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Christopher Ringstaff

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Report for Archeological Survey

Archeological Survey of Roadway Improvements
along FM 186 Dimmit County, Texas.

Christopher Ringstaff, Principal Investigator,
Antiquities Permit No. 8320

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated 12-16-14, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

Abstract

On March 15, 2018, TxDOT conducted an intensive archeological survey for the proposed FM 186 roadway improvement project. The project consists of a minor road widening. This proposed project would widen FM 186 from two 12-ft. wide travel lanes with 2-ft. wide shoulders to two 12-ft. wide travel lanes with 4-ft. wide shoulders for approximately 8.8 miles along FM 186 from Castellaw Road to the FM 186 terminus in Dimmit County, Texas. Culvert replacements are planned for seven small tributary streams along the APE. No new ROW or easements are proposed for the project. Given the limited ground disturbing impacts for shoulder widening undertaking and no new ROW, the majority of the APE is considered low probability. The culvert replacement locations within the APE were considered moderate probability. One previously recorded site 41DM52 is located approximately 300 feet east of the FM 186 ROW in the northern portion of the APE. A second previously recorded site, 41DM63, is mapped within the APE in the southern portion of the APE. The APE at and near these sites were considered high probability. A survey methodology was designed based on this simple probability model.

A 100 percent pedestrian survey was conducted at areas of moderate and high probability which included seven culvert replacement/ extension locations, the area of site 41DM63, and the APE near site 41DM52. The remainder of the low probability APE was subjected to reconnaissance. The pedestrian survey noted significant ground disturbing impacts from prior grading and road construction as well as utility installation. Given the shallow and denuded soils across the Eocene surface on which the APE is located, no shovel testing was conducted given the geologic context, surface visibility, and prior impacts which together constitute reasonable variance from the CTA/THC Survey Standards. In the area of 41DM63, no artifacts whatsoever were noted within the ROW. No cultural materials or features were observed within the ROW west of site 41DM52 nor were any found at any of the culvert replacement locations.

A TxDOT archeologist evaluated the potential for the proposed undertaking to affect archeological historic properties (36 CFR 800.16(1)) or State Antiquities Landmarks (13 TAC 26.12) for the proposed FM 186 roadway improvement and bridge replacement project. Based on the pedestrian survey of the APE, no archeological sites or materials were observed in the proposed project area despite the ATLAS mapping of 41DM63 extending into the ROW. In addition, the majority of the APE had been substantively impacted by prior transportation construction and utilities. Based on these observed impacts and the results of the survey, any sites in the APE would likely lack sufficient integrity of location, association, and materials to be able to address important questions of prehistory or history (36CFR60.4 and would not be considered eligible for listing to the NRHP (36 CFR 60.4) or for designation as a SAL (13 TAC 26.8) and no further work is warranted for the project area.

Project Identification

- **Date:** 3/21/2018
- **Date(s) of Survey:** 3/15/2018
- **Archeological Survey Type:** Reconnaissance Intensive
- **Report Version:** Draft Final
- **Jurisdiction:** Federal State
- **Texas Antiquities Permit Number:** 8320 **District:** Laredo
- **County or Counties:** Dimmit
- **USGS Quadrangle(s):** Asherton NW, Dentonio
- **Highway:** FM 186
- **CSJ:** 0301-04-020
- **Report Author(s):** Christopher Ringstaff
- **Principal Investigator:** Christopher Ringstaff

Texas Historical Commission Approval

Signature

Date

Project Description

- **Project Type:** Roadway Widening and Culvert Replacement Project
- **Total Project Impact Acreage:** 106.7 **New Right of Way (ROW) Acreage:** 0.0
- **Easement Acreage:** 0.0 **Area of Pedestrian Survey:** 7.0 acres

Project Description and Impacts: As shown in the project location map (Figure 1), The project consists of a minor road widening This proposed project would widen FM 186 from two 12-ft. wide travel lanes with 2-ft. wide shoulders to two 12-ft. wide travel lanes with 4-ft. wide shoulders for approximately 8.8 miles along FM 186 from Castellaw Road to the FM 186 terminus in Dimmit County, Texas. Culvert replacements are planned for seven small tributary streams along the APE. No new ROW or easements are proposed for the project.

