

OPEN HOUSE COMMENT AND RESPONSE REPORT

FM 1626: from Brodie Lane to FM 2304 (Manchaca Road)
CSJ: 1539-02-026

Project Number: PTF
Travis County

SUMMARY OF ORAL COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

- Comment: **Alvin Bates**, a resident of the Villages of Shady Hollow, prefers Alternative 1 and commented that it would impact fewer people and businesses.
- Response: Alternative preferences will be considered during the project development and as a preferred alternative is selected. Specifically, the amount of land that would be needed for right-of-way, the possibility of relocations, and how impacts may affect community cohesion, will be considered.
- Comment: **Ed Engleking** is a member of the Manchaca United Methodist Church and commented on access to the church from Manchaca Road. He also has concerns about increased traffic noise.
- Response: The church’s access to the light at Manchaca will be studied and a traffic noise analysis will be completed during the environmental phase of the project.
- Comment: **Greg Santiago**, a member of the Knolls of Slaughter Creek Homeowners Association, commented on transportation issues outside of the project limits.
- Response: Improvements outside the logical termini of Brodie Lane and Manchaca Road, such as widening of FM 1626 to IH 35, are considered separate projects.
- Comment: **James Dew**, a board member of the Knolls of Slaughter Creek Homeowners Association, supports the proposed project and commented on traffic congestion, design of the bridge, and transportation issues outside of the project limits.
- Response: Current traffic congestion has prompted the need for improvements on FM 1626 from Brodie Lane to Manchaca Road. We concur that design of a second bridge at Bear Creek is preferred. Improvements outside the logical termini of Brodie Lane and Manchaca Road, such as widening of FM 1626 to IH 35, are considered separate projects.
- Comment: **Jim Muhlenbruch**, a member of the Knolls of Slaughter Creek Homeowners Association, commented on transportation issues outside of the project limits.
- Response: Improvements outside the logical termini of Brodie Lane and Manchaca Road, such as widening of FM 1626 to IH 35, are considered separate projects.
- Comment: **Joe Crosby**, property owner of 1705 W 1626, commented on possible relocations and drainage issues.
- Response: Possible relocation of businesses will be considered during the development of a preferred alternative. A hydraulic study will also be conducted to provide the optimal design of the proposed cross-drainage structures.
- Comment: **John Rocha**, principal of Manchaca Elementary, commented on travel patterns affecting access to the school during construction. He prefers construction take place during the summer months when school is not in session.
- Response: The operation of the school will be considered during the construction phase of the roadway.

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Comment: **Marilyn McLeod**, with the Manchaca Onion Creek Historical Association, commented on possible relocations and preservation of historic elements.

Response: The possible relocation of Lillie Morland’s residence and/or the Austin Christian Academy will be considered during the development of the preferred alternative. An assessment of historic elements of the community will be completed and will be considered in developing a workable alternative. Mitigation for impacts to historic elements may include markers.

Comment: **Nealan Moreland** commented on behalf of Lillie Alice Moreland and indicated her preference for Alternative 2, which would avoid relocation of the residence. He commented that Alternatives 1 and 3 would result in relocations.

Response: The possible relocation of Lillie Morland’s residence will be considered during the development of the preferred alternative.

Comment: **Peter Sprouse**, the owner of 1707 W FM 1626, commented on the possible relocation of his business and access to the property.

Response: Access to property and possible relocations of businesses will be considered during the development of the preferred alternative.

Comment: **Phil Aboussie**, owner of the Far Out Marketplace at 1705 FM 1626, indicated a preference for Alternative 2. He commented on possible relocations as a result of Alternatives 1 and 3 and expressed concerns about drainage issues.

Response: Possible relocation of businesses and/or residences will be considered during the development of a preferred alternative. A hydraulic study will also be conducted to provide the optimal design of the proposed cross-drainage structures.

