



**COMAL COUNTY, TEXAS
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County to provide \$1 million for Loop 337 project

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, AUGUST 6, 2015:

NEW BRAUNFELS — The Comal County Commissioners Court on Thursday approved an agreement with the City of New Braunfels to provide up to \$1 million for the expansion of Loop 337, a significant step toward the highway’s long-awaited completion.

Under the agreement, the city will pay to the Texas Department of Transportation the local share of the project’s cost, then send the county an invoice for 20 percent of the payment, up to \$1 million from the county’s reserve funds.

The court’s action comes after the city’s 4B board and private developers of the Veramendi mixed-use project agreed in recent days to contribute a combined \$4 million. Altogether, the \$5 million local share is about 11 percent of the Loop 337 project’s estimated \$45 million cost.

The project would expand Loop 337 to a four-lane divided highway from Hillcrest Drive on the loop’s northeast side west to Interstate 35. Although the project is entirely within the New Braunfels city limits, “the county recognizes that Loop 337 is a vital transportation corridor that serves the citizens of Comal County,” according to the text of the agreement.

“Today’s agreement is a vital step to ensuring Comal County has the infrastructure it needs as growth continues,” said County Judge Sherman Krause. “We are pleased to be a partner in this important project.”

Pending final state and regional approval, the project could begin as soon as 12 to 24 months from now, significantly sooner than initially scheduled under long-range transportation plans. That accelerated timeframe is helped by a planning effort during the loop’s inception in the 1950s that acquired a large swath of right-of-way along its route – thus avoiding the costly and time-consuming process of purchasing land for the expansion.

The agreement now moves to the New Braunfels City Council for approval.

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