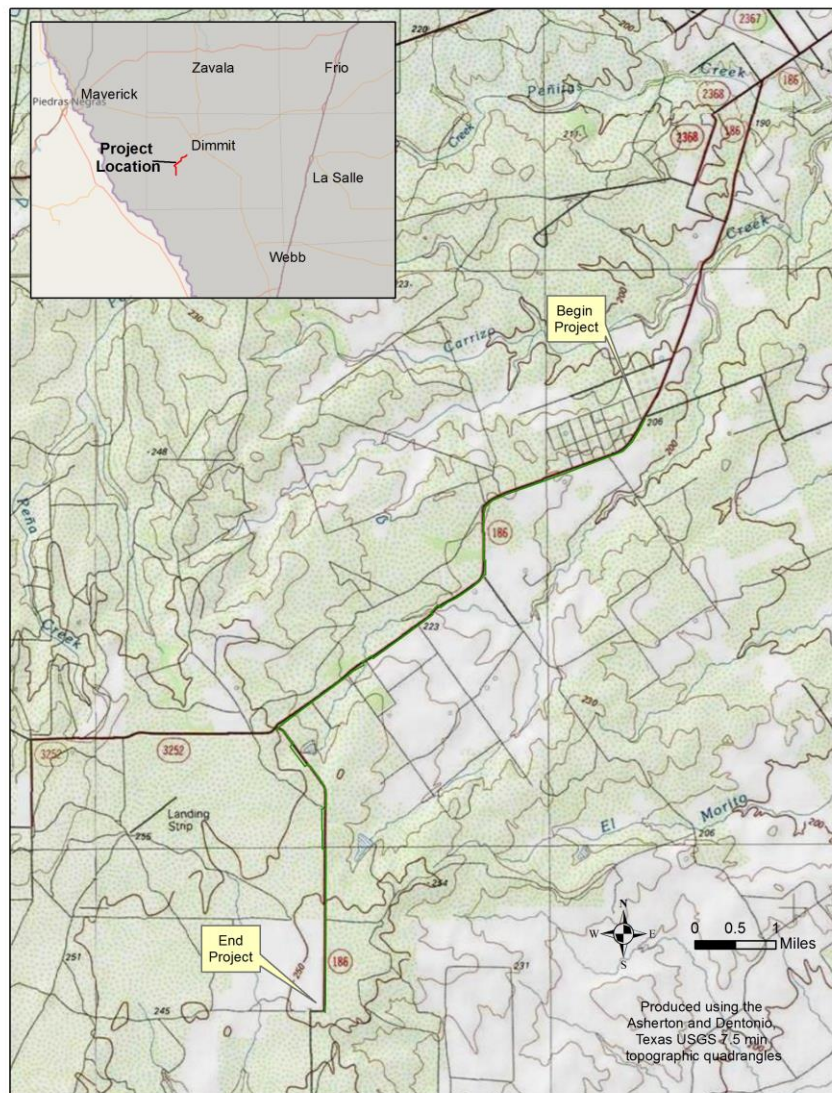


Figure 1. FM 186 Project Location Map, Dimmit County, Texas.

Project Area Ownership:

The proposed project is completely within TxDOT ROW.

Area of Potential Effect (APE): The Area of Potential Effect (APE) includes the entire approx. 8.8-mile APE. The ROW across the project area varies from 90-110 feet in width. No new ROW or easements are proposed for the project. The depth of impact for the culvert replacements is estimated at approximately 3-5 feet.

Physiographic Setting:

Topography: The proposed project area is located in the South Texas Plains physiographic region of Texas.

Geology: A Geographic Information System (GIS) overlay analysis using the Bureau of Economic Geology Geologic Atlas of Texas Laredo Sheet depicts the project area as primarily Eocene Bigford Formation in the southern APE (Figure 2a).

Soils: A Geographic Information System (GIS) overlay analysis using the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) State Soil Survey Geographic Database (STATSGO), maps soils in the project area as Maverick-Catarina-Palafox, Duval-Webb-Brystal Association, and Tonio-Pryor-Brystal Association formed in the mapped upland deposits (Figure 2b). Archeological sites found in this geomorphic setting can be surficial or shallowly buried.

Land Use: Land use across areas the project areas consists of transportation ROW.

Vegetation: Vegetation across the project areas consists largely of post-clearing secondary growth mesquite with brush, cacti, and short grasses.

