TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ANTIQUITIES PERMIT APPLICATION FORM
ARCHEOLOGY

GENERAL INFORMATION

I. PROPERTY TYPE AND LOCATION

Project Name (and/or Site Trinomial) Intensive Archeological Survey along 6.5 miles of the CR 110 Widening Project

County (ies) Williamson County

USGS Quadrangle Name and Number *Hutto, TX* (3097-311)

UTM Coordinates Zone 14 E 636900.46 N 3380517.32

Location City of Hutto and its Extra Territorial Jurisdiction

Federal Involvement ❑Yes ☒No

Name of Federal Agency NA

Agency Representative NA

II. OWNER (OR CONTROLLING AGENCY)

Owner Williamson County

Representative Judge Dan A. Gattis

Address 301 SE Inner Loop

City/State/Zip Georgetown, Texas

Telephone (include area code) 512-943-1550 Email Address

III. PROJECT SPONSOR (IF DIFFERENT FROM OWNER)

Sponsor

Representative

Address

City/State/Zip

Telephone (include area code) Email Address

PROJECT INFORMATION

I. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (ARCHEOLOGIST)

Name Timothy B. Griffith

Affiliation Blanton & Associates, Inc.

Address 5 Lakeway Centre Ct., Ste. 200

City/State/Zip Austin, Texas 78734

Telephone (include area code) 512-264-1095 Email Address:timothy.griffith@blantonassociates.com

OVER

ANTIQUITIES PERMIT APPLICATION FORM (CONTINUED)

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Proposed Starting Date of Fieldwork 1 June 2014
Requested Permit Duration 5 Years 0 Months (1 year minimum)
Scope of Work (Provide an Outline of Proposed Work) Intensive archeological survey with surface and subsurface investigations as necessary based on field conditions (see attached scope of work).

III. CURATION & REPORT

Temporary Curatorial or Laboratory Facility Blanton & Associates, Inc.
Permanent Curatorial Facility Center for Archaeological Research-UT at San Antonio

IV. LAND OWNER'S CERTIFICATION

I, Judge Dan A. Gattis, as legal representative of the Land Owner, Williamson County, do certify that I have reviewed the plans and research design, and that no investigations will be preformed prior to the issuance of a permit by the Texas Historical Commission. Furthermore, I understand that the Owner, Sponsor, and Principal Investigator are responsible for completing the terms of the permit.

Signature _____ Date _____

V. SPONSOR'S CERTIFICATION

I, _____, as legal representative of the Sponsor, Williamson County, do certify that I have reviewed the plans and research design, and that no investigations will be performed prior to the issuance of a permit by the Texas Historical Commission. Furthermore, I understand that the Sponsor, Owner, and Principal Investigator are responsible for completing the terms of this permit.

Signature _____ Date _____

VI. INVESTIGATOR'S CERTIFICATION

I, Timothy B. Griffith, as Principal Investigator employed by Blanton & Associates, Inc. (Investigative Firm), do certify that I will execute this project according to the submitted plans and research design, and will not conduct any work prior to the issuance of a permit by the Texas Historical Commission. Furthermore, I understand that the Principal Investigator (and the Investigative Firm), as well as the Owner and Sponsor, are responsible for completing the terms of this permit.

Signature Timothy B Griffith Date 19 June 2014

Principal Investigator must attach a research design, a copy of the USGS quadrangle showing project boundaries, and any additional pertinent information. Curriculum vita must be on file with the Division of Antiquities Protection.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Reviewer _____ Date Permit Issues _____
Permit Number _____ Permit Expiration Date _____
Type of Permit _____ Date Received for Data Entry _____

Texas Historical Commission
Archeology Division
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276
Phone 512/463-6096
www.thc.state.tx.us

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
The State Agency for Historic Preservation

19 June 2014

TEXAS ANTIQUITIES PERMIT SCOPE OF WORK INTENSIVE ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY FOR THE PROPOSED WIDENING OF CR 110 FROM US 79 TO SAM HOUSTON AVENUE IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS

The proposed project will consist of an intensive archeological survey (as per 13 TAC 26.20 and 26.5) of 6.5 miles of proposed improvements along County Road (CR) 110 near the City of Hutto in Williamson County, Texas (**Figures 1 and 2**). Williamson County proposes to widen CR 110 from US 79 to CR 104 to Sam Houston Avenue. The proposed widening and construction of CR 110 would require the acquisition of 177.3 acres of additional right-of-way (ROW) and approximately 9.3 acres of additional easements.

