

ANTIQUITIES PERMIT APPLICATION FORM

ARCHEOLOGY

GENERAL INFORMATION

I. PROPERTY TYPE AND LOCATION

Project Name (and/or Site Trinomial) Survey of the CR 366 Improvement Project from FM 397 (Carlos G. Parker Boulevard) to Chandler Road

County (ies) Williamson

USGS Quadrangle Name and Number Taylor

Federal Involvement ☒ Yes ☐ No

Name of Federal Agency USACE, Fort Worth

Agency Representative Jimmy Barrera

II. OWNER (OR CONTROLLING AGENCY)

Owner Williamson County

Representative Judge Bill Gravell, Jr., County Judge

Address 710 Main St., Suite 101

City/State/Zip Georgetown, TX 78626

Telephone (include area code) (512) 943-1550 Email Address bgravell@wilco.org

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 David Sherman

Affiliation Blanton & Associates Inc

Address 5 Lakeway Centre Court, Suite 200

City/State/Zip Austin, TX 78734

Telephone (include area code) 512-264-1095 Email Address David.sherman@blantonassociates.com

(OVER)

ANTIQUITIES PERMIT APPLICATION FORM (CONTINUED)

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Proposed Starting Date of Fieldwork 2020
Requested Permit Duration 5 Years 0 Months (1 year minimum)
Scope of Work (Provided an Outline of Proposed Work) Attached

III. CURATION & REPORT

Temporary Curatorial or Laboratory Facility Blanton & Associates Lab
Permanent Curatorial Facility CAR UTSA (Paperwork only)

IV. LAND OWNER'S CERTIFICATION

I, Judge Dan 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 performed 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, _____, do certify that I have review 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, David Sherman, as Principal Investigator employed by Blanton & Associates (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 [Signature] Date 07/14/2020

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 Archeology Division.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

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



July 14, 2020

SCOPE OF WORK
INTENSIVE ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE
CR 366 (OLD GEORGETOWN ROAD) WIDENING PROJECT
FROM FM 397 (CARLOS G. PARKER BOULEVARD) TO CHANDLER ROAD,
WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Williamson County proposes to widen County Road (CR) 366 from Farm-to-Market (FM) 397 (Carlos G. Parker Boulevard) to Chandler Road for approximately 1.3 miles in Williamson County, Texas. **Figures 1 and 2** in the **Appendix** depict the project location on county map base and topographic map base, respectively.

The existing CR 366 roadway consists of two 10-foot-wide lanes, one in each direction, with a two-foot-wide shoulder. The existing Chandler Road consists of two 10-foot-wide lanes, one in each direction, with 10-foot-wide shoulders. The existing right-of-way (ROW) is approximately 21.77 acres.

The proposed improvements to CR 366 would include widening the roadway to include two 12-foot-wide lanes in each direction divided by a 14-foot-wide two-way left turn lane. The roadway would be flanked by 10-foot-wide shoulders.

The proposed improvements to Chandler Road would include widening the roadway to include one 12-foot-wide lane in each direction divided by a 14-foot-wide left turn lane. An additional 12-foot-wide lane would be constructed in each direction near the CR 366 intersection to accommodate for turning movements. The roadway would be flanked by 4- to 10-foot-wide shoulders.

Approximately 13.55 acres of proposed ROW and 0.123 acres of temporary/driveway construction license would be required for the proposed project. No displacements of existing residences or businesses are anticipated.

Definition of the Area of Potential Effects

The project's horizontal area of potential effects (APE) for archeological resources corresponds with the existing and proposed ROW (approximately 1.3 miles long and between 44 and 195 feet wide), totalling approximately 35.44 acres (21.77 acres of existing ROW, 13.55 acres of proposed ROW, and 0.123 acre of temporary/driveway construction license). Based on project plans, the vertical APE for the project would be the maximum depth of impacts of approximately 3 feet in areas of widening/new pavement and 10 feet in drainage ditches. No drainage easements are anticipated.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A background review of data extracted from area topographic, soils, and geology maps was conducted. The locations of previous archeological surveys and locations of recorded archeological sites within 1 kilometer (km) (0.6 mile) of the APE were sought through a review of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC's) Online restricted-access Archeological Sites Atlas (Atlas). Additionally, this review sought the following types of information on the Atlas: National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) properties, State Antiquities Landmarks (SALs), Official Texas Historical Markers (OTHMs), Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks (RTHLs), and cemeteries. A 1963 aerial photograph and a 1966 U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographical quadrangle map of the APE were consulted to identify historical structures, which may or may not be extant, that may represent high probability areas for the presence of historic archeological sites (otherwise known as Historic High Probability Areas, or HHPAs) (Nationwide Environmental Title Research [NETR] 2019).