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SUMMARY OF WRITTEN COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

- Comment: **Alice Higgins, Art Ulrich, Bill Higgins, Barbara Eberhardt, Bobby Eaton, Bonnie Upton, Bradley Plies, Clyde Medlock, Curt Voelkel, Delma Ulrich, Dolores Houston, Donnie Williams, Dustin Doberenz, Ed Popiolek, Ella Horobik, Esther Martinez, Gale Frost, Jan Fife, Judy Utter, Joe Bishaw, John Krasnowski, Juana Hardwick, Katie Delliber, Kevin Eberhardt, Kristin Krasnowski, Mark Harms, Mary Bishaw, Norma Hardwick, Patricia Fick, Paul Schnack, Rev. Steve Fick, Robert Temple, Ron Fife, Ronald Eberhardt, Sherry Popiolek, Steven Hardwick, Susan Adams, and Tammy Shuster** are members of the Redeeming Grace Lutheran Church. These members indicated preference for Alternative 1 and commented on project cost vs. design, specifically, the bridge at Bear Creek, and traffic during construction. Alternative 2 is not considered by the church members to be a viable alternative because of the possible displacement of the church. They also commented that Alternative 3 would not be in keeping with community cohesion even though impacts to the church property would be completely avoided.
- Response: Alternative preferences will be considered during the project development and as a preferred alternative is selected. Specifically, the amount of land that would be needed for right-of-way, the possibility of relocations, the cost and design of a bridge, and how all impacts may affect community cohesion, will be considered.
- Comment: **Blayne Stansberry** commented on bike and pedestrian access particularly at the church.
- Response: The addition of bike lanes and pedestrian facilities will be considered as the design of the project moves forward.
- Comment: **Don Nyland** commented on safety and the design of the bicycle facility.
- Response: The safety of the proposed bicycle facility will be considered during project development. The addition of bike lanes and adjustment of shoulder widths will be considered as the design of the project moves forward.
- Comment: **Elizabeth Korts** indicated her preference for Alternative 2 and commented that this alternative would impact fewer residences/businesses.
- Response: Alternative preferences will be considered during the project development and as a preferred alternative is selected. Specifically, the amount of land that would be needed for right-of-way, and the possibility of relocations will be considered.
- Comment: **Erick Benz** commented on bicycle access and design and safety of the facility.
- Response: The safety of the proposed bicycle facility will be considered during project development. The addition of bike lanes and adjustment of shoulder widths will be considered as the design of the project moves forward.
- Comment: **Hank Smith, P.E.** works with the Marbridge Foundation and commented on their behalf. He indicated general support of the proposed project with a preference for

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Alternative 3. He stated that there is a plan for development of lands owned by the Marbridge Foundation [where access may need to be considered]. He listed positive aspects of Alternative 3 in regards to less right-of-way cost, an appropriate bridge design in respect to the alternative, a workable Brodie Lane access, and the possible relocations/land acquisitions being minimized at the elementary school. He indicated that the design under Alternatives 1 and 2 of the Brodie Lane intersection are undesirable.

Response: Alternative preferences will be considered during the project development and as a preferred alternative is selected. Specifically, the amount of land that would be needed for right-of-way, the possibility of relocations, and appropriate access to the proposed roadway will be considered.

Comment: **Hubert Gill**, along with James Cook, are majority co-owners of the Bear Creek Office Park located at 1715 West FM 1626. He commented on his and Mr. Cook's behalf, indicating preference for Alternatives 1 and 2. He commented that Alternative 3 may result in relocation of nine businesses.

Response: The alternative preferences will be considered during the project development and as a preferred alternative is selected. Specifically, the possibility of relocations will be considered.

Comment: **Jaime Saal** indicated a preference for Alternative 2 because of the [amount and location] of new right-of-way that would be needed [the issue being the need to acquire right-of-way or relocate residences/businesses].

Response: The alternative preferences will be considered during the project development and as a preferred alternative is selected. Specifically, the amount of land that would be needed for right-of-way and the possibility of relocations will be considered.