Currently, CR 110 extends from US 79 to CR 104 and includes two travel lanes (one lane in each direction) ranging from 10 to 12-feet wide located within a variable ROW width (**Figure 3.1**). The proposed CR 110 roadway would extend from US 79 to Sam Houston Avenue and would ultimately include a six-lane divided roadway with six 11-foot wide lanes (three lanes in each direction), a 20-foot wide grass median, a 5-foot wide outside shoulder, and an 8-foot wide sidewalk in both directions . The proposed ROW would be 136-foot wide with an additional 30-foot proposed easement where required (**Figure 3.2**). The proposed project would also include the construction of two new bridges, one southbound and one northbound, on CR 110 over McNutt Creek. The proposed bridges would each consist of three 11-foot wide travel lanes with shared-use paths in both directions.

As the proposed construction would occur on property owned or administered by a political subdivision of the State of Texas (in this case Williamson County), the project is subject to the Antiquities Code of Texas, now subsumed in Title 13, Part II of the Texas Administrative Code. This legislation defines the necessary conditions for recognition and preservation of State Archeological Landmarks (SALs) and requires that any political subdivision of the State of Texas, defined as a "local governmental entity created and operating under the laws of this state, including a city, county, school district, or special district created under the Texas Constitution, Article III, §52(b)(1) or (2), or Article XVI, §59" in 13 TAC §26.5 of the code, must identify potential SALs through survey of public lands prior to actions that could potentially damage those sites.

All cultural resources discovered during the proposed archeological survey would be assessed for SAL designation and eligibility for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Based on the scope of the proposed project activities, it is the opinion of Blanton & Associates, Inc. (B&A) historian that the potential for the construction to adversely affect non-archeological historic resources is minimal.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed construction area is within the Blackland Prairie—a rolling upland grassland covering approximately 11.5 million acres from Grayson and Red River Counties in northeast Texas to Bexar County in the south−central region of the state. Elevations range from 300 to 800 feet above mean sea level. The Blackland Prairie is so named for the ubiquitous, dark-colored calcareous clays throughout the area (Jordan et al. 1984). The fertile and productive soils of this region have been used intensively for agriculture and pasture. As a result, largely undesirable forbs and short to medium-sized grasses have replaced most of the native tallgrass prairie. This change in vegetation patterns is exhibited in the proposed project area where land use is a mixture of agriculture (e.g., pastures), commercial, and residential.

Geology

Geology of the project area primarily consists of Upper Cretaceous Austin Chalk that consists of thick deposits of chalk and marl (Barnes, 1995). Given the age of the Upper Cretaceous deposits, which predate known human occupation in Texas, there is virtually no potential for them to contain intact buried archeological material, although surficial to shallowly buried, archeological material could be exposed on the ground surface. Holocene alluvium is mapped along the confluence of McNutt and Brushy Creeks at the southern end of the proposed project near US 79. Regionally, Holocene alluvium has consistently been shown to have a good potential for containing buried archeological deposits along local and regional drainages.

Soils

Soils within the project area corridor belong to the Austin-Houston-Black-Castephen soil map unit (Werchan and Coker 1983). These units consist of deep to shallow clay upland soils that formed *in situ* from ancient marine chalk on uplands. Sunev silty clay loam and Okalla silty clay loam are mapped at the confluence of McNutt and Brushy creeks within the proposed ROW. These soils formed along floodplains containing recent (Holocene) clayey alluvium (Werchan and Coker 1983). These soils have potential to contain buried archeological material.

PREVIOUS ARCHEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

B&A conducted a review of records available online from the THC's Texas Archeological Sites Atlas (TASA) on May 13, 2014 to determine the presence of previously recorded sites in or adjacent to the study area.

The online review revealed that no previously recorded sites occur within the existing or proposed ROWs or easements. There are eleven previously recorded within 1-mile of the proposed project area [redacted]

[redacted] Given the proximity to the project area this site will not be affected by the proposed construction.

