

ANTIQUITIES PERMIT APPLICATION FORM ARCHEOLOGY

GENERAL INFORMATION

I. PROPERTY TYPE AND LOCATION

Project Name (and/or Site Trinomial) Intensive Archeological Survey for Improvements to Sam Bass Road between Ranch-to-Market Road 1431 and Wyoming Springs Drive, Williamson County, Texas
 County (ies) Williamson County
 USGS Quadrangle Name and Number Round Rock and Leander (3097-312 and 3097-321)
 UTM Coordinates (approximate) Zone 14R E 618913-622590 N 3379709-3378296
 Location Along Sam Bass Road/CR1384 in northwest Round Rock, south-central Williamson County, Texas
 Federal Involvement Yes No
 Name of Federal Agency N/A
 Agency Representatives N/A

II. OWNER (OR CONTROLLING AGENCY)

Owner Williamson County
 Representative Judge Bill Gravell, Jr.
 Address 710 S. Main Street
 City/State/Zip Georgetown, Texas, 78626
 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 David Sandrock, MA, RPA
 Affiliation Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting, Inc.
 Address 8401 Shoal Creek Boulevard, Suite 100
 City/State/Zip Austin, Texas 78757
 Telephone (include area code) (512) 338-2223 Email Address dauids@coxmcclain.com

(OVER)

ANTIQUITIES PERMIT APPLICATION FORM (CONTINUED)

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Proposed Starting Date of Fieldwork February 14, 2019
Requested Permit Duration 5 Years 0 Months (1 year minimum)
Scope of Work (Provided an Outline of Proposed Work) pedestrian survey with shovel testing (see attached research design)

III. CURATION & REPORT

Temporary Curatorial or Laboratory Facility Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting, Inc.
Permanent Curatorial Facility Center for Archeological Studies (CAS) at Texas State University

IV. OWNER'S CERTIFICATION

I, Judge Bill Gravell, Jr., as legal representative of the 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, Co-owner, and Principal Investigator are responsible for completing the terms of this permit.

Signature _____ Date _____

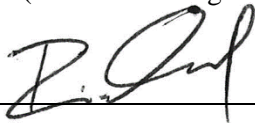
V. SPONSOR'S CERTIFICATION

I, _____, as legal representative of the Sponsor, _____, 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 _____

VI. INVESTIGATOR'S CERTIFICATION

I, David Sandrock, as Principal Investigator employed by Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting, 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  Date January 28, 2019

Principal Investigator must attach a research design, a copy of the USGS quadrangle showing project boundaries, and any additional pertinent information. Curriculum vitae 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 _____

ARCHEOLOGICAL INTENSIVE SURVEY SCOPE

Intensive Archeological Survey for Improvements to Sam Bass Road between Ranch-to-Market Road 1431 and Wyoming Springs Drive, Williamson County, Texas

Project Description

The purpose of the investigation described in this document is to identify archeological resources within the footprint of the proposed Williamson County study of Corridor H – Sam Bass Road between Ranch-to-Market (RM) 1431 and Wyoming Springs Drive in northwest Round Rock in south central Williamson County (**Figure 1**). As a part of their Long-Range Transportation Plan, this corridor study will identify opportunities to enhance safety and mobility and use public input to develop a plan that is in line with community needs. One of the primary purposes of this project is to accommodate current and anticipated future traffic levels to provide reliable transportation as Williamson County continues to grow. These improvements are located along Sam Bass Road, spanning approximately 2.56 miles or 4.12 kilometers.

The proposed project would include widening the existing Sam Bass Road to accommodate additional travel lanes and a 10-foot shared-use path. The shared-use path is proposed north of Sam Bass Road from RM 1431 to east of Tonkawa Trail. Right-of-way would be acquired from either side of the roadway. Several cross-drainage culverts would need to be extended to accommodate any additional pavement width. The project would consist of 25.679 acres of existing right-of-way and 14.356 acres of proposed right-of-way for a total of 40.035 acres. The archeological area of potential effects (APE), or area that would be disturbed or affected by the proposed project, is the entire 40.035 acre-footprint (**Figures 2 and 3**).

