



September 27, 2011

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 Cape Road at the San Marcos River in Hays County. An agenda for the hearing and information regarding the proposed improvements are attached for your information. This handout, as well as the exhibits shown at tonight's Public Hearing, are available on TxDOT's website at:

http://www.txdot.gov/public_involvement/hearings_meetings/cape_road_092711.htm

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, October 7, 2011, to be included in the official Public Hearing record.

All verbal comments received at the Public Hearing, as well as written comments received by October 7, 2011, 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 CAPE ROAD
AT THE SAN MARCOS RIVER
HAYS COUNTY**

SEPTEMBER 27, 2011

I. INTRODUCTION AND HEARING FORMAT

John Hurt, TxDOT – Public Information Officer

II. TECHNICAL PRESENTATION

Sheran Campbell, TxDOT – Engineering Specialist

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 Cape Road At the San Marcos River Hays County, Texas

OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), in cooperation with the City of San Marcos and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is in the process of developing a project to replace a structurally and functionally deficient bridge on Cape Road at the San Marcos River in Hays County. Attached is a project location map.

The existing bridge on Cape Road at the San Marcos River has an overall width of 25.7 feet and a clear roadway width of 19 feet, which accommodates a 9.5 foot travel lane in each direction and no shoulders. The overall length of the bridge is 32 feet. There is an existing 4 foot steel walkway attached to the upstream side of the bridge. The existing approaches to the bridge have an overall width that varies from 19 to 25 feet and a clear roadway width of 19 feet that accommodates a 9 feet 6 inch travel lane in each direction. The existing usual right-of-way width varies from 19 to 25 feet. An existing typical section is attached to this packet.

The purpose of the proposed project is to provide a safe and improved modern crossing on Cape Road at the San Marcos River. There is a need to replace the existing bridge due to its age and condition. The proposed project is included in the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization 2035 Regional Transportation Plan.

The proposed project would consist of constructing a new bridge over the San Marcos River. The proposed structure would have an overall width of approximately 40 feet 2 inches and a clear roadway width of approximately 32 feet 2 inches and would accommodate an 11 foot travel lane in each direction with 5 foot 1 inch shoulders and a 5 foot sidewalk. The length of the new structure would be approximately 50 feet. The width of the new approaches would vary from approximately 23 to 34 feet 5 inches and would accommodate two travel lanes that vary from 11 to 12 feet 6 inches and shoulders that vary from 0 to 5 feet 2 inches.

