



MEMO

Date: February 21, 2022
To: County Judge and Commissioners
From: Clarence Daugherty, P,E., Director of Engineering
Subject: Authorization to Hire BCC Engineering, LLC, to Acquire Easements for West Lucas Road

When \$8.4M was awarded to the City of Lucas from the 2018 Bond Program for the improvements to West Lucas Rd, the City of Lucas requested that the County acquire the needed right of way since the County has more experience and more resources than the City. Commissioners Court agreed.

BCC Engineering, LLC, is the firm that the City hired to design the project. Since BCC has completed 30% design, they have identified where drainage easements will be required in addition to the land needed to preserve the 120' of ROW. The City of Lucas wants road ROW to be easements, rather than fee title ownership. BCC has become very familiar with the area and some of the landowners. They were planning to acquire the drainage easements for the City. However, the City's attorney has advised the City that since the ILA between the City and the County provides for the County to acquire land and makes no provision for the City to acquire land, the City's consultant cannot acquire the easements.

The County Engineering staff is heavily involved in right of way acquisitions for the County's projects as well as for US 380 freeway. It would be very helpful to the Engineering staff to not have to deal with all the tasks and negotiations required in acquiring the land for this project. Therefore, it is the desire of the Engineering staff and of the City of Lucas that BCC Engineering, LLC, be hired by the County to acquire the easements needed for the project. Since BCC Engineering is heavily involved in the project, we ask the Commissioners Court to declare BCC as the most qualified firm to accomplish the ROW task.

BCC will follow up immediately with a proposal, and we anticipate coming back to the Court very quickly with a request to approve an agreement with BCC.

Action Requested: It is recommended that the Commissioners Court declare BCC Engineering, LLC, the most qualified engineering firm to assist the County with acquisition of easements for the West Lucas Rd improvement project.