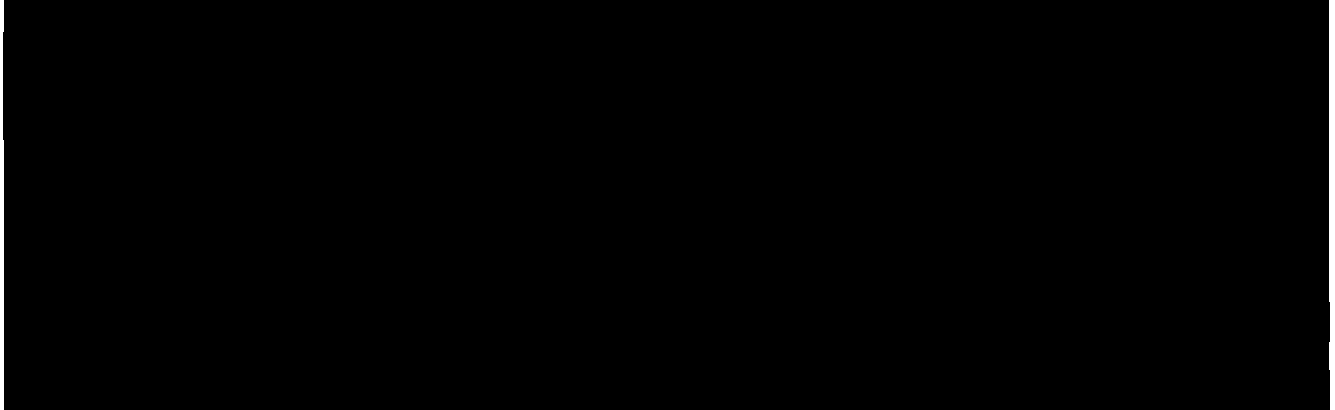
The project is owned and funded by Williamson County, rendering the project subject to the Antiquities Code of Texas; no federal funding or oversight is expected, so the project is not subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Background Information

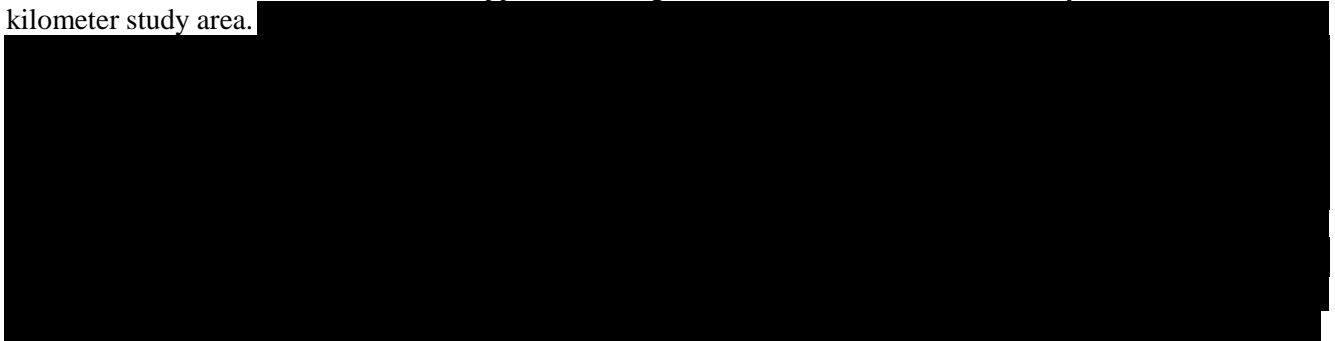
The 40.035-acre (16.201-hectare) project is situated at elevations ranging from 788 to 865 feet (240 to 263 meters) in the Balcones Canyonland subregion of the Edwards Plateau ecoregion of Texas (Griffith et al. 2004). The Edwards Plateau is a dissected plateau with a sparse network of perennial streams and extensive karst topography.