Topography

The APE is located within the Blackland Prairies physiographic region (Bureau of Economic Geology [BEG] 1996). The topography of the Blackland Prairies generally consists of low rolling terrain with geologic beds tilted south and east and bedrock consisting of chalks and marls (BEG 1996). The elevation in this region ranges between 450 feet and 1,000 feet above mean sea level. The APE is situated within the Floodplains and Low Terraces ecoregion of the Blackland Prairies (Griffith et al. 2004). This ecoregion includes the Holocene alluvial deposits within the floodplains of the largest rivers in the region and excludes the older high terraces (Griffith et al. 2004). The area surrounding the APE is defined by agricultural/ranching properties with associated residences. The APE crosses two seasonal headwater drainages of Bull Branch Creek.

Based on site distributional data from archeological work within Central Texas conducted over the past 55 years, archeological sites within this setting are often found in the open, along bluffs, in rockshelters and caves (Collins 2004:103), and particularly in the vicinity of natural freshwater sources like streams or springs, along terraces, and topographic high spots.

Geology

The APE crosses one geologic unit, Pleistocene-aged high gravel (Qhg) (BEG 1982). Within the region of the APE, Qhg deposits typically are composed of an upper silty clay unit and a lower coarse unit. These deposits have some potential to harbor buried Paleoindian archeological material.

Soils

Three soil types are present within the APE and include: Burleson clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes; Branyon clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes; and, Krum silty clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes. The solum depth for these soils ranges from 103 centimeters (cm) to more than 200 cm (Soil Survey Geographical Database 2019). These soils

are derived from Pleistocene-aged clayey alluvial deposits. These soils have some potential to harbor buried Paleoindian archeological materials.

Austin Hybrid Potential Archeological Liability Map (HPALM)

According to the Austin HPALM data, the following predictive scores for prehistoric archeological site integrity occur within the APE (**Figure 3** in the **Appendix**).

- 1 = low potential
- 2 = low shallow potential, moderate potential at depth (>1 meter)
- 5 = moderate potential
- 6 = moderate shallow potential, high potential at depth
- 9 = high potential

Discussion of Previous Work and Sites

A search of the Atlas on September 18, 2019 revealed that no portions of the APE have been subjected to previous archeological investigation and no investigations have taken place within 1 km of the APE. This search also revealed no previously recorded archeological sites, cemeteries, RTHLs, OTHMs, SALs, NRHP districts, nor NRHP properties are present within 1 km of the APE. The 1963 aerial photograph of the APE depicted four structures within 10 m of the APE, one of which was located within 10 m of the proposed ROW (**Figure 4** in the **Appendix**). These structures are no longer extant. Three of the four structures have been thoroughly altered by highway construction. However, archeological deposits associated with the former structures may be present in the vicinity of the former structures and are considered HHPAs. Due to the absence of any permanent waterways within the APE, it is not considered to be a prehistoric high probability area.

Description of Existing Disturbances

Much of the APE coincides with existing operational ROW for CR 366, such that roadway construction (road cut and fill sections, pilings, etc.) has disturbed potential archeological deposits. The portion of the APE within the proposed ROW and the temporary/driveway construction license do not appear to have been as significantly impacted by previous roadway construction and is presumed to be relatively less disturbed. The installation of subsurface and overhead utilities has likely had some negative impact to portions of the proposed ROW.

RESEARCH DESIGN

B&A proposes to conduct intensive archeological survey of portions of the APE defined as proposed ROW and temporary/driveway construction license. This investigation would consist of systematic inspection of the ground surface by two archeologists along pedestrian transects spaced at no more than 98-feet (30-m) intervals to search for surficial evidence of archeological sites in areas not previously disturbed by roadway construction or installation of buried and overhead utilities. Pedestrian survey will be supplemented with systematic shovel testing in the vicinity of the single HHPA that is within 10 m of proposed ROW and

judgmental shovel testing within the remainder of the proposed ROW to identify any subsurface archeological deposits.