Comment: **Jean Krejca**, owner of 1707 W FM 1626, indicated her preference for Alternative 2. She commented that Alternative 3 may result in displacement of her business requiring relocation. She commented on the need to consider habitat for species in an abandoned well on the property. She also asked for consideration of the quality of the water in a well on the property that provides drinking water

Response: The alternative preference will be considered during the project development and as a preferred alternative is selected. Specifically, the amount of land that would be needed for right-of-way and the possibility of relocations will be considered. Wildlife habitats and water quality studies are part of the environmental assessment.

Comment: **Judy Canion** indicated her preference for Alternative 2.

Response: The alternative preferences will be considered during the project development and as a preferred alternative is selected.

Comment: **Kelly Korte** indicated her preference for Alternative 2. She also commented that Alternatives 1 and 3 would render properties on the south side of FM 1626 undevelopable and affect land use.

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Response: The alternative preferences will be considered during the project development and as a preferred alternative is selected. Specifically, the amount of land that would be needed for right-of-way and how land use might be changed will be considered.

Comment: **Linda Hawkins** indicated a preference for Alternative 2 but stated that Alternative 1 seems fairer. She expressed concern for the trees in front of the Manchaca United Methodist Church.

Response: The alternative preferences will be considered during the project development and as a preferred alternative is selected. Specifically, the amount of land that would be needed for right-of-way, the possibility of relocations, effects to vegetation, and how all impacts may affect community cohesion will be considered.

Comment: **Nathan Wilkes**, with the City of Austin's bicycle program, commented on the safety and the design of the proposed bicycle facility.

Response: The safety of the proposed bicycle facility will be considered during project development. The addition of bike lanes and adjustment of shoulder widths will be considered as the design of the project moves forward.

Comment: **Pam Baggett** supports the proposed project and commented on safety, transportation issues outside of the project limits, and drainage (prefers curb and gutter).

Response: The safe access to Manchaca Road is a part of the design of the project. The alternative preferences will be considered during the project development and as a preferred alternative is selected. Specifically, curb and gutter to accommodate drainage within the project limits, and how all impacts may affect community cohesion will be considered.

Comment: **Robert Eason** commented on bicycle access and the safety of this access.

Response: The safety of the proposed bicycle facility will be considered during project development. The addition of bike lanes and adjustment of shoulder widths will be considered as the design of the project moves forward.

Comment: **Ron Hawkins** indicated a preference for Alternative 3 but stated that Alternative 1 or 2 seem fairer. He expressed concern for the trees in front of the Manchaca United Methodist Church.

Response: The alternative preferences will be considered during the project development and as a preferred alternative is selected. Specifically, the amount of land that would be needed for right-of-way, the possibility of relocations, effects to vegetation, and how all impacts may affect community cohesion will be considered.

Comment: **Scott Kvapil** indicated preference for Alternatives 1 and 3. He commented on traffic noise, bridge design, and drainage.

Response: The alternative preferences will be considered during the project development and as a preferred alternative is selected. A traffic noise analysis will be completed during the environmental phase of the project. The design of the bridge is still

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being assessed. A hydraulic study will also be conducted to provide the optimal design of the proposed drainage structures.

Comment: **Walter Harms**, founding pastor of Redeeming Grace Lutheran Church commented on safety, traffic noise, and possible relocation.

Response: The probable consequences of moving traffic closer to the Austin Christian Academy and of the acquisition of right-of-way from the church property will be considered during the project development and as a preferred alternative is selected. A traffic noise analysis will be completed during the environmental phase of the project.

Comment: **Anonymous person** commented on transportation issues outside of the project limits.

Response: Improvements outside the logical termini of Brodie Lane and Manchaca Road such as widening of FM 1626 to IH 35, the widening of Manchaca, and the widening of Brodie Lane from Slaughter Lane to FM 1626 are considered separate projects.