Two previous surveys cross the proposed project area but did not locate any sites near the proposed construction. Extensive surveys between 2001 and 2003 for the proposed SH 130 corridor, which trends north to south, recorded numerous archeological sites. PBS&J recorded a total of 97 sites, eleven of which were recommended for further testing. Currently, none of these sites are located near the proposed project area along CR 110.

The online review indicated that several previous cultural resource investigations have been conducted near the project area. The earliest cultural resource investigation in the immediate area was conducted by the Soil Conservation Service in 1980 along Carmel Creek just west of FM 685 about 200 meters to the east-northeast of the FM 685 crossing of Brushy Creek. No archeological resources were discovered during the survey (Texas Archeological Sites Atlas, Williamson County files).

Located near University Blvd, the ROW is traversed by two linear surveys for Williamson County in 2004 and the Texas Department of Transportation in 2003 to 2004. No sites were recorded within the proposed CR 110 project area during either survey. The north end of the project area along Sam Houston Avenue was surveyed in 2010 by American Archeology Group, LLC. No archeological sites were recorded during this survey within the project area.

In 2003, archeologists conducted survey and test excavations at 41WM1010, [redacted]. Shovel testing, backhoe trenching, and test excavations exposed 14 lithic scatter and burned rock features. Artifact recovery was limited to lithic debitage, a few faunal remains, and burned rock (Karbula et al. 2004).

Also in 2003, archeologists surveyed a 90- to 100-foot wide corridor centered on CR 164 (Limmer Loop) as part of the proposed Hutto Bypass Project (Staples and Nash 2003). The 2003 investigations discovered no archeological resources along CR 164. In 2007, B&A performed an intensive archeological survey (with shovel testing and backhoe trenching) of proposed FM 685 right-of-way (ROW) (Young 2007). Those investigations discovered no prehistoric or historic archeological sites within the existing and proposed ROW, including the US 79/FM 685 intersection. A staked and recently excavated historic burial area was, however, observed approximately 15 feet west of the proposed FM 685 ROW's eastern edge and north of Brushy Creek. Given the distance of the former grave site to the planned construction along CR 110, there is no potential for project impacts.

METHODS AND REPORTING

B&A proposes to conduct an intensive 100 percent pedestrian survey of the existing and proposed ROWs and easements. Investigations will adhere to THC survey standards (n.d.), as well as the guidelines of the

Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA) (1987), and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines (NPS 1983).

Surface investigations will consist of a 100 percent inspection of the ground surface within the existing and proposed ROWs and easements. Given the proximity to McNutt and Brushy Creeks, it is B&A's opinion that the project area at these locations has a good potential for containing buried archeological material. As such, subsurface investigations will utilize backhoe trenching as necessary based on field conditions, e.g., presence of Holocene alluvium. It is also anticipated that existing utilities (e.g., buried and overhead telephone cables and gas lines) along CR 110 and possibly US 79 may preclude trenching in some locales. The Free Swedish Evangelical Church Cemetery is located within 25 ft. of the existing ROW east of CR 110. This cemetery dates from the late 19th century to modern times. Investigations for unmarked graves in this area will consist of backhoe trenching and scraping in select areas of the existing ROW east of CR 110. If any unmarked graves are encountered within the ROWs work will cease immediately and the B&A will contact the THC.

Excavated backhoe trenches will be approximately 5 meters (16.4 feet) long, 1.0 meter (3.3 feet) wide, and 1.5 meters (4.9 feet) deep. Following excavations, the archeologists will clean and examine trench walls to locate any *in situ* artifacts, features, and/or soil anomalies in the trench profiles. Stratigraphic units in each trench will be recorded and described in detail on a B&A geologic profile form, including a photographic record. Where trenching is not possible (e.g., no Right Of Entry or existing field conditions) but there is a good potential for buried archeological material, then subsurface investigations will focus on systematic shovel testing. Shovel tests will be a minimum of 30 x 30 centimeters in size and excavated with a spade or standard shovel in arbitrary 20-centimeter levels. All soil removed from the shovel tests will be screened through 0.25-inch wire mesh to ensure artifact recovery. All appropriate data will be recorded on a B&A shovel test form and each shovel test will be plotted with hand-held global positioning system (GPS) receivers.

