

## **FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **PUBLIC NOTICE OF A PROJECT PENDING FUNDING BY THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)**

Notification is hereby given of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) pending intent to provide Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding for Bastrop County to provide drainage improvements in an area generally described as Gotier Trace Road. Funds will be provided in accordance with the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended. Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) and FEMA's implementing regulations at Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, Bastrop County hereby provides interested parties with a notice of its final decision and an explanation of the alternatives that were considered.

Bastrop County, Texas proposes road and drainage improvements at two locations: Site 1 (30.1310, -97.1322) and Site 2 (30.1337, -97.1309). At Site 1, three new 4 ft x 3 ft box culverts with wingwalls will be installed underneath the roadway. Roadway profile changes will occur along approximately 415 linear feet of the roadway to accommodate the new box culverts and alleviate water overtopping the road. Changes in road elevation will not exceed 1.6 feet. To minimize roadway profile changes, channel regrading in the vicinity of the new box culverts is proposed. The channel will be graded at a 0.5% slope from 10 feet upstream of the new box culverts and extend 135 feet downstream of the culverts to tie into the existing channel grade. Site 2 improvements include installation of three new 4 ft x 3 ft box culverts with wingwalls underneath the roadway and approximately 315 linear feet of roadway profile changes with a maximum elevation increase of 2.9 feet. To minimize roadway profile changes, minor channel improvements are also proposed. Channel improvements will include deepening the existing channel on the upstream end 0.35 feet. No channel regrading is needed downstream of the culverts; however, the channel will be widened to 13 feet.

The project area is depicted on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), Map Number 48021C0250E effective date January 19, 2006. The proposed action lies within Zone A, an area that has a 1-percent probability of flooding every year, respectively. A map of the project area and its location within the floodplain is available for public inspection. Parties interested in receiving a copy of the map should contact the Bastrop County Development Services using contact information provided in this notice.

Two alternatives to the proposed actions were considered for Gotier Trace Road: Alternative 1 for site 1 was to replace the gravel low water crossing with 5 - 24" x 40' corrugated metal pipes. CMP's create an ongoing maintenance concern because over time the bottoms and/or tops rust out, the pipe fails, and the road collapses. Due to the construction of CMPs the ribbing in the pipe will always catch some silt and will be more difficult to clean. This makes this option not viable and more costly over time. Alternative 1 for site 2 was to replace the gravel low water crossing with a concrete low water crossing. This would prevent repetitive loss of gravel; however, the hazard of frequent inundation and road closure would remain so this was not a viable option. Alternative 2 for both sites 1 and 2 is to do nothing. This alternative was not acceptable as flooding would persist and exacerbate over time.

FEMA and Bastrop County have determined that the proposed project is the only practicable alternative available; therefore, a portion of the proposed action must be located in the floodplain. The proposed action would have no significant adverse impact on the floodplain and will benefit the area by reducing the risk of flooding and flood damage. Therefore, measures to minimize impacts on the floodplain are

not necessary. Bastrop County has declared that the proposed action conforms to local floodplain standards, and is responsible for the management, construction, and maintenance of the proposed action.

Interested persons may submit written comments to: Bastrop County Development Services 211 Jackson Street Bastrop, Texas 78602 Attention: Carolyn Dill, Bastrop County Engineering Consultant, during the hours of 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Comments may also be submitted via email with subject line Gotier Trace Road Culvert Project to [Carolyn.Dill@co.bastrop.tx.us](mailto:Carolyn.Dill@co.bastrop.tx.us). Interested persons may also obtain more detailed information about the action, or request a copy of the findings from Carolyn Dill, Bastrop County Engineering Consultant at [Carolyn.Dill@co.bastrop.tx.us](mailto:Carolyn.Dill@co.bastrop.tx.us). All requests should be received no later than **September 30, 2021**. No action will be taken before this date.