

AGENDA ITEM

FORT BEND COUNTY FY 2009 COMMISSIONERS COURT AGENDA REQUEST FORM

Return Completed Form to: Agenda Coordinator, County Judge's Office

19B

Date Submitted: May 21, 2009

Submitted By: Ann Werlein

Court Date: May 26, 2009

Department: County Judge

Telephone: 281-341-8634

SUMMARY OF ITEM:

County Judge: Take all appropriate action to submit application for funding to the Transportation, Community, and System Preservation Program Grant of the Federal Highway Administration for congressional authorized funds in the amount of \$475,000 with a local match of 20% for the re-alignment of the intersection at FM 359 and Farmers Rd.

Agreement/Appointment: YES NO ✓

Reviewed by County Attorney's Office: YES NO ✓

List Supporting Documents Attached: Application with project description

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

Budgeted Item: YES ✓ NO
Funding Source: FY09

Requires Auditor to Certify Funds: YES NO ✓

Instructions for submitting an Agenda Request:

- Completely fill out agenda form: incomplete forms will not be processed.
- Agenda Request Forms may be submitted by e-mail, fax, or inter-office mail, and all information must be provided by Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. to all departments listed below.
- Original back-up must be received in County Judge's Office by 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

DISTRIBUTION:

Original Form Submitted with back up to County Judge's Office: (✓ when completed)
If by E-Mail to ospindon@co.fort-bend.tx.us If by Fax to: (281) 341-8609
Distribute copies with back-up to all listed below. If by fax, send to the numbers below:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| ✓ Auditor (281-341-3774) | ✓ Comm. Pct. 1 (281-342-0587) |
| ✓ Budget Officer (281-344-3954) | ✓ Comm. Pct. 2 (281-403-8009) |
| ✓ Facilities/Planning (281-633-7022) | ✓ Comm. Pct. 3 (281-242-9060) |
| ✓ Purchasing Agent (281-341-8642) | ✓ Comm. Pct. 4 (281-980-9077) |
| ✓ Information Technology (281-341-4526) | ✓ County Clerk (281-341-8697) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | ✓ County Atty (281-341-4557) |

Recommendation:

**TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNITY, AND SYSTEM PRESERVATION
PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION**

PART A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Fiscal Year Authorized:	FY 2009
Project Title:	FM 359 and Mason Road
Project Location (City/County, State):	Fort Bend County, Texas
GRANTEE CONTACT INFORMATION	
Grantee Contact Name:	Robert E. Hebert, County Judge
Agency:	Fort Bend County, Texas
Mailing Address (Street/P.O. Box):	301 Jackson Street, Suite 719
City, State, Zip code:	Richmond, Texas 77469
Phone:	281-341-8608
Fax:	281-341-8609
E-Mail:	werleann@co.fort-bend.tx.us
STATE DOT CONTACT INFORMATION	
State Contact Person:	Bob Baumgartner
Phone:	713-802-5412
Fax:	713-802-5075
E-Mail:	rbaumga@dot.state.tx.us
FHWA DIVISION OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION	
Division Contact Person:	Mitch Batuzich
Phone:	512-536-5905
Fax:	512-536-5990
E-Mail:	Michael.Batuzich@dot.gov
CONGRESSIONAL INFORMATION	
Congress Member:	Pete Olson
Congressional District No.:	Texas 22 nd District
TCSP Program Funds:	\$380,000.00
Matching Funds/In-kind Services Value:	\$95,000.00
Matching Funds/In-kind Services Source:	\$0.00
Total TCSP-Related Project Costs:	\$475,000.00

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE FHWA DIVISION OFFICE				
State Administered?		Yes		No
Division Administered?		Yes		No
“Transfer” TCSP funding for Project Administration?		Yes		No
If yes, which Federal Agency				
Will the project be obligated by September 30, 2009?		Yes		No
Date grant application approved by FHWA Division Office				

Part B. Project Abstract

(Maximum 4 sentences) Briefly describe the how the TCSP Program funds will be used to support the proposed project.

The TCSP funds will provide funding towards the transportation mobility improvements at the FM 359 and Mason (Farmer) Road intersection area; in order to promote safer and more efficient travel within this study area. Currently, the FM 359 corridor handles about 8900 vehicles per day with a majority of traffic concentrated at the Plantation Drive and Farmer Road intersections (only spaced about 600 feet apart). By realigning the Mason (Farmer) Road intersection at more than 1,100 feet north of the Plantation intersection, and widening FM 359 for improved traffic capacity, traffic flow from one intersection will not block the adjacent intersection and will provide safer and more efficient flow through the area.

Part C. Project Narrative

Describe the project and the expected results, including project goals and timeframe. Describe how the project integrates transportation, community, and system preservation plans and practices that address one or more of the following:

- 1) Improve the efficiency of the transportation system of the United States.*
- 2) Reduce the impacts of transportation on the environment.*
- 3) Reduce the need for costly future investments in public infrastructure.*
- 4) Provide efficient access to jobs, services, and centers of trade.*
- 5) Examine community development patterns and identify strategies to encourage private sector development that achieves the purposes identified in (1) through (4).*

As stated in the previous paragraph, traffic flow has increased along the two-lane FM 359 corridor (with a year 2007 traffic count of about 8900 vehicles per day). With recent increases in residential and retail development, there has been an increase in traffic congestion at the neighboring Plantation Drive and Mason (Farmer) Road intersections. During peak hour conditions, traffic queuing from one intersection can routinely disrupt the traffic flow at the adjacent intersection. In particular, local residential and school bus drivers are having difficulty accessing the southbound lanes of FM 359 from Mason (Farmer) Road, and vice versa, accessing Mason (Farmer) Road from southbound FM 359 during peak hour travel conditions.

Since there has been a recent increase in traffic along Mason (Farmer) Road with its connection to SH 99 / the Grand Parkway, realigning FM 359 and Mason Road into a T-intersection will allow for safer and more efficient traffic flow in the north-south direction; as well as better handling of traffic flow going west on FM 359.

Part D. Project Eligibility

a. Is the project located on a Federal-aid highway? (List the functional class(es) of the facility(ies) to be improved)

Yes, the FM 359 road widening project (CSJ = 0543-02-047) from US 90A to Mason (Farmer) Road is classified on the Federal Aid Highway System as an Urban / Rural Minor Arterial (Functional Class #4).

b. If the project is not located on a Federal-aid highway, how do you consider the project eligible for assistance under Title 23 or Chapter 53 of Title 49, United States Code? (i.e., list program(s) and describe how the project meets the statutory eligibility criteria for that program.)

Not Applicable.

c. Is the project a corridor preservation activity necessary to implement transit-oriented development plans, traffic calming measures, or other coordinated transportation, community, and system preservation practices?

Fort Bend County considers the FM 359 and Mason (Farmer) Road corridor and intersection realignment a type of corridor preservation activity. In recent years, the major traffic flow has been northbound and southbound towards Mason Road and connecting to SH 99 / the Grand Parkway. The "T" intersection realignment will improve and preserve the traffic flow movements north to Mason Road, while maintaining adequate turn lane designs for traffic flows travelling westbound on FM 359.