

TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Montgomery & Grimes Counties

MINUTE ORDER

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Bryan & Houston Districts

Subchapter F, Chapter 223, Transportation Code prescribes the process by which the Texas Department of Transportation (department) may enter into a design-build contract with a private entity that provides for the design, construction, expansion, extension, related capital maintenance, rehabilitation, alteration, or repair of a highway project. Transportation Code, §223.242 authorizes the department to enter into, in each fiscal year, up to three design-build contracts for highway projects with estimated construction costs of \$50 million or more.

SH 249 is a major thoroughfare for motorists traveling from the City of Navasota, through the Northwest region of the greater Houston area to Houston. Due to an increase in traffic and demand, there is a need to address operational and capacity deficiencies in this mobility constrained corridor. An extension of SH 249 would improve mobility in the area and meet future travel demand stemming from projected population growth.

The SH 249 Extension (Project) in Montgomery and Grimes County provides for the addition of a new location tolled facility from FM 1774 in Pinehurst, Texas to SH 105 near Navasota, Texas.

On April 14, 2015, the Grimes County Commissioners Court passed a resolution that supports the Project, contingent upon the Texas Transportation Commission (commission) including a fourth interchange as part of the Project scope and providing an additional \$4 million to be used for future SH 249 access road projects in Grimes County.

The delivery of the Project can be expedited through the employment of innovative methods for development and construction typically available in a design-build contract. Completion of the Project is a crucial element to responding to traffic demand and connectivity needs from the City of Navasota to the greater Houston area and is critical to the region's continued mobility and economic vitality.

Transportation Code, §223.245 prescribes requirements for the procurement of a project to be developed under a design-build contract, and requires the department to publish a notice advertising the issuance of a request for qualifications in the Texas Register and on the department's internet website that includes the criteria that will be used to evaluate qualification statements, the relative weight given to the criteria, and the deadline by which qualification statements must be received.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the commission that the department is authorized to publish in the Texas Register and to post on the department's internet website, a request for qualifications to develop, design, construct, and maintain the SH 249 Extension.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED by the commission that the department incorporate interchange improvements at FM 306 in the Project scope, and include \$4 million in the project budget for future Grimes County SH 249 access improvements.

Submitted and reviewed by:

Katharine Nees
Director, Strategic Projects Division

Recommended by:

[Signature]
Executive Director

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Minute
Number

Date
Passed