

FM 1464
FM 1093 to SH 99
1415-02-032, 040, etc.

Purpose of the Proposed Project

Fort Bend County (the County) proposes to upgrade Farm-to-Market 1464 (FM 1464) from FM 1093 south to State Highway 99 (SH 99) (the Grand Parkway) in Fort Bend County, Texas by constructing two additional travel lanes and realigning the existing curve at O'Brian Rd. (Exhibits A and B). Realignment of the reversed curve would require the construction of travel lanes on new location. Additionally, the County proposes to improve an 800-ft. section of Barker Road, which aligns with FM 1464 on the north side of FM 1093, to ensure proper alignment of the intersection. The 800-ft section will be widened at FM 1093 to include a southbound right hand turning lane and a northbound transitional lane on the west and east sides of the existing alignment, respectively. These additional lanes will then taper and realign with the two existing travel lanes to the north. The existing and proposed typical sections are provided as Exhibit C.

Need for the Project

Fort Bend County proposes to upgrade this section of FM 1464 to a four-lane facility due to the need for improved mobility and safety concerns resulting from current and projected residential and commercial development in the area.

Fort Bend County has experienced considerable residential and commercial development over the last decade and an increase in population resulting from the new development. Due to the population growth, vehicular traffic on local roadways has increased. The increase vehicular traffic has accelerated degradation of the existing roadway and increased congestion within the project limits.

Currently, FM 1464 serves as an urban major collector in Fort Bend County and provides service to both local residential and commercial traffic. Local residents primarily utilized the roadway to gain access to neighborhoods and schools in and around the FM 1464 corridor. The roadway provides a direct connection to SH 99, which connects to Interstate highway 10 (IH 10), US 90A, and US 59. Both of these connections are critical in providing commuters access to the Houston Metropolitan area for work. The proposed project would improve driving conditions and provide improved service to motorists that utilize the roadway. The proposed improvements to FM 1464 are important to the continued development of Fort Bend County and to local public safety.

The additional capacity resulting from the addition of two travel lanes would reduce the number of vehicles per lane per mile of roadway, establish a horizontal clearance, and would facilitate left and right turning movements at intersection roadways, thereby reducing traffic congestion and improving mobility. The addition of shoulders, where practical, would provide accessible safe areas for motorists to utilize in the case of an emergency. Furthermore, the realignment on new location would allow motorists to bypass the existing curve at O'Brian Road and would eliminate the existing safety concern associate with this curve.

Based on traffic volumes from the TxDOT's Transportation Planning and Programming Division, the average daily traffic (ADT) for this section of FM 1464 is 13,100 vehicles per day (vpd) for 2004. This volume is expected to increase to 21,800 vpd by 2024, an estimated 66 percent increase over 20 years. The current posted advisory speed within the project limits varies from 35 to 55 miles per hour (mph).

An advisory approach speed of 45 mph is posted at the reverse curve and advisory approach speed of 35 mph is posted at the curve at the southern terminus of the project limits.

The hazards of turning movements at intersecting roadways and the existing reverse curve (reduced speed limit of 40 mph) pose a safety threat to motorists. According to a review of TxDOT's Master Accident Listings (1998-2000), 112 vehicular accidents have been recorded between 1998 and 2000 within the project limits with 76 percent of those resulting in injuries and one fatality. Approximately 49 percent of these accidents have been collisions with fixed objects and 31 percent have involved an overturned vehicle.

Given the current and projected growth patterns in Fort Bend County, future development along FM 1464 is eminent. Upgrading this section of FM 1464 at this time is an ideal opportunity to improve mobility and safety without significant displacements and/or relocations.