

Glenda

January 12, 2017

Mr. Michael D. Beaver, P.E.
Director of Transportation Planning & Development
Wichita Falls District
1601 Southwest Parkway
Wichita Falls, TX 76302-4906

draft

Mr. Martin Gonzalez, IV, P.E.
Senior Project Manager
RPS Klotz Associates
1160 Dairy Ashford, Suite 500
Houston, TX 77079

Reference: Highway 82 Study- Henrietta to Nocona
Nocona to Henrietta

Gentlemen,

Thank you and your team members for taking time January 10th, to provide a preview of the Highway 82 Study to us and others in Nocona, TX. Those of us in attendance at the meeting, appreciate the opportunity to understand the basic concepts under consideration and your interest in soliciting input from us before the Public Meeting scheduled at the end of January.

This letter is intended to provide your teams with comments based upon the conceptual design materials presented at the meeting and to make you more familiar with some of the History, discussions, decisions, and resulting agreements regarding the routing of Highway 82 through Nocona that have taken place since 1972.

BACKGROUND:

Portions of Highway 82 are aligned with the abandoned rail line that ran through Nocona. In 1972, the City worked cooperatively with TXDOT to define a Right-of-Way for Highway 82 through the City of Nocona. The ROW width was determined by TXDOT standards and agreed to by the City at that time.

The purpose of that effort was to assure that the highway would continue to run through the City in the future, and the economic gains from traffic would remain within the City. City officials, and other groups associated with the economic well-being of Nocona, have been consistent with that goal since 1972, and have repeatedly reiterated that to various TXDOT officials in 44 plus years since.

COMMENTS ON THE CONCEPTUAL PLANS 01/10/2017

Divided 4 Lane Between Cities:

We are pleased at the effort to finally extend the 4-lane divided Highway on the east side of Nocona, westward to Henrietta. While the "super 3 2 lane" improvement restriping during the last a few years ago has helped traffic flow, the absence of a shoulder for disabled vehicles is extremely hazardous.

Given that US 82 between the Clay County line and Henrietta has already been widened, it is our hope that the first phase of this new construction will begin in Nocona, extending the existing 4-lane profile from Saint Jo through Nocona Nocona to the Clay County line. and westward to Henrietta.

Nocona Options:

Your teams presented three options for the routing of the new highway profile at Nocona. Option 1 & 2 involved a loop around the city either to the north or to the south. Option 3, was the direct extension of the highway through the City using an "Urban 4 Lane Design" on the existing Right of Way.

After reviewing those options, we are unanimous in favoring the direct route through Nocona using the existing Right of Way for the following reasons:

- Both the North and South loop routes would each have to run over two or more active creeks/ drainages with a history of significant flooding during rain such as occurred in 2015 at least once every decade. The necessary raised roadway or bridge construction cost will be much more expensive than on grade cost.
- Both the North and South loop roads as proposed would require the purchase of new Right of Way. TXDOT already has the necessary Right of Way through the center of Nocona.
- New Right of Way acquisition would require more Environmental Impact Studies (and water impact concerns) delaying the construction and increasing the design cost. The existing Right of Way should not be similarly impacted.
- The proposed intersection of the North loop road with Highway 82 on the east side of Nocona, is shown located just over the brow of a hill. This intersection with North Greenbrier Road would not provide an adequate line -of-sight for west bound traffic to avoid vehicles entering the highway from Greenbrier Road.
- The loop routes would each require the construction of a new intersection at the juncture of the loop road with one of the two existing north-south highways that enter Nocona. The direct route through Nocona would use the existing intersections.
- The routing of the North Loop Road impacts vacant land designated for future school expansion and/or business expansion.
- The travel distance around the City via either North or South Loop roads is much greater than going through Nocona. Greater distance requires more vehicle fuel and more exhaust.
- As demonstrated by the recent construction along Highway 287 at Quanah, Clarendon, and Childress, it is possible to route highway traffic safely through a community.
- Since this is to be added to the Texas UTP expending monies for engineering costs for a possible need in 30 years seems an unnecessary waste in a ten-year plan.

Nocona Economic Issues:

The City of Nocona receives economic benefit from the traffic on Highway 82. We feel that routing traffic around the City would have a significant impact on its' economic well-being. It is our understanding that the existing Right of Way through Nocona meets the TXDOT "Urban 4 Lane" 130 foot dimensional requirements. For the above and other reasons, we are supportive of the routing through the City rather than around the City.

On behalf of the Nocona citizens, the following organizations and officials in the City of Nocona, unanimously ask that TXDOT **abandon including the proposed loop road alternatives around Nocona and develop the existing DOT Right-of-Way through the City in this and future studies.**

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to the TXDOT public presentation in Nocona on Feb. 1, 2017 and trust that these comments will be taken into consideration at that meeting.

Please direct any questions or concerns about this letter to, Mr. James Yohe, executive director of Nocona Economic Development Corporations and the appointed Nocona member of the Cross Plains Rural Transportation Council.

Respectfully,

Robert Fenoglio,
Mayor & on behalf of the City Council

Dr. Vickie Gearheart,
Nocona ISD Superintendent

Robert Langford,
District 4 Montague County Commissioner

Rick Lewis
Montague County Judge

Erica Patton, President
Nocona Chamber of Commerce

Kyle Reynolds, President
Nocona EDC-A Board

Phillip Staley, President
Nocona EDC-B Board

I'll find out who else. Not sure even a signed petition might be a good followup.

James.....Who else should be added to the signature list?????

~~County Judge~~

Nocone General Hospital Board President'

Downtown Merchants

Skinner Trucking???