



# ARANSAS PASS CITY NEWS

Issue 37

November 2020

## TxDOT SH-35 OVERPASS PROPOSAL AT OAK LANE IN ARANSAS PASS

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing to construct an overpass at Oak Lane in Aransas Pass. Construction may be phased in due to funding availability. The overpass would include two 12-ft lanes in each direction with 10-ft outside shoulders and 4-ft to 8-ft inside shoulders. The northbound and southbound main lanes would be separate bridge structures with a grassy median between them.

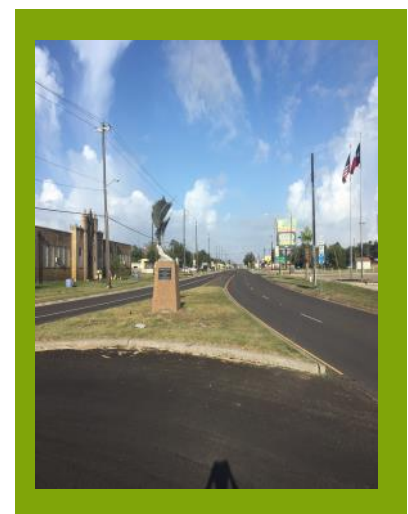
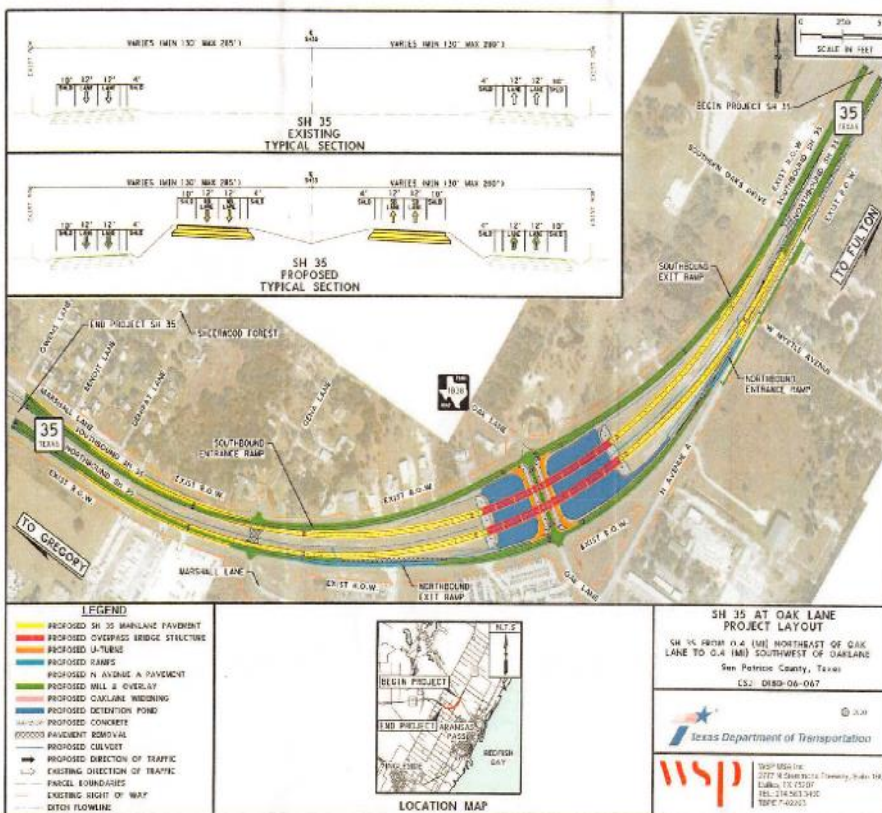
TxDOT personnel have met with Aransas Pass staff to discuss details of this proposed project. Citizens will have an opportunity to comment on this proposal in early 2021.

## TxDOT SPENDS NEARLY \$5 MIL TOTAL THIS YEAR AND LAST YEAR IN ARANSAS PASS

You most certainly have noticed all of the road paving during the last couple of years on state highways within the Aransas Pass City limits. That work is now complete. During 2019 TxDOT spent \$875,000 to pave Commercial from Beasley to Deberry. In 2020 TxDOT spent \$4,018,366.64 paving the remainder of the state highway roads within our municipal limits.