All 30-cm diameter shovel tests will be excavated in arbitrary 20-cm levels to 1 m in depth or culturally sterile sediments, whichever occurs first. Sand dominated sediment removed from shovel tests will be screened through 0.25-inch (0.63 cm) hardware cloth, while clay dominated sediments will be finely divided by hand. The location of each shovel test will be acquired using a hand-held global positioning system (GPS) receiver that is accurate to within 1 m. The GPS device will also be used to record soil descriptions and any cultural materials, if present, of each shovel test.

Survey will be conducted within portions of the APE where right of entry (ROE) has been granted at the time of survey. If ROE is not granted at the time of survey, investigators will attempt to assess the APE from the existing ROW and will make recommendations regarding the necessity of further survey.

All field investigations will be carried out prior to the proposed roadway improvements in order to identify any potential archeological historic properties within the APE that may be affected by the undertaking. All survey methods will comply with applicable standards outlined and defined in 13 TAC 26.15 and policies of the THC, as well as guidelines of the Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA), or plausible justification for deviation from these standards will be explicitly provided in the draft report.

If cultural materials or indications of an archeological site are discovered, systematic shovel tests within the proposed ROW may be excavated surrounding the initial find to delineate the horizontal and vertical extent of the site. The site will be recorded on a State of Texas Archeological Site Data Form; a site sketch map will be drafted, and photos of the site will be taken. This form will be submitted to the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory and a trinomial will be obtained. Each archeological site documented as a result of the survey will be evaluated according to published eligibility criteria for inclusion in the NRHP or designation as an SAL.

Artifacts, if encountered, will not be collected during survey but will be sufficiently described and photographed in the field for further analysis. All survey records including photographs will be processed for curation at the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) at The University of Texas at San Antonio according to CAR's *Standards and Procedures for the Preparation of Archaeological Collections, Records, and Photographs* (n.d.).

Although not anticipated within the APE, if intentional human burials (historic-age or prehistoric) are encountered during the survey, the find will be secured and B&A will notify Williamson County. In addition, the THC will be consulted to ensure work continues in accordance with provisions of the Texas Health and Safety Code Title 8 (c), Chapter 711, as amended, and associated regulations (13 TAC 22).

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Following fieldwork, a report of findings will be generated in accordance with standards for reports relating to archeological permits (13 TAC 26.16), guidelines of the CTA for cultural resources management reports. This report will include discussion of the results of the field investigations, a list of any of identified sites,

eligibility recommendations for each site, and the criteria under which the sites were evaluated. The report will also include recommendations for further work or no further work with appropriate justifications based on the requirements of 13 TAC 26.15 and defined in 13 TAC 26.10. The report will also include the locations of each shovel test, recorded site locations, and specify land ownership for these areas.

A copy of the draft report will be submitted to Williamson County and the THC for review and comment. A shapefile of the project location will also be submitted to the THC. Upon concurrence with the draft report, a final unbound copy will be submitted to the THC in partial fulfillment of permit requirements. The unbound copy of the final report will contain at least one map with the plotted location of any and all recorded sites. A CD or DVD that contains two copies (one copy that includes site locations and one that does not) of a tagged PDF format of the report will also be submitted to the THC. A copy of the final report will accompany all survey records and photographs to CAR for curation.

REFERENCES CITED

Atlas

- 2019 Texas Online Restricted Access Archeological Sites Atlas.
<https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/Account/Login?Length=5>. Accessed September 2019. Texas Historical Commission, Austin, Texas.

Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG)

- 1982 Geologic Atlas of Texas, Austin Sheet. Bureau of Economic Geology, University of Texas at Austin.
- 1996 Physiographic Map of Texas. Bureau of Economic Geology, University of Texas at Austin.

Center for Archaeological Research (CAR)

- n.d. *Standards and Procedures for the Preparation of Archaeological Collections, Records, and Photographs*. The University of Texas at San Antonio

Collins, Michael B.

- 2004 Archeology in Central Texas. In *The Prehistory of Texas*, edited by Timothy K. Pertulla, pp. 101-126. Texas A&M University Press, College Station.

Griffith, G. E., S.A. Bryce, J.M. Omernik, J.A. Comstock, A.C. Rogers, B. Harrison, S.L. Hatch, D. Bezanson

- 2004 Ecoregions of Texas. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Corvallis, OR.