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

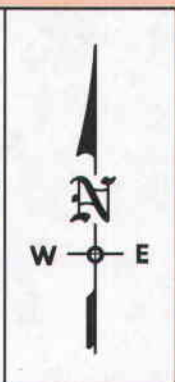
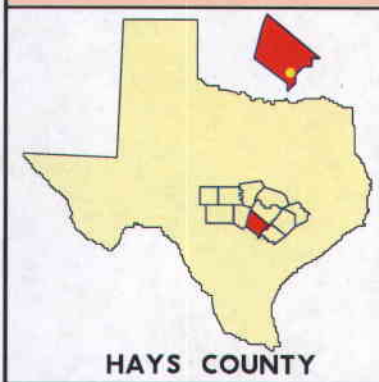
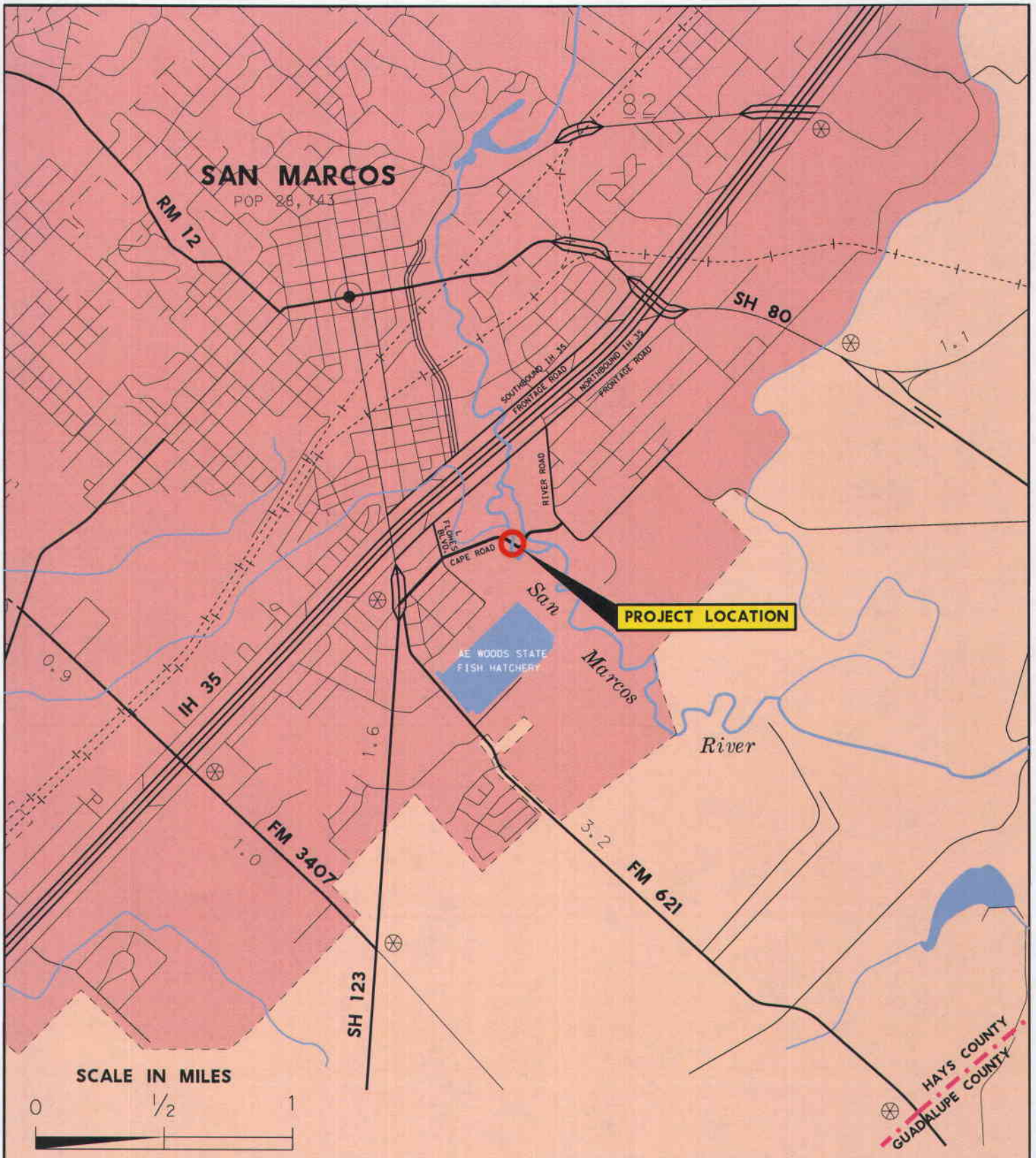
Approximately 0.65 acres of additional right-of-way would be required to construct the proposed project of which approximately 0.29 acres would be acquired from a publicly owned land in a public park (Stokes Park). The proposed project would require the acquisition of public land designated that is used as a park. A preliminary Section 4(f) de minimis finding for the use of the approximately 0.29 acres of parkland for transportation use is anticipated by the Federal Highway Administration.

The acquisition of properties and relocation assistance for displaced residential and business property owners would be conducted in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended. Information

about TxDOT's right-of-way acquisition and relocation assistance program is available at this Public Hearing.

There is potential habitat for the federally and state listed fountain darter, Texas wild-rice, and the San Marcos gambusia. Formal consultation with the United States (U.S.) Fish and Wildlife Service regarding these species is required. The proposed project would encroach upon a floodplain but would not encroach upon a wetland or sole-source aquifer recharge zone. Potential impacts to waters of the U. S. would be permitted by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permits for Linear Transportation Crossings.