That includes the work on Wheeler (see pic below). The total amount spent on roads in

Aransas Pass was \$4,893,366.64.





## Pre-construction Signs Are Up At North McCampbell

### Why Is It Taking So Long For Construction to Start?

The design phase of the drainage, sewer and road work in the area of N. McCampbell is complete. Now we are in the environmental comment period. That's what is taking so long. However, it should conclude on November 9th. Once that is done an environmental review report will be submitted for final approval. It then will be sent to the Texas General Land Office for further review and comment. That is the final step before we are authorized to publish the Notice of Intent to release the funds for this project. We anticipate going out for bid by the end of this year. Unfortunately, when it comes to grant dollars, we are required to go through a lot of red tape. But, that is a small price to pay in order to receive \$10 million for infrastructure improvements.

Funds for this project are part of the Community Development Block Grant—Disaster Relief grant. The City of Aransas Pass received \$10 mil through this grant. Virtually all of it will be used in the North McCampbell area stretching for several blocks. A map of the project area has been placed at the job site on N. McCampbell and Stapp.



### LIFESAVERS RECOGNIZED AND AWARDED

During the October 19th City Council meeting officers Jeremy Gates (Left) and Adan Cruz (Right) were recognized for saving the life of a young Aransas Pass resident. Anytime an officer saves the life of another, he or she receives formal recognition and is awarded the Law Enforcement/ Public Safety Lifesaving Medal. Police Chief Eric Blanchard (center) said that the officers performance on September 22nd epitomizes our core values of honor, commitment, wisdom and compassion, and is the true meaning of public service.



Paving has started on the Roads at Conn Brown Harbor. (see Pic Above). Currently, traffic is being rerouted as the contractor works in the area where the Roundabout will be built. As of this moment the work is progressing well at the site.



## CONTACT US

Aransas Pass City News is published by the City of Aransas Pass, Tx. If you would like to subscribe or Unsubscribe call: 361-758-5301.

### WHO ARE YOUR CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS?

1. Mayor Ram Gomez
2. Carrie Scruggs—  
Place 1
3. Billy Ellis—Place 2
4. Mayor Pro-Tem Jan  
Moore - Place 3
5. Vicki Abrego - Place  
4

600 W Cleveland

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361-758-5301

## Office of the City Manager

### THANK YOU!!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Aransas Pass Citizens, Mayor and Council and City staff for allowing me to serve this wonderful community. It has been a high honor.

I accepted this position two weeks before Category 4 Hurricane Harvey ravaged our City and began work just a few days after the Hurricane. When I interviewed for the position back in the Summer of '17, I had several goals based on what the Mayor and Council and community told me they wanted to accomplish. A good portion of that had to become lower priorities in order to concentrate on the hurricane recovery work. My new overriding goal was to work with the community, Mayor and Council and staff to help rebuild a City and make Aransas Pass stronger after the hurricane than before. Back in September of 2017, that didn't seem possible. But, teamwork made it happen. We now are on the downhill side of the hurricane recovery work, and there is still work to do, but because of an excellent Mayor and Council you are successfully completing an epic task not encountered by many U.S. cities.

If a measurement of a community is how well it recovers from a disaster, Aransas Pass is one of the best. The next challenge will be to build upon the post-hurricane foundation that was constructed by the Community, the Mayor and Council and City Staff. I anticipate that will be a major goal for the next City Manager. Goodbye and the very best to a great community. You will continue to succeed.

Gary Edwards, Outgoing Aransas Pass City Manager

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### SEARCH FOR A NEW CITY MANAGER IS UNDERWAY

The Mayor and City Council have started looking for a City Manager. They have hired Chris Hartung, a Texas based consulting firm, to conduct the nationwide search. Hartung has interviewed the Mayor and Council and staff members in order to learn what sort of background and skills are needed for this important position. It will be a few months before the process is completed. In the meantime, Finance Director, Sandra Garcia, will serve as Interim City Manager.



**FALL FEAST IS A GO THIS YEAR**

(With Covid Precautions)

Even with COVID challenges, the popular annual Fall Feast will be held ON November 19th. HOWEVER, it will be a drive thru only at the Aransas Pass Civic Center. See Flyer to the left. Because of anticipated automobile traffic, it is important for everyone to follow the green lines in the prearranged traffic pattern. See the map below. HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM THE CITY OF ARANSAS PASS!!