All archeological sites discovered during fieldwork will be recorded on a Texas Archeological Site Data Form and then submitted electronically to Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) via the TEXSITE recording system. Site documentation will involve the recording of the horizontal and vertical extent of cultural deposits, a description of cultural materials noted within the site, and an overview of the site's environmental setting. Furthermore, sites will be evaluated for potential significance and eligibility for formal SAL designation. If that is not possible, further archeological investigations will be recommended to determine such eligibility, if any. All field investigations will be thoroughly photo-documented.

For any recorded archeological sites, the survey report will include a computer drafted site map utilizing topographic contours generated from a Digital Elevation Model (DEM) that will serve as a base map. Differentially-corrected site polygons, feature points/polygons, and diagnostic artifact point data (or polygons for artifact concentrations), as well as all relevant natural and man-made landscape features will be included. All published maps will conform to the THC's requirement that published site maps do not divulge the physical location of archeological sites to ensure their protection from artifact collectors and site looters.

The proposed archeological investigations will utilize a no-collection strategy. Diagnostic materials would be documented in the field and left in place. Field documentation of such artifacts, as well as any identified cultural features, would include detailed descriptions, locational data obtained with a handheld GPS receiver, and photo-documentation. If there is recovery of any rare or unusual cultural items from the project area, such materials, with the County's approval, would be held-in-trust and curated at the Center for Archeological Studies at Texas State University.

If cultural resources are discovered an intensive survey report will be produced in accordance with the full report guidelines as outlined by the THC's Rules of Practice and Procedures (as per Section 26.24), which refers to the CTA's Guidelines for Cultural Resource Management Reports. If no cultural resources are found the short report format will be followed. The report will contain background information on the proposed construction activity, archeological data from TARL site files, information from geologic maps, soil surveys, and a description of previous impacts affecting the integrity of known or potential archeological sites and deposits. The report will evaluate, to the extent feasible, the potential eligibility of archeological sites within the project area for formal SAL designation. An evaluation for the potential for intact archeological deposits will be made that concludes with recommendations for any additional archeological work. If further work is warranted, the recommendation will indicate where the additional work is needed and the scope of the work necessary.

A draft report will be submitted to THC for review. Following review of the draft report, all comments and edits will be addressed and the report will be finalized, with one unbound printed copy of the final report with the plotted location of any and all sites recorded, and two copies of a tagged PDF format of the report on an archival quality CD or DVD. One of the tagged PDF CD or DVD will include the plotted location of any and all sites recorded, and the other will not include the site location data to the THC as per the requirements of the Antiquities Permit (CTA 1987).

REFERENCES CITED

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1995 *Geologic Atlas of Texas, Austin Sheet*. Bureau of Economic Geology, The University of Texas at Austin.

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Jordan, T. G., J. L. Bean, and W. M. Holmes
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Karbula, J. W., J. H. Jarvis, W. B. Law, J. A. Campbell, and C. Caran
2004 *Additional Archeological Survey and Testing Site 41WM1010 at Brushy Creek, Williamson County, Texas CSJ#0440-05-005*. Series 141, Hicks & Company, Inc. Austin, Texas

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1983 Archeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of the Interior's Standard's and Guidelines. *Federal Register* 48 (190):44734-44742.

Staples, G., and S. R. Nash
2003 *An Archeological Survey of the Hutto Bypass Project, Williamson County Texas*. Number 34, Archeological and Cultural Sciences Group. Spicewood, Texas.