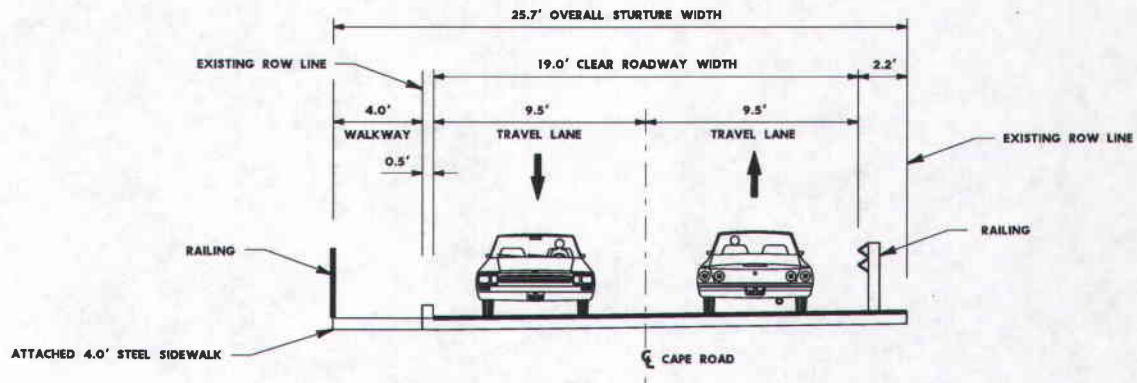
After tonight's hearing, responses to all comments will be compiled into a Summary and Analysis/Comment and Response Report. Changes to the proposed design may occur as a result of the comments we receive. FHWA will review the Summary and Analysis/Comment and Response Report, and the draft environmental document. If FHWA finds that the project would have no significant social, economic, and/or environmental impacts, 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.



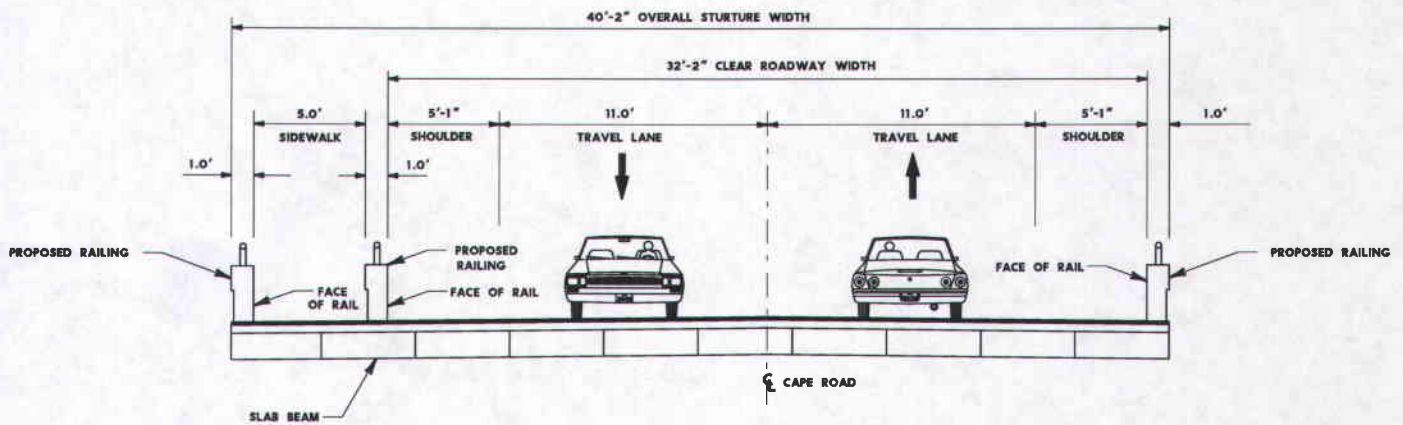
PROJECT LOCATION MAP

CAPE ROAD AT SAN MARCOS RIVER

CSJ: 0914-33-028



EXISTING BRIDGE TYPICAL SECTION



PROPOSED BRIDGE TYPICAL SECTION

TYPICAL SECTIONS

CAPE ROAD AT SAN MARCOS RIVER

CSJ: 0914-33-028

HAYS COUNTY

NOT TO SCALE

RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE

The subject of tonight's Public Hearing is the proposed improvements to Cape Road at the San Marcos River 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 improvements to Cape Road 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 the City of San Marcos would be responsible for the cost of the acquisition of the right-of-way and relocation of qualifying utilities. For each property acquired 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.

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 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* is also available at this Public Hearing. This brochure outlines the basic procedures for right-of-way acquisition by 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 Cape Road
At the San Marcos River
San Marcos Activity Center, San Marcos, Texas
September 27, 2011**

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, October 7, 2011, 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.