Copperfield Coalition

Overpass Alternative Solution Proposal

Hwy 6 / FM 529 Advisory Committee
Copperfield Community Center
November 8, 2006
Goal: Improve the Safety and Mobility for the Hwy 6 / FM 529 Corridor

Observations

• The safety and mobility problems extend beyond the immediate Hwy 6 / FM 529 intersection

• The characteristics of the safety and mobility problems for the Hwy 6 / FM 529 corridor have been studied in other Texas cities and other states

• Area demographics are changing with new business development in other areas (change in traffic patterns)

• Improving safety leads to greater mobility and vice versa
Hwy 6 / FM 529 Accident Statistics

Hwy 6 and FM-529 Corridor Accident Statistics
Harris County Sheriff's Office - Traffic Enforcement Division

Number of Accidents

Jan: 16 - 6 at intersection, 10 at 1/2 mile from intersection
Feb: 12 - 9 at intersection, 3 at 1/2 mile from intersection
March: 13 - 12 at intersection, 1 at 1/2 mile from intersection
April: 10 - 10 at intersection, 0 at 1/2 mile from intersection
May: 6 - 11 at intersection, 0 at 1/2 mile from intersection
June: 16 - 6 at intersection, 10 at 1/2 mile from intersection
July: 13 - 12 at intersection, 1 at 1/2 mile from intersection
August: 14 - 9 at intersection, 5 at 1/2 mile from intersection

Legend: ▲ At Intersection  ■ 1/2 mile from intersection
Criteria Used to Judge the Effectiveness of Any Roadway Changes

• Overall improvement in safety and mobility
• Cost effectiveness and project execution time
• Impact to area businesses
• Impact to area residential communities
• Impact to the environment
Hwy 6 / FM 529 Corridor Safety and Mobility Problem

Root Causes

• Too many accident potentials or conflict points for motorists entering or leaving the Hwy 6 / FM 529 corridor (access management issue)

• Too few dedicated turn lanes at the Hwy 6 / FM 529 intersection that impedes through traffic
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- Construct raised medians along Hwy 6 / FM 529 corridor (landscaping for beautification)
- Construct traffic signal for controlled access to Randall’s and Best Buy shopping centers
- Hwy 6 / FM 529 Intersection
  - Additional left and right turn lanes (in all directions)
  - Additional through lane (in all directions)
- Traffic light synchronization to maximize through traffic
- Traffic signal preemption for emergency vehicles
Resources

Iowa State University Center for Transportation Research and Education: Access Management

Frequently asked questions
http://www.ctre.iastate.edu/Research/access/toolkit

Benefits of Access Management

Comparison of Raised Medians versus Two-Way Left Turn lanes
http://www.ctre.iastate.edu/Research/access/toolkit/19.pdf

Benefits of Dedicated Left and Right Turning Lanes

Texas Transportation Institute (TTI)

Summary of Access Management Impacts: Access Point Density and Raised Medians
http://tti.tamu.edu/documents/0-4221-S.pdf