners and future development
- Discussed current traffic congestion and crash data and how this route can improve safety and reduce congestion
- CAP Member discussed school district traffic patterns and potential impacts

### **Next Steps and Final Discussion**

- Team will focus on individual meeting with property owners along the limits
- Overview of general timeline and status of technical work
- CAP Members to help with contact information and location
- Next meeting to be scheduled following stakeholder and property owner meetings

Dripping Springs Southwest Connection Study  
December 15, 2021

**Time:** 12:00 PM

**Subject:** CAP Meeting #4

**Location:** Holiday Inn Drippings Springs

**CAP Members in Attendance:** Susan Kimball, Sherry Huffman

**Project Team:** Joe Cantalupo and Caroline LaFollette with K Friese + Associates;

Summer Lawton with HNTB; Commissioner Walt Smith with Hays County; Claudia Arniella, Heather Evans, and Audrey Kuhl with CD&P

**Presenters:** Joe Cantalupo and Claudia Arniella

## **Meeting Summary**

Claudia Arniella and Joe Cantalupo facilitated the meeting and led a discussion to review updates since the previous meetings, changes to the route, feedback from the property owner meetings, technical work updates, project schedule and the plan for future CAP meetings. Below are highlights of discussions.

## **Brief Project Overview**

- Follow up from CAP Meetings 1 (and 1B), 2 and 3
- Claudia Arniella started the meeting with introductions, welcome and purpose of the meeting
- Joe Cantalupo discussed activities since last meeting, property owner input and feedback, route options, and next steps

## **Summary of Property Owner Meetings and Feedback**

- Project team has held 34 property owner meetings to date
- Reviewed route and parcels from east to west
  - Summarized property owner feedback
- Commissioner noted that the average resident has lived in Hays County for less than 7 years and was not involved in previous transportation bond voting opportunities
- CAP member noted that traffic impacts on local businesses have been extreme
- CAP member mentioned Driftwood Historical Conservation Society meeting attendance has increased
- Discussed history of projects in the area and how Hays County has been in a long process intended to preserve the character of the county

## **Route Options/Technical Work Update**

- Discussed route options to FM 165 have significant topographic issues and property impacts
- Discussed the option of not connecting as far west as FM 165 and ending the road at the north/south connection to US 290 near the Lauren Concrete property
- Discussed removal of Holder Lane option, which reduces impacts to several property owners
- Discussed the Martin Road realignment groundbreaking on the north side of US 290 and potential to align with that intersection in the future
- Discussed the public comments related to the need for a northern roadway connection to the west and north of US 290 and how that will need to be an addition to the southern route due to the growth and anticipated development
- Discussed rapid development in the Creek Road area
- Discussed TxDOT improvements to extend from the Y west to Drippings Springs
  - Team member mentioned that TxDOT recently received funding to continue the study all the way west to US 281
  - TxDOT was originally going to end their study at the eastern limits of Drippings Springs, but the County pushed for the study to include Drippings Springs and prioritize the intersection of RM 12 and US 290 as a first phase



- Commissioner highlighted the importance of talking with as many property owners as possible

**Next Steps and Final Discussion**

- Team is focused on completing property owner meetings
- The next public meeting will be in early 2022 and the format is not yet decided
- Discussed potential helpful materials to present at next meeting