Nationwide Environmental Title Research (NETR)

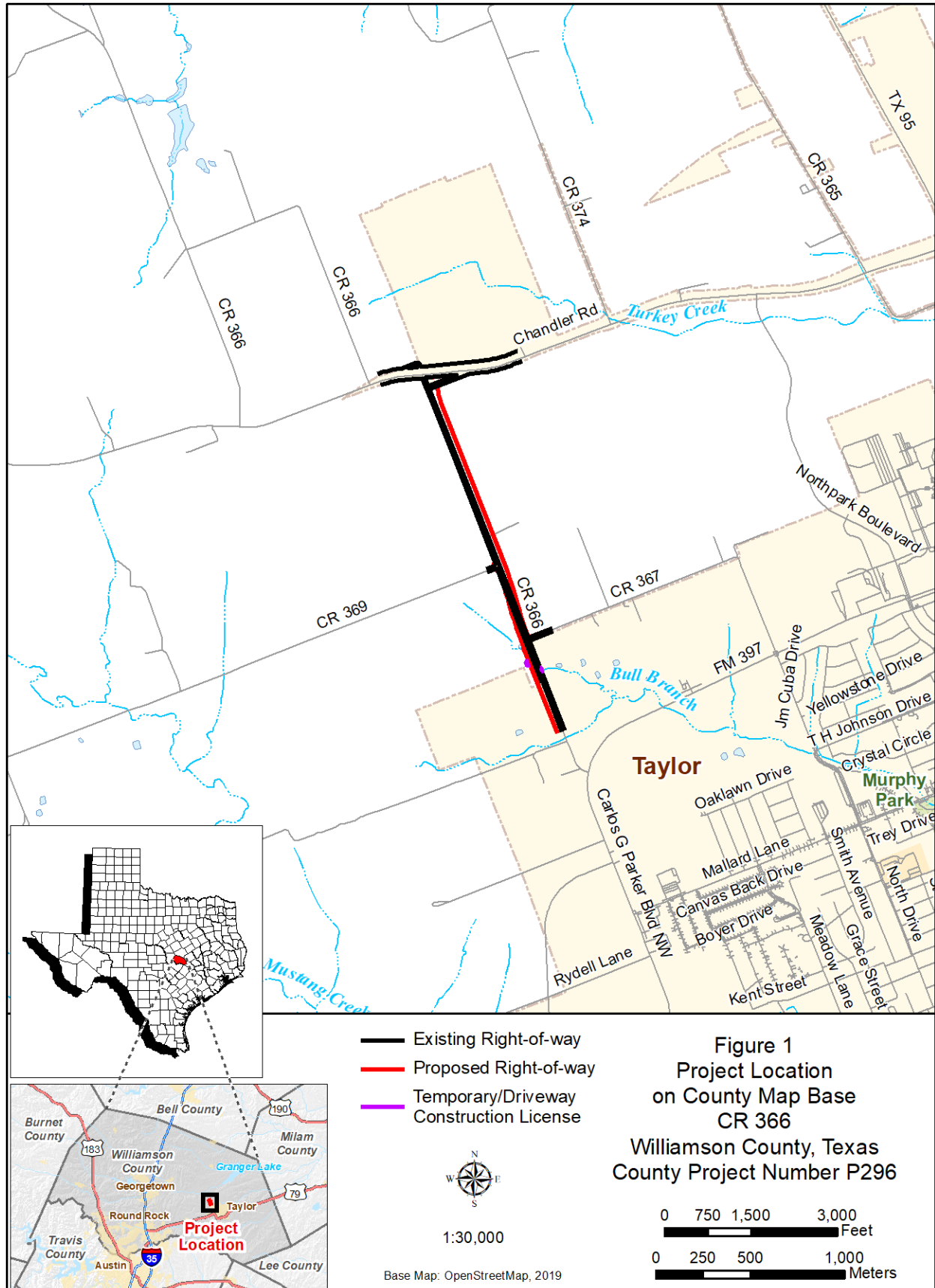
- 2019 Nationwide Environmental Title Research (NETR) LLC. Historic Aerials. A website.
<http://www.historicaerials.com/> (accessed September 20, 2019).

