



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: {{item.number}}

Agenda Date: October 12, 2021

In Control: Southern Edwards Plateau Habitat Conservation Plan Coordinating Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Development Services Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Michael Shannon

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: District 6|District 7|District 8|District 9|District 10

SUBJECT:

SEP-HCP MOA TxDOT Loop 1604 Improvements

SUMMARY:

Discussion and possible action on a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Texas Department of Transportation regarding the Loop 1604 expansion project.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

LOCATION:

This project is located within western Bexar County, within the City of San Antonio. The project consists of approximately 1,535.5 acres and approximately 28.2 miles of existing and future right-of-way along Loop 1604 from State Highway (SH) 16 to Interstate 35 (I-35), in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Council District: 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10
Owner: Texas Department of Transportation
Consultant: Zara Environmental
Acreage: 1,535.5 acres

TxDOT proposes to expand Loop 1604 from a four-lane expressway to a 10-lane expressway by adding two general purpose lanes and one high-occupancy vehicle special purpose lane each way. The layout of auxiliary lanes and entrance and exit ramps will be reconfigured. The interchange at I-10 will be modernized by removing the cloverleaf connectors, adding direct connectors, and replacing the signalized frontage road intersections with a continuous flow configuration. The project will include accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians, water quality protection, and other highway features. All improvements will be located within the existing ROW and easements (project area). The project will not include any toll components. Select vegetation and sediment removal may be required within existing easements throughout the project area. As part of the Project's formal USFWS section 7 Consultation (USFWS section 7 Consultation No. 02ETAU00-2016-F-0214-R for unavoidable impacts to *R. exilis*, *R. infernalis*, *C. vespera*, and/or *C. madla*, TxDOT is required to mitigate through the SEP-HCP. Mitigation was based on the anticipated disturbances within Karst Zone 1, 2, and 3 within the Project Area. TxDOT will secure mitigation for Project impacts through payment into the SEP-HCP for the establishment of a karst fauna preserve.

The TxDOT Loop 1604 Project Area includes 0 acres of golden-cheeked warbler (GCW) habitat with the Project Area and 0 acres of GCW habitat within 300 feet of the Project Area.[1] The TxDOT Loop 1604 Project Area will require a total of 0 GCW conservation credits (direct impacts at 2 credits :1 acre mitigation ratio = 0 conservation credits and indirect impacts at 0.5 credits :1 acre mitigation ratio = 0 conservation credits).

The TxDOT Loop 1604 Project Area does not have any black-capped vireo (BCV) habitat and will not require any BCV conservation credits.

Additional information regarding the TxDOT Loop 1604 Project Area and associated effects to Karst Zones 1, 2, and 3 are included within the USFWS section 7 Consultation No. 02ETAU00-2016-F-0214-R documents.

Mitigation through the SEP-HCP for this Project will be accomplished through the establishment of a Memorandum of Agreement with TxDOT and will require the following:

- Payment of \$10,103,500.00 for the establishment, management, monitoring, and perpetual funding for the SEP-HCP to establish and maintain a Karst Fauna Area

[1] The Participant provided a copy of the USFWS section 7 Consultation No. 02ETAU00-2016-F-0214-R, which determined that that the proposed action was not likely to adversely affect the Golden-cheeked Warbler (GCWA) (*Setophaga chrysoparia*). The Service concurred that the

proposed project is not likely to adversely affect the GCWA. Per the Biological Opinion, the Participant will not be required to mitigate for the GCWA or submit any other documentation to the Permittees as part of the requirements for mitigating for karst impacts through the SEP-HCP.

ISSUE:

None.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

ALTERNATIVES:

If the SEP-HCP Coordinating Committee choose not to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with Texas Department of Transportation Loop 1604 Project then TxDOT would need to coordinate with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends Approval.