Estimated Ground Surface Visibility: Moderate to good 40-90 %

Previous Investigations and Known Archeological Sites:

A record search of the Texas Historical Commissions Archeological Sites Atlas (Atlas) was conducted on 3/20/2018. The search revealed two prior archeological projects conducted within one kilometer of the proposed project APE. A survey in 1962 recorded site 41DM52 which is located approximately 300 feet east of the FM 186 ROW in the northern portion of the APE. The site consists of a prehistoric open campsite with burned rock, lithic artifacts, and ceramics. A second survey in 1974 recorded site 41DM63. The site extends into the APE in the southern portion of the project area but mapped primarily west of the ROW fenceline. The site is described as a lithic scatter with debitage and cores.

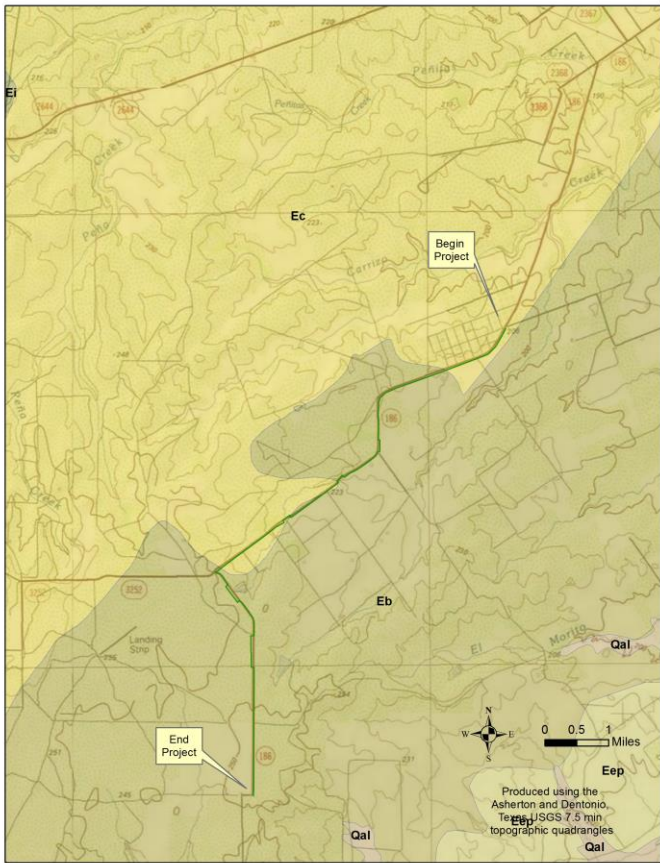


Figure 2a. FM 186 Project Area Geology

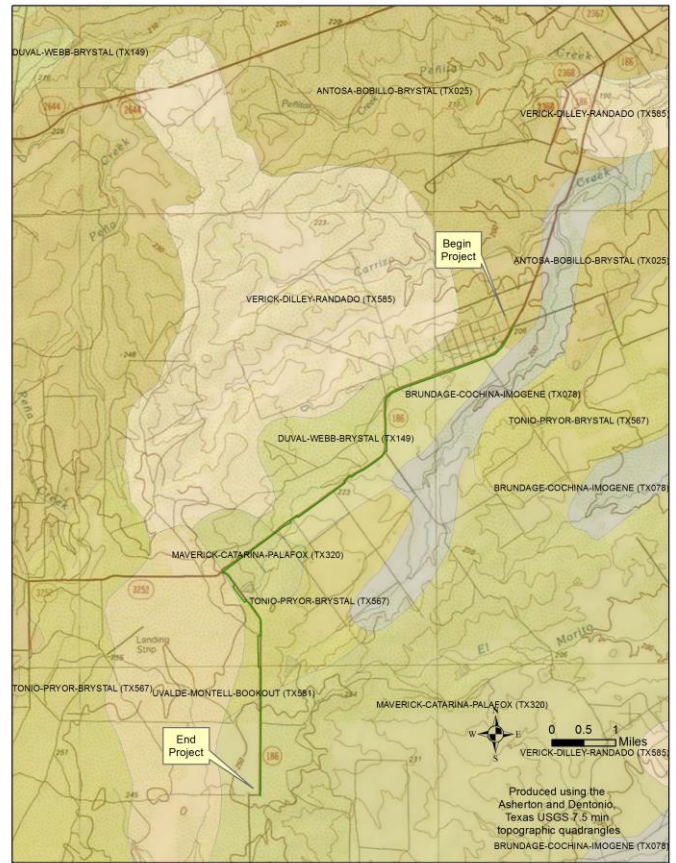


Figure 2b. FM 186 Project Area Soils.

