



Texas Department of Transportation

DEWITT C. GREER STATE HIGHWAY BLDG. • 125 E. 11TH STREET • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-2483 • (512) 463-8585

February 21, 2012

The Honorable Jason Isaac
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

Dear Representative Isaac:

Thank you for facilitating the February 6 town hall meeting regarding Ranch to Market Road (RM) 12 in Dripping Springs. We appreciate the opportunity to work with you, Representative Workman, Commissioner Whisenant, and your constituents to address the unforeseen construction issues on RM 12. During the town hall meeting, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) committed to developing a proposal to address these issues.

TxDOT is listening and understands public concern that the abnormal breakdown in the current seal coat needs to be addressed. TxDOT is committed to providing safe and reliable transportation solutions for Texas. In this case, TxDOT is committed to providing quality pavement maintenance and a safe roadway surface while preserving the state's capital investments. Following the town hall meeting, TxDOT consulted the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) and requested an independent evaluation of RM 12 as well as short and long-term recommendations to address the construction issues.

While TTI agreed that the initial seal coat was the appropriate maintenance solution at the time for this road, the opportunity for repairs now is a different situation. At this point, TxDOT recommends a hot mix overlay for the entire length of RM 12. The existing seal coat will be used as an underseal which is necessary to prevent moisture from seeping into the foundation of the pavement structure. The hot mix overlay will also address the rock loss at the intersections and is much quieter than a seal coat.

We expect to complete this project by the end of summer 2012. In the meantime, TxDOT will continue to sweep RM 12 on a regular basis. In the near term, we will improve the traction and rock loss at the intersections. We believe this plan addresses your concerns as well as those of your constituents. Please be assured that we will keep your office and the public informed of our progress.

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We appreciate your leadership in this matter and your, Representative Workman, and Commissioner Whisenant's dedication to the improvement of the state's transportation infrastructure. If you have additional questions on this or any other matter, please contact me at (512) 832-7022. Inquiries may also be directed to Sarah Matz, Legislative Liaison, State Government Relations Division, at (512) 463-4359.

Sincerely,



Carlos A. Lopez, P.E.
Austin District Engineer
Texas Department of Transportation

cc: The Honorable Paul Workman, Texas House of Representatives
The Honorable Ray Whisenant, Hays County Commissioner
Texas Transportation Commission
Phil Wilson, Executive Director, TxDOT
Sarah Matz, State Government Relations Division, TxDOT