The geology in this area is dominated by undivided Early Cretaceous Edwards and Comanche Peak Limestones (US Geological Survey [USGS] 2019a). The soils mapped in the area include Crawford clay on 0 to 1 and 1 to 3 percent slopes, Denton silty clay on 1 to 3 percent slopes, Eckrant extremely stony clay and cobbly clay on 0 to 3 percent and 1 to 8 percent slopes, respectively, and Georgetown clay loam and stony clay loam on 0 to 2 percent and 1-3 percent slopes, respectively (Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS] 2019). Crawford soils are moderately deep, well drained, and very slowly permeable sediments that formed in clayey parent material underlain by indurated limestone bedrock and are found on broad nearly level or gently sloping uplands. The Denton soils are deep, well drained, and slowly permeable that formed in clayey parent materials over residuum weathered from limestone bedrock and are found on backslopes and footslopes of ridges. Eckrant soils are shallow, well drained, moderately slowly permeable and formed in residuum from limestone and occur on summits, shoulders, and backslopes of ridges on dissected plains. Georgetown soils are moderately deep, well drained, and very slowly permeable sediments formed over indurated limestone and found on nearly level to very gently sloping dissected plains. Generally, soils in close proximity to the current road surface and within existing right-of-way are likely to be heavily disturbed by road and utility construction and maintenance. However, proposed new right-of-way may contain relatively undisturbed soils.

A search of the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas (Atlas) maintained by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) was conducted in order to identify archeological sites, historical markers (Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks), properties or districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places, State Antiquities Landmarks, cemeteries, or other cultural resources that may have been previously recorded in or near the APE, as well as previous surveys undertaken in the area. A larger 1-kilometer (0.62-mile) study area around the APE was also examined.



As mentioned above, there are seven mapped archeological sites and one historic cemetery located within the 1-kilometer study area.



There are seven markers in the cemetery: four members of the Gilreath family, two Clanton family members, and one Cook family member. All of the graves date between 1858 and 1885 (Tipton 2019).

Historic topographic maps and aerial imagery were also reviewed to examine how the project locale and surrounding area have been used over time. Reviewed materials include historic topographic maps from the years 1893, 1928, 1945, 1949, 1951, 1954, 1967, 1974, 1982, 1985, 1987, 2013, and 2016 (National Environmental Title Research [NETR] 2019; USGS 2019b) and aerial imagery from the years 1954, 1962, 1973, 1985, 1995, 2002-2006, 2008, and 2010-2018 (Google Earth™ Pro 2019; NETR 2019).

The earliest topographic map reviewed (Georgetown 1:125,000 quadrangle map; 1893) shows this area as completely undeveloped with the exception of a roadway in the project vicinity and orientation as current Sam Bass Road. Subsequent early maps show the road, labeled Leander Road (now Sam Bass Road), and the general project area to be completely undeveloped with no structures depicted until 1945 when less than five are extant along the roadway. By 1982, some residential development had begun along the south side of Leander Road (Sam Bass Road), but was still very sparse, and a quarry was noted between the roadway and Dry Brushy Creek. By 1987, extensive residential occupation had occurred south of the road, including over the former quarry, and the first appearance of FM 1431 at the north terminus extends east beyond Sam Bass Road (old Leander Road).

The available aerial imagery mirrors the topographic maps very closely. The earliest imagery sets (1954, 1962, and 1973) indicate that the area was undeveloped but the quarry between Leander Road (Sam Bass Road) and Dry Brushy Creek is shown in early stages with some smaller roads connecting it to Leander Road (Sam Bass Road) is apparent on the 1973 imagery.

Known and perceived disturbances within the APE include those associated with roadway construction and maintenance, installation of overhead and underground utilities, contoured and/or excavated drainages, ingress/egress driveways, and clear cutting of vegetation. These types of disturbances are evident on aerial imagery of the project area and were observed during an initial environmental constraints field visit, when the existing Sam Bass right-of-way was found to be heavily disturbed.