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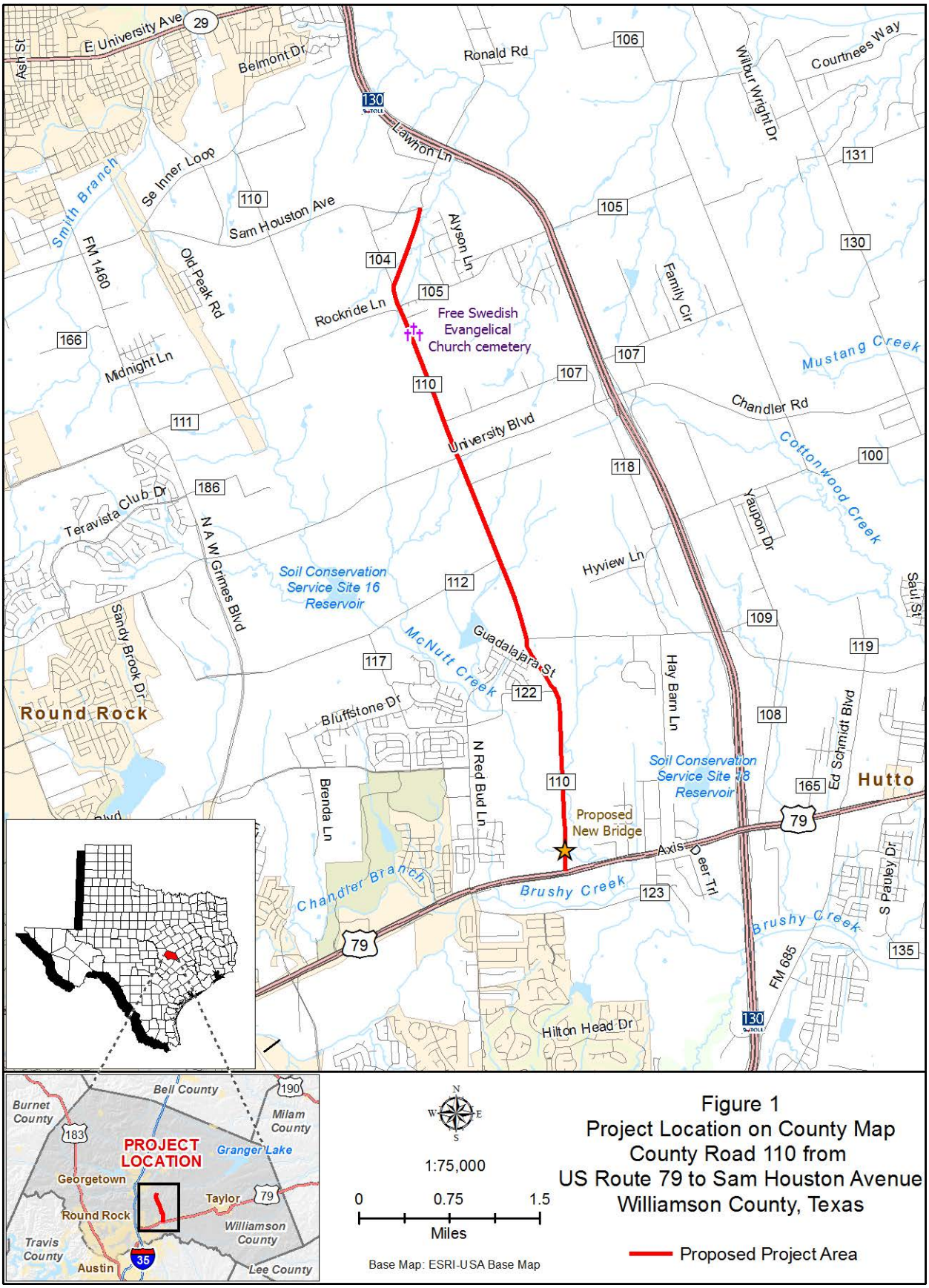
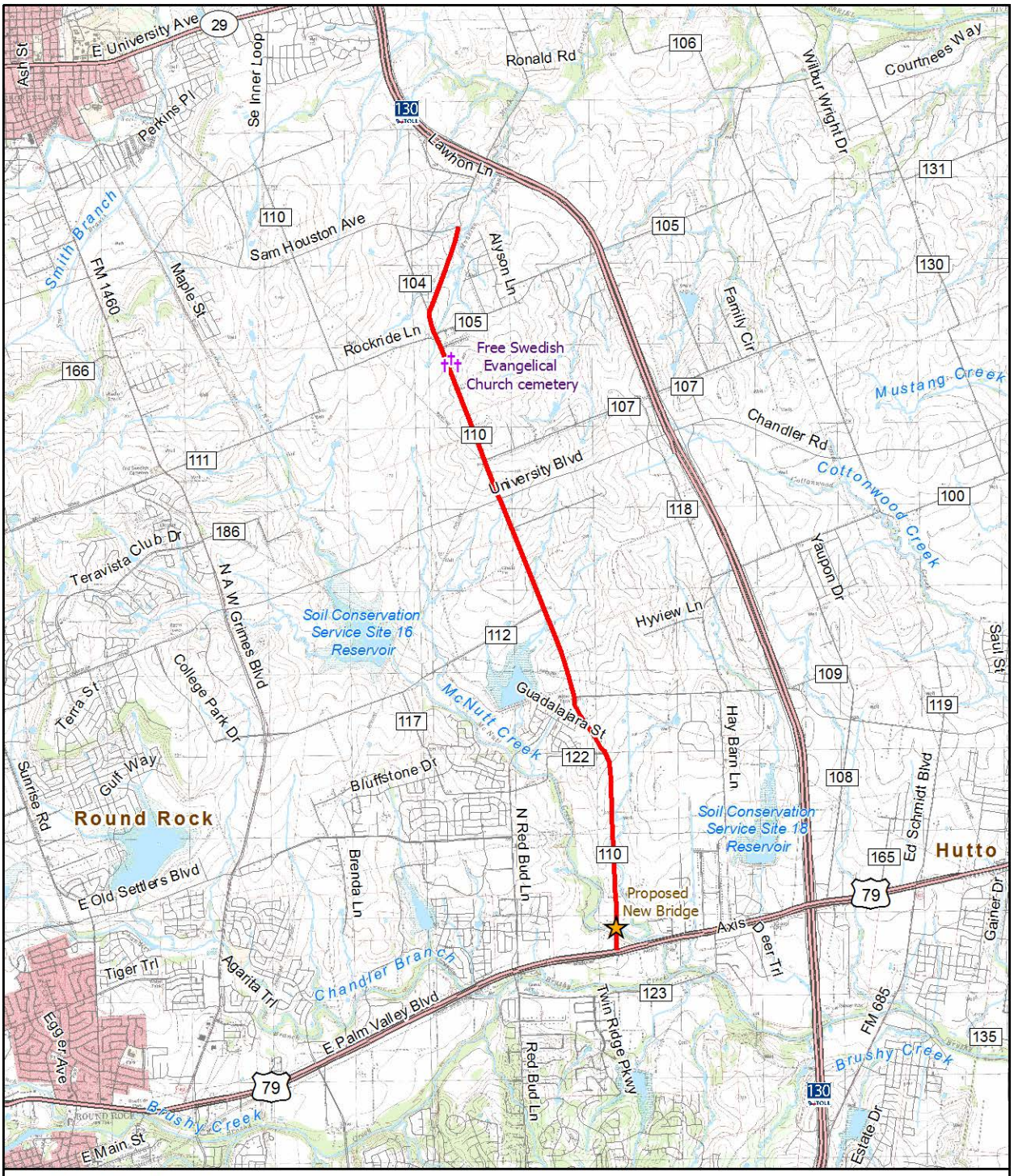
n.d. Survey Standards. Austin.