Surveyors: Christopher Ringstaff

Survey Methods: A survey methodology was designed based on this simple probability model. Given the limited ground disturbing impacts for shoulder widening undertaking and no new ROW, the majority of the APE is considered low probability. The culvert replacement locations within the APE were considered moderate probability. One previously recorded sites 41DM52 is located approximately 300 feet east of the FM 186 ROW in the northern portion of the APE. A second previously recorded site, 41DM63, is mapped within the APE in the southern portion of the APE. The APE at and near these sites were considered high probability.

Collection: NO YES If yes, specify facility

Survey Results

A 100 percent pedestrian survey was conducted at areas of moderate and high probability which included seven culvert replacement/ extension locations, the area of site 41DM63, and the APE near site 41DM52. The remainder of the low probability APE was subjected to reconnaissance. The pedestrian survey noted significant ground disturbing impacts from prior grading and road construction as well as utility installation. Given the shallow and denuded soils across the Eocene surface on which the APE is




Figure Map Removed from report
Restricted Cultural Resource Information
Natural Resources Code Title 9 Section 191.004
Texas Administrative Code Title 13, Part 2, Chapter 24

Figure3. Locations of 41DM 52 and 41DM63 shown with low and moderate/ high probability areas.

located, no shovel testing was conducted given the geologic context, surface visibility, and prior impacts which together constitute reasonable variance from the CTA/THC Survey Standards. In the area of 41DM63, no artifacts whatsoever were noted within the ROW. No cultural materials or features were observed within the ROW west of site 41DM52 nor were any found at any of the culvert replacement locations.

Recommendations

A TxDOT archeologist evaluated the potential for the proposed undertaking to affect archeological historic properties (36 CFR 800.16(1)) or State Antiquities Landmarks (13 TAC 26.12) for the proposed FM 186 roadway improvement and culvert replacement project. Based on the pedestrian survey of the APE, no archeological sites or materials were observed in the proposed project area despite the ATLAS mapping of 41DM63 extending into the ROW. In addition, the majority of the APE had been substantively impacted by prior transportation construction and utilities. Based on these observed impacts and the results of the survey, any sites in the APE would likely lack sufficient integrity of location, association, and materials to be able to address important questions of prehistory or history (36CFR60.4 and would not be considered eligible for listing to the NRHP (36 CFR 60.4) or for designation as a SAL (13 TAC 26.8) and no further work is warranted for the project area.

APPENDIX A

Project Survey Photos



Eastern Boundary of 41DM63 note fence line extent of ROW.



FM 186 ROW adjacent to 41DM52 in northern portion of APE.



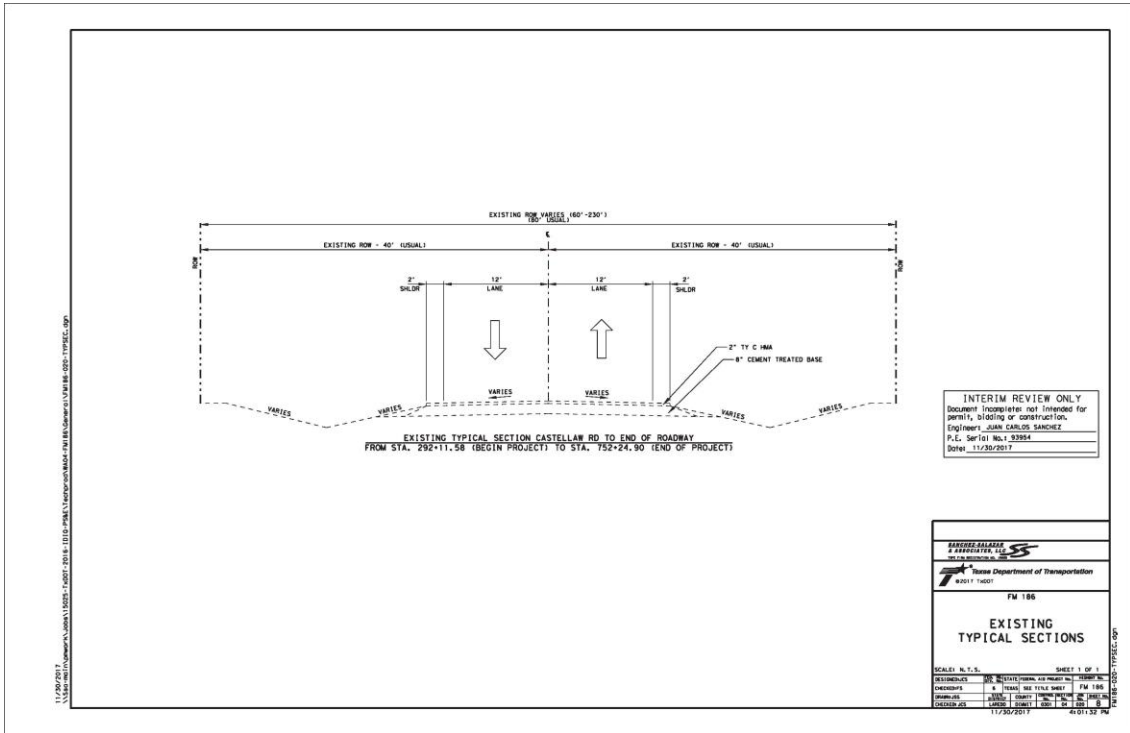
Typical FM 186 ROW in southern portion of APE.