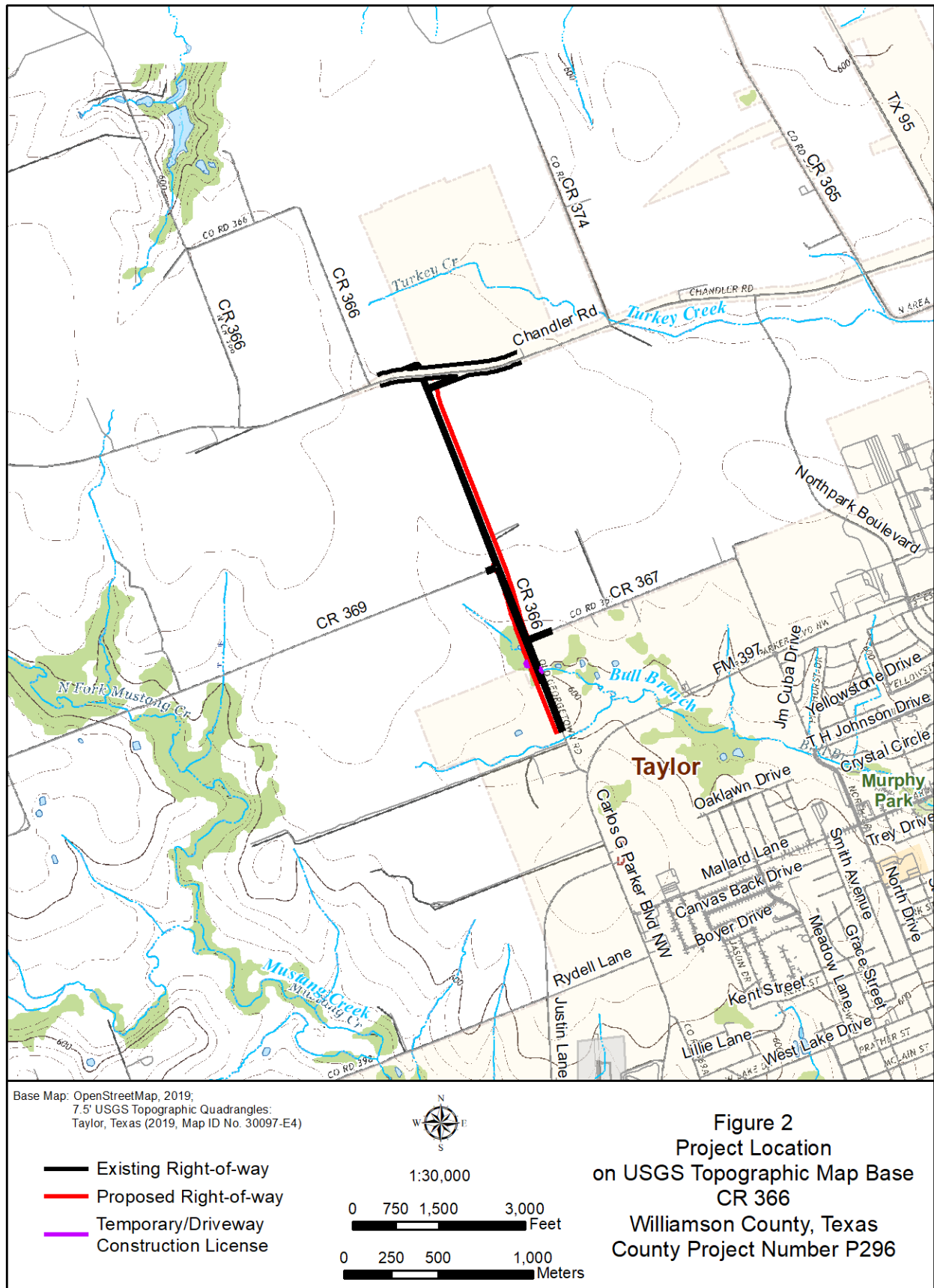
Soil Survey Geographical Database

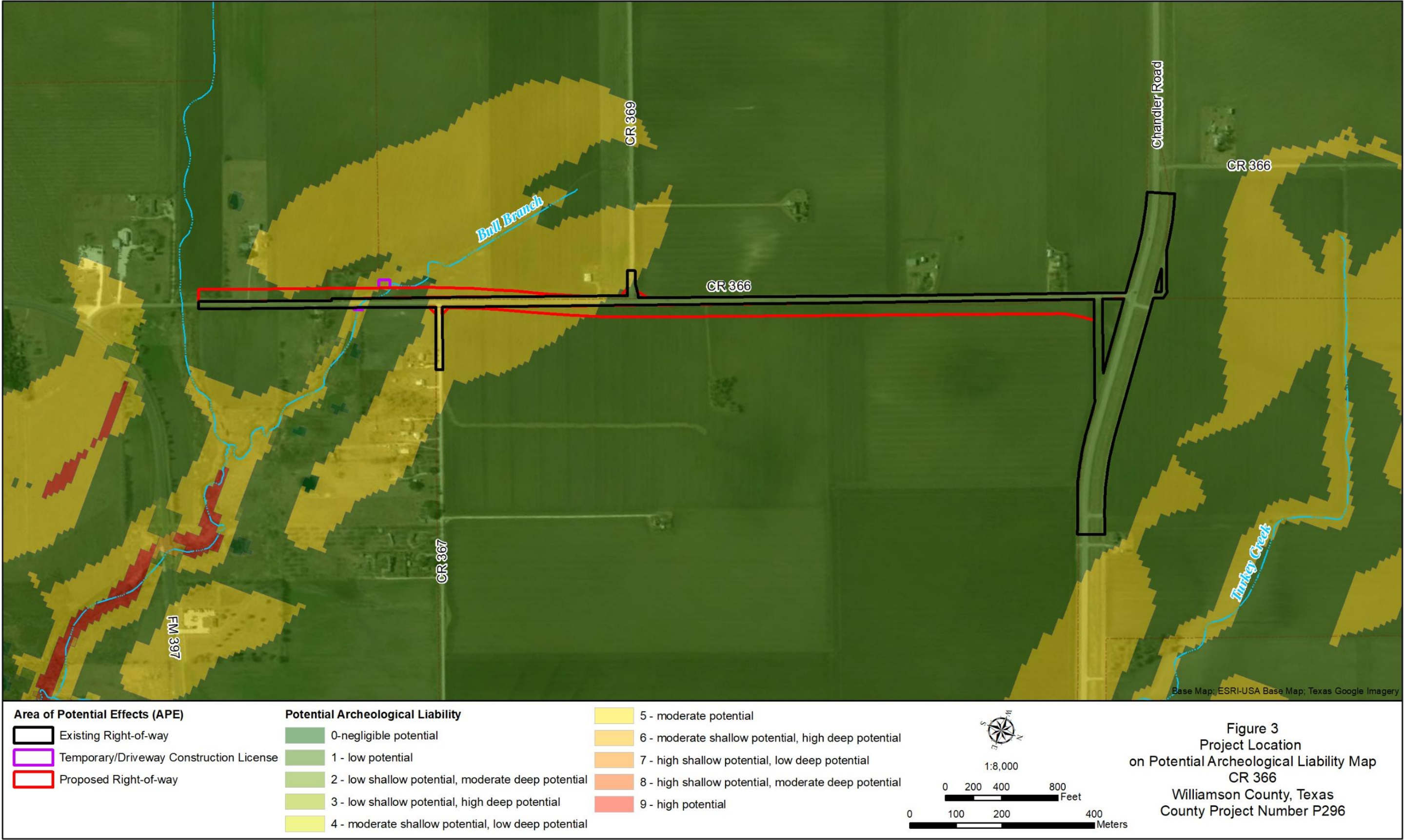
- 2019 Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture. Soil Survey Geographic Database for Bexar County, Texas. Available online. Accessed September 11, 2019.

APPENDIX

Figures









Base Map: ESRI-USA Base Map; Texas Google Imagery

Area of Potential Effects (APE)

- Existing Right-of-way
- Proposed Right-of-way
- Temporary/Driveway Construction License

● Historic High Probability Area

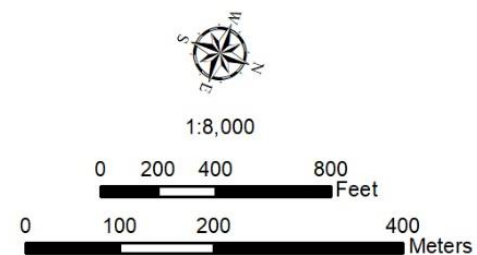


Figure 4
Project Area
and Historic High Probability Areas
CR 366
Williamson County, Texas
County Project Number P296