

New Hope Drive Extension Public Meeting Summary

June 27, 2016

The City of Cedar Park hosted public open house to share the New Hope Drive Extension planned improvements and project timeline. The purpose of this meeting was to provide an opportunity for members of the community to view project information, ask questions, and provide input.

Meeting Details

Date: Monday June 27, 2016

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Good News United Methodist Church, 1610 E. New Hope Drive, Leander, TX 78641

Format: The meeting was in an open house format where attendees were able to come and go at their convenience, speak with project team members and view the schematics.

Attendance: 58 people signed in at the meeting.

Materials: As attendees entered, they were asked to sign in and share their email address to receive project updates. Comment cards, project contact information cards, and fact sheets with timeline of planned improvements were handed out.

Exhibits: Two large copies of the New Hope Drive Extension map were displayed on tables for attendees to view.

Meeting Notifications

The following methods were used to contact and inform project stakeholders about the New Hope Drive Extension meeting:

Email Campaign

Notices and reminders of the meeting time and date were sent three times to approximately 60 stakeholders on June 9, June 23, and June 27, 2016.

Business Visits

Team members visited with 50 different local businesses and distributed flyers in the community on June 17, 2016.

Signage

Five signs were posted along the project limits, informing residents and commuters about the meeting. The signs were posted Thursday, June 24, 2016 through June 27, 2016.



Comments Summary and Responses

Written Comments

Comment Submitted By: Roland Krienke and Sharon Kreinke

Comment Summary: Both community members request a right turn lane be installed on northbound Ronald Reagan for access turning onto CR 272. There is concern for safety when turning, and drivers cannot legally pull onto shoulder to slow down prior to turning.

Response: The project team is developing plans to include construction of this right turn lane with the E New Hope Drive expansion. Barring any unforeseen environmental constraints, the plan should move forward.

Comment Submitted By: Thomas Krueger, Peggy Dickens, and Howard Mosebar

Comment Summary: Stakeholders request that Old CR 180 not connect to the New Hope Road extension and to place a cul-de-sac instead. If this is not a viable solution, request placing no thru truck signs along Old CR 180. There is concern for the amount of traffic that will use the road.

Response: The connection of S Old CR 180 to New Hope Drive in this location maintains the existing access to the area, provides access to New Hope Drive for the nearby residential subdivision, and provides access to the planned median break allowing for left or right turns onto New Hope Dr. Eliminating this access would reduce emergency service routes to the area. This portion of the roadway lies outside the Cedar Park city limits, however the project team will forward the request for truck restriction to Williamson County for their consideration.

Comment Submitted By: Rick Warren

Comment Summary: Stakeholder supports the cul-de-sac proposal for Old CR 180 near the creek crossing, and does not want to see a cul-de-sac where the intersection of S Old CR 180 and New Hope Dr. is proposed, or a stop sign at Downing Lane, because these changes could increase traffic backups.

Response:

These comments have been reviewed and documented.

Mapped Comments

Comments were written on sticky notes and placed on the project map.

- 3-way stop on Downing Lane
- 2-30 mph speed limit and no trucks restriction
- Stop sign at Downing Lane

Responses:

This portion of the roadway lies outside the Cedar Park city limits, however the project team will forward the comments to Williamson County for their consideration.

The proposed stop sign and Downing will need to be evaluated by the County once New Hope Drive is completed and new traffic patterns can be analyzed.

Verbal Comments

Comment Summary: Good News United Methodist Church requested that a median cut be placed toward the western side of their property giving them access to a driveway they would relocate.

Response: The requested median break would not meet minimum length requirement for a left turn bay. Deviation from the design standard minimizes the functionality of the facility, and decreases turn bay storage for adjacent access. There is a median break planned at the intersection of Lakewood Trail which would give direct left turn access to the church property if the driveway is placed in that location.

Comment Summary: Several citizens made comments that traffic currently travels at a high rate of speed making safe turns from Woodland Trail difficult. There is concern for the curve and that traffic will be traveling faster on the wider road, and the curve in the roadway will make it more difficult to see cars coming from the east. They suggested the clearing of trees to increase visibility/sight distance.

Response: Safety is the highest priority for this project and sight distance is being taken into consideration during design of the roadway. The City is working to improve safety along New Hope Drive while balancing preservation of existing trees. The project team has performed a tree survey along the project limits, and during construction will perform additional assessments and tree removal if necessary to meet sight distance requirements.

Comment Summary: Several residents living in the neighborhood off of Lakewood Trail and Woodland Trail said that flooding/standing water has been occurring since 183 A opened. Concern was also expressed for drainage south of New Hope Road.

Response: The design for improvements and new roadway construction takes into consideration drainage of water in the area. Removal of the culvert where Old CR 180 crosses the creek will allow for improved movement of water through the creek, and the addition of the larger culvert near the church will provide for better drainage and flow of water through a channel proposed along the church's eastern property line. Drainage conditions should improve with the construction of these culverts.

Comment Summary: Several citizens expressed desire for traffic signals at Ronald Reagan and Arrow Point Drive

Response: A traffic light will be installed at the intersection of New Hope Drive and Ronald Reagan Boulevard. During construction for this project, the City will install conduit to allow for installation of a signal at Arrow Point Drive if it is warranted at a future time.

Comment Summary: Property owner expressed concern for the number of vehicles going southbound on S Old CR 180 stacking up while waiting to turn on New Hope Drive, and the impact of tying-in intersection improvements on a strand of trees south of the homeowner's driveway.

Response: The connection of S Old CR 180 to New Hope Drive in this location maintains the existing access to the area, provides access to New Hope Drive for the nearby residential subdivision, provides access to the planned median break allowing for left or right turns, and provides improved access for emergency services.

The City is working to improve safety along New Hope Drive while balancing preservation of existing trees. The project team has performed a tree survey along the project limits, and will continue to evaluate the necessity for tree removal.