

Meeting Minutes

Subject	Balch Springs Hickory Tree Road Planning Study	Date	6/30/2021
Facilitator	Shawn Conrad	Time	6:00 pm
Location	Zoom	Recorded by	Erin Curry
Representatives	Shawn Conrad, Erin Curry (NCTCOG); Chris Dyser, Brad Harris, Suzy Cluse (Balch Springs)		

Meeting Purpose	Balch Springs Business Owner, Business Tenant, and Property Owner Stakeholder Meeting
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Discussion Items
<p>1. The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff are developing a roadway improvement planning study for Hickory Tree Road from Bruton Road to Elam Road, in collaboration with the City of Balch Springs. The goals of the plan are to develop context-sensitive recommendations for the corridor, enhance the bicycle/pedestrian experience along the corridor, connect key amenities and services along the corridor, and facilitate economic opportunity. NCTCOG staff discussed the project background, existing conditions and data collection, major considerations, and preliminary high-level recommendations on the corridor, including the cross-section recommendation of a three-lane roadway with a center turn lane, pedestrian refuge islands at select locations, sidewalks, and a shared-use path. This preliminary recommendation would require 70' of right-of-way (ROW), expanding from the current 60' ROW.</p> <p>2. A participant asked about the schedule for reconstruction of the roadway. NCTCOG staff said that construction on Phase 1 of the project, Hickory Tree Road from Elam Road to Lake June Road, is anticipated in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025.</p> <p>3. A participant asked how traffic will be managed during construction. City staff stated that traffic control will be a future planning process during and after the design process. City staff also explained that contractors must submit a traffic control plan to the City that will have to be approved by staff. Affected parcel owners will be contacted during the design phase, and additional meetings and discussions will be held.</p> <p>4. A participant asked about whether the plan included a four-lane cross-section. NCTCOG staff clarified that four lanes are not warranted with either current or future traffic projections and are not part of the preliminary recommendations.</p> <p>5. A participant asked about the possibility of a three-way stop sign at the intersection of Hickory Tree Road and Quail Road. NCTCOG staff and City staff explained that there were no current recommendations or suggestions for a three-way stop at that location, but plans are not finalized and it may be considered in the design phase.</p> <p>6. A participant asked about reimbursement for any right-of-way needed for the project. City staff explained that acquisition from this project would go through the City's regular reimbursement process, but discussions on that issue would not happen until FY 2023. City staff also explained that once the final roadway configuration is complete and approved, there will be a series of meetings with affected property owners.</p>