

## Williams Drive Update

Williamson County is partnering with the city of Georgetown to widen Williams Drive/RM 2338 from two lanes to four lanes with a center turn lane from DB Wood Road to F.M. 3405. The roadway also will include shoulders and no curbs.

**Status:** The County sent out for bids on this project and received a large number of interested contractors. By pushing this project forward, we were able to take advantage of the market. We were very pleased with the bids as the numbers came in around \$5 million less than what was projected. The lowest and best bid was J. C. Evans Co. Because there is CAMPO (state) funding, TxDOT must approve the construction bid and contractor. We are told this will take up to two weeks for approval. Once approval is obtained, a letter will be sent to JC Evans officially awarding them the bid which will allow them to obtain their bond and begin. If not held up by TxDOT, we anticipate “dirt turning” to begin mid February.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Commission approved the transfer of ownership of Williams Drive from the west side of IH 35 to FM 3405 to Williamson County. The Governor signed the agreement shortly after. This transfer of ownership allows the project to move faster and to be more cost efficient. In October, 2009 the City will take over the maintenance of Williams Drive from the west side of IH 35 to D.B. Wood Road (area not under construction). The City will take over maintenance from D.B. Wood Road to Jim Hogg Road (their city limits) after construction is complete.

There has been a great deal of utility work already in progress:

- PEC has placed 95% of their poles and have strung most of their wire. They are close to reaching a point where Suddenlink can begin their work.
- Suddenlink will hang their wire on the PEC poles and should be complete in a couple of months.
- Atmos Gas has been working very hard and should be complete within a few weeks.
- Verizon has hit a conflict with some of Chisholm water lines that are in their path. Chisholm and the city of Georgetown are working on a solution.
- Chisholm water line relocation has been included in the contractor’s plans to be more efficient. This will be one of the first projects when JC Evans begins their work.

**Funding:** The County and the city of Georgetown have passed an interlocal agreement whereby the County will pay for the project and the City will reimburse the County for their 65% share over 3 years - \$1.5 million in 2009, \$1.5 million in 2010 and the balance in 2011. The County also will be reimbursed the \$8.8 million that was granted by CAMPO.

**Project timeline:** Construction is scheduled to begin on the segment from DB Wood to FM 3405 in the first quarter of 2009 and is anticipated to take approximately two years.