Werchan, L.E. and Coker, J.L.
1983 *Soil Survey of Williamson County, Texas*. United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

Young, B. S.
2007 *Archeological Investigations for Roadway Widening and Bridge Replacement Construction on FM 685 between US 79 and SH 130, Williamson County, Texas*. Blanton & Associates, Inc. Austin, Texas.


E University Ave
29
Ash St
Belmont Dr
Ronald Rd
106
Courtnees Way
Wilbur Wright Dr
130
Lawhon Ln
131
Smith Branch
Se Inner Loop
110
Sam Houston Ave
105
Alyson Ln
130
FM 1460
Old Peak Rd
104
Family Cir
105
Rockride Ln
Free Swedish Evangelical Church cemetery
166
Midnight Ln
107
Mustang Creek
107
110
Chandler Rd
111
University Blvd
Cottonwood Creek
100
118
Teravista Club Dr
186
Yaupon Dr
N A W Grimes Blvd
Soil Conservation Service Site 16 Reservoir
Hyview Ln
112
Saul St
Sandy Brook Dr
109
McNutt Creek
Guadalajara St
119
117
Round Rock
122
Bluffstone Dr
Hay Barn Ln
108
N Red Bud Ln
Soil Conservation Service Site 18 Reservoir
Ed Schmidt Blvd
Hutto
165
Brenda Ln
110
Proposed New Bridge
79
Axis Deer Trl
Chandler Branch
Brushy Creek
123
S Pauley Dr
Brushy Creek
79
135
FM 685
130
Hilton Head Dr
Bell County
190
Burnet County
Milam County
183
PROJECT LOCATION
Granger Lake
Georgetown
Taylor
79
Round Rock
Williamson County
Travis County
Austin
35
Lee County
N
W
E
S
1:75,000
0
0.75
1.5
Miles
Base Map: ESRI-USA Base Map
Figure 1
Project Location on County Map
County Road 110 from
US Route 79 to Sam Houston Avenue
Williamson County, Texas
Proposed Project Area