Most of the APE falls within the existing, disturbed Sam Bass Road right-of-way, and the majority of the APE has not been subjected to previous archeological survey. Although the site boundary of 41WM721 extends within the proposed project's APE, the site was determined to be ineligible for listing on the NRHP or as a SAL. Further, recent aerial imagery indicates that the portion of this site within the current project's APE has very likely been destroyed by construction of the existing Sam Bass Road and Wyoming Springs Drive roadway and right-of-way.

In December 2018, a background letter was prepared for the THC. For the 25.679-acre portion of the APE that is within existing right-of-way, no further work was recommended. However, the acquisition of roughly 14.356 acres of proposed new right-of-way is planned along the APE. These areas are largely unsurveyed and appear to be relatively undisturbed in aerial imagery. Therefore, an archeological survey augmented by judgmental shovel testing was recommended for the 14.356 acres of proposed new right-of-way, and pedestrian inspection was recommended for the 25.679 acres of existing right-of-way (**Figure 4**). The THC concurred with these recommendations on December 27, 2018.

Research Design

Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting, Inc. (CMEC), will conduct intensive survey of the previously unsurveyed portions of the APE per Category 2 under 13 TAC 26.20 and using the definitions in 13 TAC 26.5. Field methods and strategies will comply with the requirements of 13 TAC 26.20, as established by the Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA) and approved by the THC.

Shovel tests will be placed in areas where ground surface visibility is below 30 percent, soils appear to be of sufficient depth to contain subsurface cultural materials, historic maps indicate high potential for historic archaeological sites, and/or previous disturbances appear to have been minimal. All shovel tests will be excavated in natural levels to subsoil or 60 centimeters (24 inches), whichever is encountered first. Excavated matrix will be screened through 0.635-centimeter (0.25-inch) hardware cloth as allowed by moisture and clay content, which may require that the removed sediment be crumbled/sorted by hand, trowel, and/or shovel point. Deposits will be described using conventional texture classifications and Munsell color designations. Radial shovel tests will be placed at 5-meter (16-foot) intervals around each shovel test containing cultural material until two negative units have been established in each cardinal direction, as allowed by project limits, observed disturbance, and other constraints. Deviations from THC and CTA standards will be explicitly justified.

As mentioned previously, a majority of the APE lies within the existing right-of-way of Sam Bass Road, which has been impacted by the installation of utilities, construction of the existing roadways, and clearing of vegetation. Field efforts will focus on the 14.356 acres of proposed new right-of-way targeted for survey in previous coordination. Please refer to **Figures 2, 3a**, and **3b** for maps of the proposed new right-of-way and proposed survey area.

Archeological survey of proposed new right-of-way would include pedestrian examination and excavation of shovel tests as warranted by soil and slope conditions and where previous disturbance (roadway, utilities, etc.)

appears minimal. CMEC will also examine the existing right-of-way, but shovel testing is not anticipated due to the extent of previous construction disturbances. Additionally, CMEC staff will conduct an inspection of the APE at the location of site 41WM721 (located near the intersection of Sam Bass Road and Wyoming Springs Drive). A portion of this site is mapped within the proposed project's APE; a field visit will be performed in order to determine the site's present condition, and a site revisit form documenting CMEC's findings will be completed.

The project has a low probability of encountering human burials; however, if burials are found, Williamson County and the THC will be notified, and all requirements of 8 THSC 711 will be followed.

The APE is located on both public land and privately-owned land anticipated for acquisition; therefore, artifacts identified in shovel tests and surface contexts will be noted, described, photographed, and returned to their original contexts on private lands and collected on public lands. Because the bulk of the field effort will focus on proposed right-of-way, it is anticipated that this survey will largely be a no-collection project. At this time, landowner permission is being coordinated. If for any reason access is not available at the time of the survey, a reasonable and good-faith effort will be made to document inaccessible areas from adjacent areas that are accessible for the purposes of the present permit. This permit would then be closed (assuming all work products and submittals meet THC/CTA requirements) and, if necessary, an additional permit application would be submitted at a future date when any remaining land becomes accessible.

