



TxDOT's goals: Maintain a safe system, address congestion, connect Texas communities, Best-in-Class state agency

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For Immediate Release

September 13, 2013

TXDOT APPROVES FUNDING FOR FM 2444 (STAPLES STREET) IMPROVEMENTS

Upgrades will improve safety, mobility of roadway

CORPUS CHRISTI — In an ongoing effort to improve safety and relieve congestion, the Texas Transportation Commission has approved \$24.4 million to build additional lanes and make other upgrades to FM 2444 (Staples Street) from SH 286 to the Oso Parkway intersection near Kings Crossing. Bay Ltd. was awarded the project contract.

“As Texas roadways become increasingly crowded, we must find ways to relieve congestion without compromising safety,” said Phil Wilson, TxDOT executive director. “Keeping travelers moving safely and efficiently will continue to be an ongoing priority as Texas welcomes nearly 1,000 newcomers each day.”

The 3.5 mile long project will include two travel lanes and a shoulder in each direction with a center turn lane from SH 286 to County Road 43. The intersection of FM 2444 and SH 286 will be improved with turn lanes and installation of a traffic signal. Drainage in this section will be handled by roadside ditches. The existing bridge east of SH 286 will be replaced with a new longer bridge to better address drainage.

From CR 43 to just east of the South Texas Botanical Gardens entrance, improvements will include two travel lanes and a shoulder in each direction with a center turn lane. A traffic signal is planned for the Kitty Hawk/Country Creek Road intersection with FM 2444. Sidewalks will be built on both sides of the roadway and drainage will be handled by curb and gutter and an underground storm drain system.

From just east of the South Texas Botanical Gardens entrance to Oso Parkway, improvements will include two travel lanes in each direction separated by a raised median. The outside travel lanes would be built wider to accommodate bicyclists and sidewalks will be built on both sides of FM 2444.

A new bridge will be built and the roadway elevated east of the South Texas Botanical Gardens to accommodate drainage and address flooding issues. A traffic signal is planned for the intersection of Oso Parkway and FM 2444.

Construction is expected to begin in early 2014 and be completed in late 2016.

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