

# Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor Bill Agan and members of the Richland Hills City Council  
From: Jason Moore, Assistant to the City Manager  
Date: December 1, 2015  
Subject: Baker Blvd Intersection Project Update

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**Council Action:** General Discussion and Direction

**Background Information:** As you will recall from our update this past May, in 2012 the city entered into an agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to improve three intersections on Baker Blvd. The intersections are at Handley Ederville, Vance/Ash Park, and Rufe Snow. The current design includes the following:

1. Right turn lanes at the Rufe Snow/Baker Blvd. and Handley Ederville/Baker Blvd. intersections
2. Sidewalks along Baker Blvd. (north and south sides) from Handley Ederville to Rufe Snow
3. Relocate Ash Park to intersect directly with Vance
4. Curb/gutter and drive approaches in various locations

One item that was removed was the asphalt overlay at each intersection because it was not needed. This allowed us to allocate more funds for sidewalks and curb/gutter in more locations. Because the sidewalks along the entire project were not part of the original scope, staff has worked with TxDOT personnel to modify the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to be considered this coming February by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC). If approved, the project grant will also receive an additional sum of money to insure pedestrian connectivity from Rufe Snow to Handley Ederville is realized.

There is one main point for discussion that staff would like the Council's input on. In front of the Richland Hills Baptist Church is an existing drive lane (parking lane), within TxDOT right-of-way. This lane is primarily used on Sunday mornings or when funeral processions are held at the church. While TxDOT does not have a particular preference on whether or not that drive lane goes away, it should be noted that a sidewalk will not fit within the right-of-way as it exists. Therefore the project would not be able to fund the addition of a sidewalk on private property. The consultant is designing this section to

remove the drive lane, add curb, gutter and sidewalk and tie in to the rest of the project. However, staff would like to propose that we consult the church to see if they would like to keep the drive lane, and add sidewalks at their cost. Since the drive lane is on TxDOT property yet was constructed by the church, maintenance responsibility is on the church, not TxDOT. If they want to keep the lane and do the sidewalk themselves, then our engineer can pull this section of the plan out quite easily, as opposed to having to add it back in down the road.

In the coming weeks, the engineer will submit the plans for TxDOT review and approval at the 60% design, and then the 90% design levels closer to the spring. At this time, the project is still expected to be on schedule and let (bid out) by late summer 2016 and construction beginning by September 2016.

**Board/Citizen Input:** N/A

**Financial Impact:** N/A

**Staff Contacts:** Jason Moore, Assistant to the City Manager, [jmoore@richlandhills.com](mailto:jmoore@richlandhills.com)

**Attachments:** N/A