Any site recorded during the investigation will be identified by a temporary marker placed on the site. The marker will have an identifying number in the form of a field site (or FS) designation, followed by a consecutively assigned number that will indicate the order in which the sites were discovered (e.g., FS-01, FS-02, etc.). This number is a temporary field number to be superseded by a formal site trinomial obtained following the completion of fieldwork (see below). Site designations will be applied only to features (whether surface or subsurface) that appear to represent occupation or activity areas and/or to clusters of artifacts (whether surface or subsurface) with the minimum threshold of two contiguous positive shovel test units.

CMEC personnel will keep a complete record of field notes with observations including (but not limited to) identified sites, cultural materials, location markers, contextual integrity, estimated time periods of occupations, vegetation, topography, hydrology, land use, soil exposures, general conditions at the time of the survey, and field techniques employed. The field notes will be supplemented by digital photographs.

Reporting and Curation

Relevant field observations for any new sites discovered or previously recorded sites revisited during these investigations will be transferred to TexSite forms and submitted to TARL for official recording and integration into the trinomial system. An analysis of recorded materials and site characteristics will be performed, and the results will be presented in a clear and concise manner. These data will be used to formulate a preliminary evaluation of the NRHP and/or SAL eligibility of each site, as well as a recommendation for further work or no further work, supported by explicit justifications (13 TAC 26.3; 13 TAC 26.10; 13 TAC 26.16). Data, sites recorded, and NRHP/SAL eligibility assessments will be presented in a standard draft survey report to be submitted to the THC for review and comment. Comments on the draft report will be incorporated into a final version to be submitted (with the number and format of copies to be determined based on client preferences) to the THC. Per 13 TAC 26.16, the final permit closure submittal will include a transmittal letter, abstract form, project area shapefile, tagged PDF files of the report in both restricted (with site locations) and public (without site locations) versions, as applicable. Copies of the final report will also be submitted to libraries across the state as required by the Antiquities Permit.

Upon completion of the fieldwork and reporting, CMEC will make all materials and forms generated by this project available to future researchers through curation at the Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS) at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas per 13 TAC 26.16 and 26.17. A curation form filed at both CAS and THC will accompany the collections.

References

- Griffith, G. E., S. A. Bryce, J. A. Comstock, A. C. Rogers, B. Harrison, S. L. Hatch, and D. Bezanson
2004 *Ecoregions of Texas*. U.S. Geological Survey. Available at ftp://ftp.epa.gov/wed/ecoregions/tx/tx_front.pdf. Downloaded August 3, 2015.
- Nationwide Environmental Title Research (NETR)
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- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
2019 NRCS SSURGO and STATSGO soil data viewed through SoilWeb KMZ interface for Google Earth, available at <http://casoilresource.lawr.ucdavis.edu/soilweb/>. U.S. Department of Agriculture and California Soil Resource Laboratory, University of California, Davis. Accessed January 9, 2019.
- Texas Historical Commission (THC)
2019 *Texas Archeological Sites Atlas*. Texas Archeological Research Laboratory and the Texas Historical Commission. Available at <http://nueces.thc.state.tx.us>. Accessed January 9, 2019.
- Tipton, J.
2019 “Gilreath Family Cemetery”. Find A Grave. Available at <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2359769/gilreath-cemetery>. Accessed January 9, 2019.
- United States Geological Survey (USGS)
2019a Texas Geology Map Viewer. Available at <http://txpub.usgs.gov/dss/texasgeology/>. Accessed January 9, 2019.
2019b USGS Historical Topographic Map Explorer. United States Geological Survey. Available at <http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/>. Accessed January 9, 2019.

