

# 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: Blvd 26 Update

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**Council Action:** General Discussion and Direction

**Background Information:** The Texas Department of Transportation has interest in making improvements to state controlled highways that enhance safety of both drivers and pedestrians. The work that you are seeing along Blvd 26, such as the inclusion of curb ramps and sidewalks, is a project that TxDOT has been working on for several years now throughout various segments of roadway in Tarrant County. This particular project is the result of meeting the Americans with Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) requirements for ensuring accessibility on public rights-of-way.

A second part of what TxDOT wants to do is to add raised medians on roadways where continuous turn lanes currently exist. However, when you incorporate raised medians, not every business or street would have access as they do today. For instance, in the cities of Keller and Southlake for example, the inclusion of raised medians has limited the access to many retailers along state highway 1709. As you could imagine, many businesses were not happy with the state's decision to include those because patrons now have to do u-turns to access some of the stores. However, it should be noted that the reduction in head-on crashes has been significant according to TxDOT.

The safety aspect of adding medians is something to really consider on our portion of Blvd 26 but with a regard to balancing access to businesses as a priority. TxDOT has asked us for our city's thoughts on whether or not we would want raised medians along Blvd 26 (areas adjacent to Richland Hills).

Even if Richland Hills sends TxDOT notice that we would like them, they will still need concurrence from the City of North Richland Hills before moving forward. In our discussions with city of NRH staff, they appear to be more in favor of them on this highway as opposed to other locations in their city that TxDOT has proposed.

Again, the number one driver for a project like this is safety. If it is Council's desire, we can bring a resolution forward to you at a later date that would formally give our opinion to TxDOT.

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

**Financial Impact:** N/A

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**Attachments:** Email from Minh Tran, P.E., TxDOT North Tarrant Area Office Engineer requesting thoughts on adding raised medians along Blvd 26