



MEMORANDUM

TO: 850 File, CRM Project file

District: Pharr

County: Hidalgo

CSJ#: 0863-01-047

Highway: FM 493

Project Limits: Champion Avenue to Military Highway

Project Description: Stipulation VI, Appendix 4, Widening and reconstruction to 4 lane urban section with new bridge, 32 acres of new ROW, No historic resources present and no potential for adverse effect.

FROM: Summer Chandler

DATE: November 3, 2010

SUBJECT: Internal review under the Programmatic Agreement (PA-TU) among the Federal Highway Administration, Texas State Historic Preservation Officer, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Texas Department of Transportation; and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Texas Historical Commission and the Texas Department of Transportation

Existing Conditions:

Currently, the existing roadway from Champion Avenue to La Tierra Road has two twelve foot wide travel lanes and two eight foot wide shoulder with eighty feet of right-of-way (ROW). The existing roadway from La Tierra Road to US 281 consists of two twelve foot wide travel lanes and two four foot wide shoulders with sixty feet of ROW.

Proposed Project:

The ultimate typical section would consist of four twelve foot wide travel lanes, one sixteen foot wide turn lane, and two ten foot wide shoulders within a proposed 120 feet of ROW. The total length of the proposed project is approximately 5.9 miles. Approximately 32 acres of new ROW would be required for the proposed improvements, with a total ROW width of 120 feet (see report aerials with existing and proposed ROW).

Stipulation VI, Appendix 4:

A review of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) the list of State Archeological Landmarks (SAL), and the list of Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks (RTHL) indicated that no historically significant resources have been previously documented within the area of potential effects (APE). It has been determined through consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) that the APE for the proposed project is 150 feet from the proposed ROW. Based on reconnaissance survey and staff evaluation, it was determined that a historic district is not present in the project area. In addition, there are no Official State Historical Markers (OSHM) in the APE.

Reconnaissance survey determined that there are 13 historic-age properties with 41 historic-age resources in the APE. These properties include: 2 Agricultural (Resources 1a-1q and 12a-12b), 9 Domestic (Resources 2a-b, 4a-b, 5a-c, 6a-c, 7a-b, 8a-c, 9a-b, 10a-c, and 11), 1 Religious (Resource 3), and 1 Transportation (Resource 13). The agricultural properties consist of the Donna Irrigation District Hidalgo County No. 1 and earthen berm levees. The Donna district was determined not eligible as a whole by TxDOT in August 2008 under CSJ 0342-01-074 and the THC concurred. Although individual