List of Figures:

- Figure 1: Project Location
- Figure 2: Location of Archeological APE
- Figures 3a-b: Area of Potential Effects Map

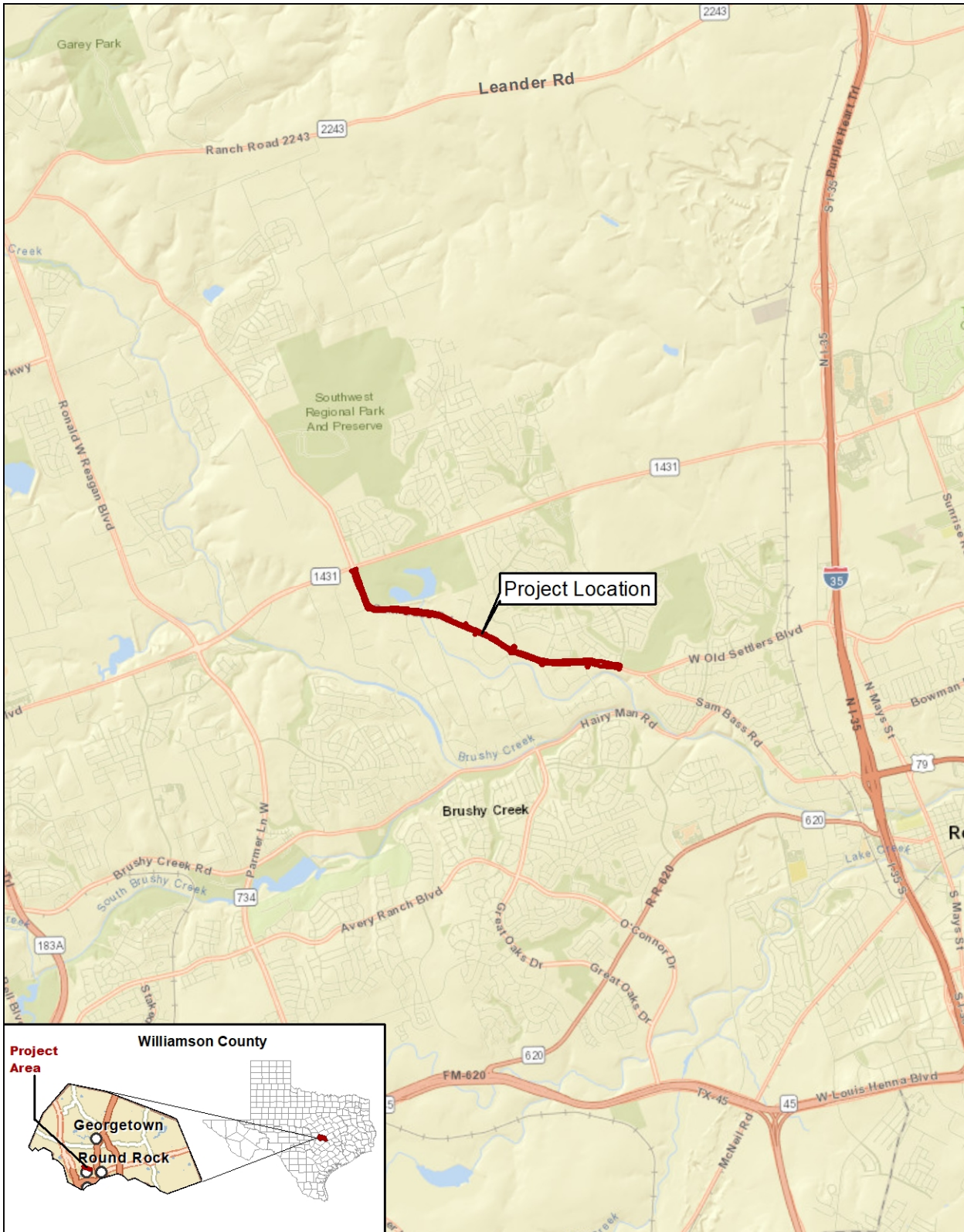


Figure 1
Project Location
Wilco Corridor H - Sam Bass Rd

Basemap Source: ESRI (2018)

Project Location/APE

COX | McLAIN
 Environmental Consulting

0 1.25 Miles 1 in = 1.25 mile
 0 1 Kilometer Scale: 1:79,200
 Date: 11/29/2018

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