Typical FM 186 culvert replacement ROW in central portion of APE.

APPENDIX B

Project Schematic Design Plans



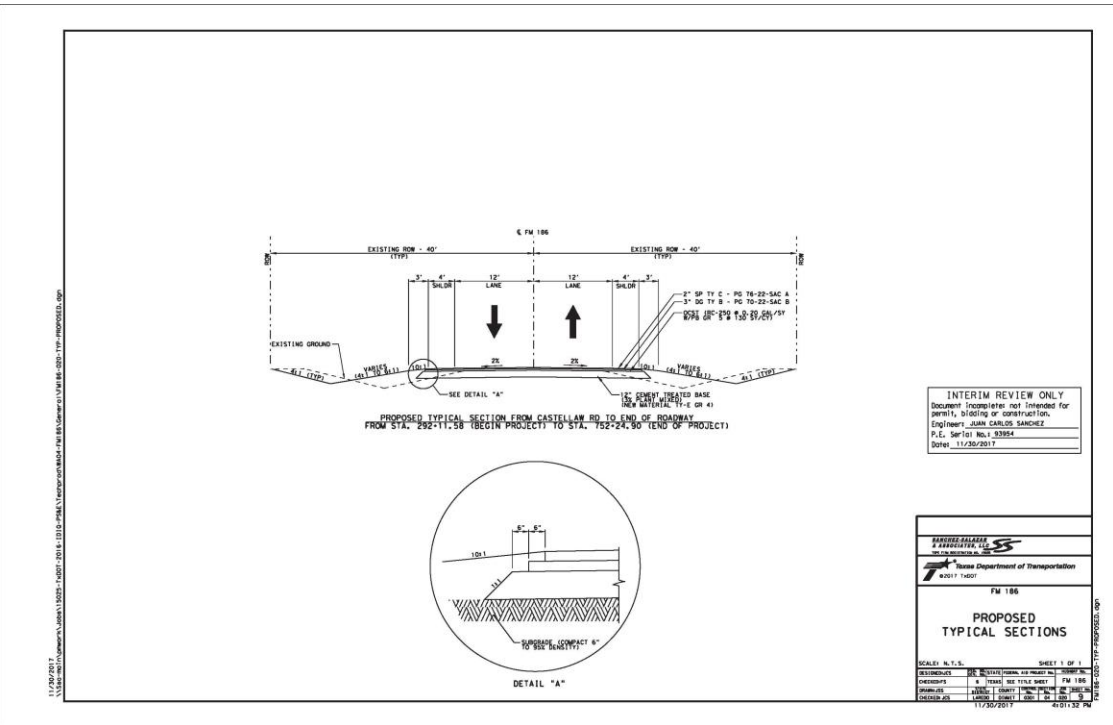
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 permit, bidding or construction.
 Engineer: JUAN CARLOS SANCHEZ
 P.E. Serial No.: 33354
 Date: 11/30/2017

BRUNNEN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
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 DENVER, COLORADO 80241

Texas Department of Transportation
 TxDOT

FM 186
**EXISTING
 TYPICAL SECTIONS**

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**PROPOSED
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