Hays County 2008 Road Bond Proposition

In August of this year, the Hays County Commissioners Court approved placing on the November 4, 2008 ballot a proposition to issue $207 million in Hays County road bonds for roadway safety and mobility improvements in the county. The road bonds would be paid back by Hays County tax dollars and also by reimbursement from the State of Texas of up to $133,170,000 available through the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Pass-Through Funding Program.

Two categories of projects are proposed for funding through the bond issue: 1) projects eligible for Pass-Through Funding reimbursement by the State, and 2) other priority projects identified through a public participation process as particularly important locally.

TxDOT Pass-Through Projects

The bond issue will enable Hays County to receive state funding through a Pass-Through Funding Agreement with TxDOT. Under this agreement, the county provides up-front funding for project development and construction. The bond principal would be repaid using up to $133,170,000 in reimbursement funds to be provided by TxDOT. The County will be responsible for all interest costs. Due to the lack of TxDOT funds for new construction projects, the Funding Agreement is designed to allow construction of projects now that might otherwise take much longer. Negotiations between TxDOT and the County determined which projects were included in the agreement. Pass-Through Funding projects included in the current agreement are:

- **FM 1626 (Segment A)** — FM 967 to FM 2770
- **FM 1626 (Segment B)** — Bliss Spillar Rd to FM 967
- **FM 110** — IH-35 to SH 123
  - **Phase 1** — IH-35 to future McCarty Road
  - **Phase 2** — future McCarty Road to SH 123
- **US 290** — Nutty Brown Road to Trautwein Road
- **IH-35**
  - **Phase 1** — IH-35 between Kyle Crossing to Kyle Parkway/FM 1626 (bridge reconstruction, ramps, frontage roads)
  - **Phase 2A** — FM 150 realignment
  - **Phase 2B** — IH-35/FM 150 to FM 1626 (ramps, southbound frontage roads)
  - **FM 2001** — Frontage road connector

County Priority Projects

In addition to the pass-through projects, the County requested additional mobility and safety project recommendations from municipalities, precinct representatives, and area school districts.
Through a series of public meetings held in July 2008, the county appointed citizen Bond Advisory Committee took public input on prioritizing and selecting the projects to be included in the proposed bond package. During the public meetings, the public ranked characteristics they felt were important in selecting the projects — improved mobility and safety, availability of bike- and pedestrian friendly amenities, added traffic capacity, environmental protection, enhancing economic development opportunities, and preserving community quality of life. A list of potential projects was then evaluated based on how well each project met the desirable characteristics. The county priority projects included in the bond proposition by the Commissioners' Court are:

- **US 290 (RR 12 to McGregor)** — Provide continuous center turn lane, improved shoulders.
- **Ranch Road 12/Sports Park Drive** — Add left turn lane.
- **RM 1826** — Selected intersection and left turn lane safety improvements.
- **FM 2325** — (Fischer Store Road to Carney Lane) — Safety and other intersection improvements.
- **RR 12/Old Kyle Road** — Mobility and safety improvements for Wimberley Business District.
- **Ranch Road 12/RR 32** — Safety improvements to Wimberley Junction.
- **Ranch Road 12 Parkway Development** — Environmental analysis and right-of-way (ROW) preservation.
- **Ranch Road 12/Hugo Road** — Intersection improvement and turn lane.
- **Ranch Road 12/Sink Creek** — Improvements to low water crossing.
- **Ranch Road 12/Wonder World Drive** — Add additional turn lanes to proposed intersection.
- **Old Bastrop Highway (Centerpoint Road to Francis Harris Lane)** — Add shoulders and widen existing lanes.
- **State Highway 21** — Selected intersection and safety improvements.
- **Dacy Lane (Bebee to Windy Hill)** — Engineering and ROW preservation.
- **Lime Kiln Rd/Sink Creek** — Feasibility studies and environmental analysis.
- **Post Road (San Marcos city limit to Yarrington RR overpass)** — Engineering and design studies.
- **Lakewood Drive/FM 1626** — Improve low-water crossing and intersection approach.
- **FM 967 (at Ruby Ranch Road)** — Safety improvements (contingent upon funding availability).
HAYS COUNTY PASS-THROUGH AND PRIORITY PROJECTS

Figure 1 Draft Project Map

*The intersections shown for SH 21 and RM 1826 represent likely improvement locations based on current plans.