

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Cape Road at the San Marcos River
Hays County**

On Tuesday, September 27, 2011, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will conduct a Public Hearing to discuss plans to replace the Cape Road bridge at the San Marcos River in Hays County.

The Public Hearing will be held at the San Marcos Activity Center located at 501 East Hopkins Road in San Marcos, Texas. The Public Hearing will begin with an open house from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. During this time, displays of the proposed improvements and other project information will be available for review. Project team members will be available during this time to answer questions. At 6:30 p.m., presentations will be given, followed by a public comment period.

The existing bridge on Cape Road at the San Marcos River has an overall width of 25 feet 8 inches and a clear roadway width of 19 feet, which accommodates two 9 feet 6 inches travel lanes 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 two 9 feet 6 inch travel lanes. The existing usual right-of-way width varies from 19 to 25 feet.

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 consist of two 11 foot travel lanes with 5 foot 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.

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. The proposed project would require the acquisition of public land designated and used as a park. A preliminary Section 4(f) de minimis finding for the use of the 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 will be available at the 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.

The draft environmental document, design schematics, and other information concerning the project are available for review at the TxDOT South Travis Area Office located at 9725 S. IH 35 or at the TxDOT District Office located at 7901 N. IH 35. These will also be available for review at the Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing will be conducted in English. Persons interested in attending the Public Hearing who require auxiliary aids or services, such as interpreters, are requested to contact Monica Swenson at (512) 832-7181 at least five business days prior to the Public Hearing so that appropriate arrangements may be made. TxDOT will make every reasonable effort to accommodate communication or accessibility needs.

All interested citizens are encouraged to attend the Public Hearing and provide input on the project. Verbal and written comments may be presented at the Public Hearing. Written comments not submitted at the Public Hearing may also be submitted to: TxDOT Austin District Environmental Coordinator, Texas Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 15426, Austin, Texas 78761-5426. All comments received by Friday, October 7, 2011, will be included in the official Public Hearing record.