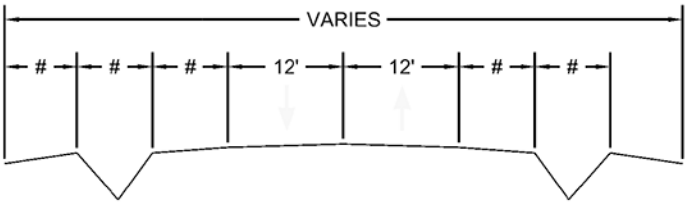
Base Map: ESRI-USA Base Map
7.5' USGS Topographic Quadrangles:
Hutto, Texas (1982, Map ID No. 30097-E5)
Round Rock, Texas (1982, Map ID No. 30097-E6)
Weir, Texas (1982, Map ID No. 30097-F5)
Georgetown, Texas (1982, Map ID No. 30097-F6)

Proposed Project Area

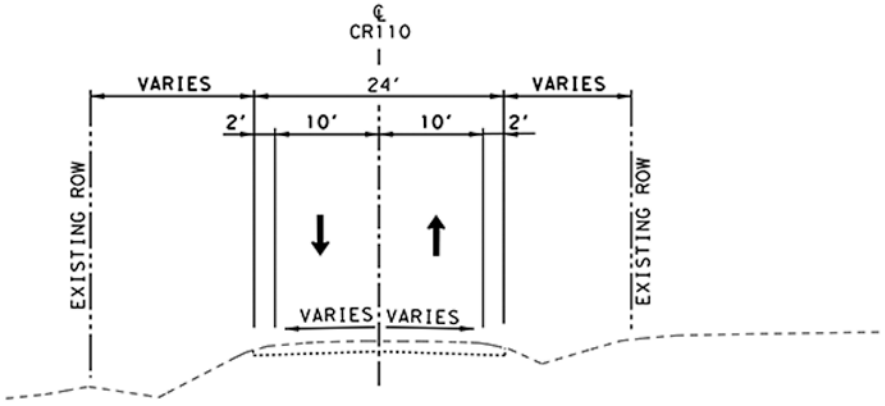
1:75,000

0 0.75 1.5
Miles

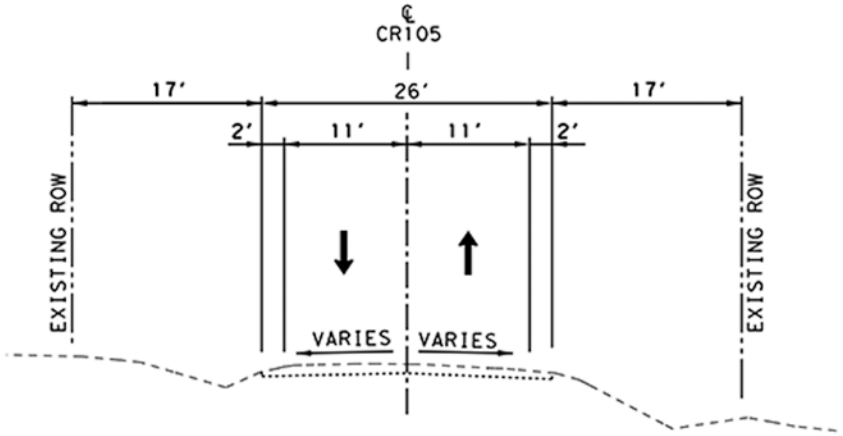
Figure 2
Project Location on Topographic Base
County Road 110 from
US Route 79 to Sam Houston Avenue
Williamson County, Texas



EXISTING CR 110 TYPICAL SECTION



EXISTING CR 110 TYPICAL SECTION



EXISTING CR 105 TYPICAL SECTION

Figure 3.1
Existing Typical Sections
County Road 110 from
US Route 79 to Sam Houston Avenue
Williamson County, Texas

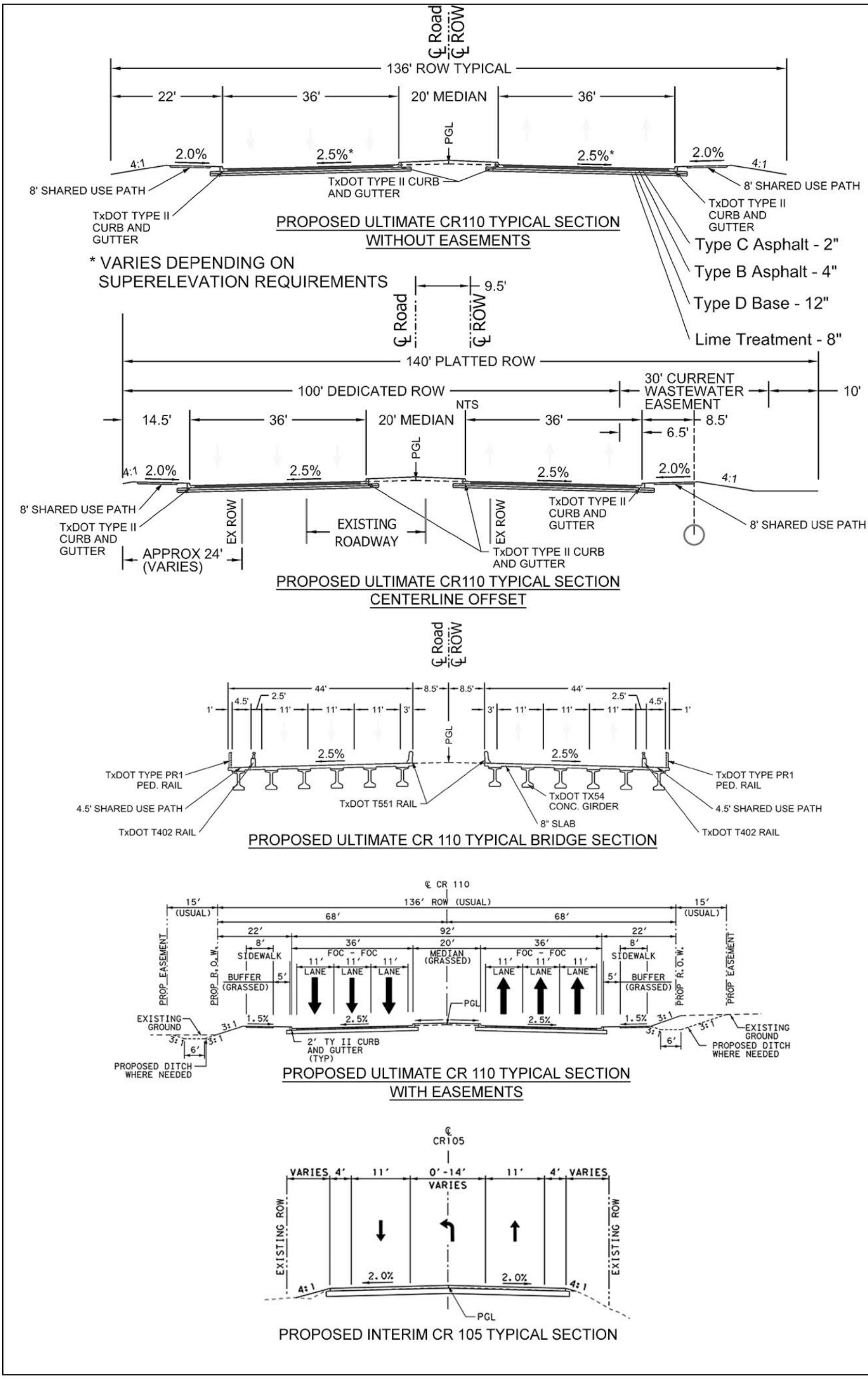


Figure 3.2
Proposed Typical Sections
County Road 110 from
US Route 79 to Sam Houston Avenue
Williamson County, Texas