



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MAYOR DANE HAYGOOD

March 15, 2017

Baldwin County Commission
Honorable Chris Elliot, Chairman
312 Courthouse Square, Suite 12
Bay Minette, Alabama 36507

Re: City of Daphne – Corte and Austin Road Improvements

Dear Commissioner Elliot:

The City of Daphne (the "City") has experienced significant growth in recent years on the eastern side of Daphne. With the continued growth, we are projecting significant future growth along the State Route 181 corridor ("Highway 181"). The City has taken an active role in transportation planning and improvements along this corridor and has identified a need for an additional east-west arterial connecting County Road 13 ("CR13") and Highway 181 with the ultimate objective to connect to all the way to U.S. Highway 98 ("Hwy 98"). We believe this can be achieved using the existing Corte Road Right-of-Way ("R.O.W.") to connect CR13 to Highway 181 and further east by connecting to Austin Road. Further, the long-term goal of a connection to Hwy 98 could be achieved by extending Corte Road west to the existing eastern boundary of Johnson Road.

Working with multiple stakeholders we have determined that this project is most feasible starting on the east end and working by project phases back to the west. This will better facilitate the City's improvements into the States upcoming Highway 181 improvements. The first two Phases identified are:

- Phase I: Design, grading, drainage, basing and paving of Corte Road between CR13 and SR181
- Phase II: Design, R.O.W. Acquisition, and construction of new roadway from the intersection of Highway 181 and Corte Road east to Austin Road (the "Corte Road Extension").

Action on both of these phases is needed immediately to be incorporated into ALDOT's Highway 181 Widening Project to four lane Highway 181 to CR-104. The City envisions Phase II advancing in parallel with Phase I.

As you are aware, Corte Road is a unpaved road that the County has obligation to maintain. The City would agree to accept the maintenance obligation of the Corte Road R.O.W. upon completion of Phase I of the project. This would relieve the County of the current routine maintenance activities as well as the long-term maintenance and liabilities associated with this Right of Way. Similarly the City would also be willing to accept the R.O.W. for the Corte Road Extension upon completion of Phase II of the project.

In order to help achieve would like to requests the Baldwin County Commission (the "County") for project support in the following ways:

1. County support in the preparation of the Corte Road roadbed prior to paving. We understand that this is part of the normal maintenance operation of Corte Road, but coordination of a stable base ready to receive paving will be critical for the paving to be accomplished in a cost-effective manner for the City. The City is prepared to provide materials but needs assistance in the grading and compacting of road base.
2. The County providing the necessary R.O.W. Acquisition for the City of Daphne associated with the initial two phases of the project. The City would reimburse the County for all hard costs associated with the County Managed R.O.W. Project but would request that the County donate soft costs as "in kind" services. The City will provide all required R.O.W. survey support.
3. Financial participation by the County in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00). Total project cost for Phase I is estimated to be \$413,160 for and \$488,950 for Phase II.
4. To achieve the transfer of the maintenance obligation of Corte Road and the referenced portions of Austin Road, the County would need to deed to the City via quitclaim deed any County held R.O.W. the identified road segments. Further, the County acquiescing to the City's annexation of the deeded R.O.W. with the understanding that the City would be responsible for maintenance after annexation.

To fulfill the long-term vision we would hope to work toward completing the final phase of the project which is described below:

Phase III: Design, R.O.W. Acquisition, and construction of new roadway from the intersection of Corte Road and CR13 and west to Johnson Road (the "Johnson Road Extension").

Given the estimated cost of Phase III, the City would have to rely on grants or Eastern Shore Metropolitan Planning Organization ("ESMPO") assistance for completion.

We appreciate your consideration and know that our request for financial consideration will be burdensome. We would request that you consider the merits of an east-west corridor along the Eastern Shore. As a reminder, the net ad-valorem tax assessments for the City of Daphne was \$346.85M for tax year 2016. This results in City of Daphne being generating approximately \$867k in revenue for the 2.5 mill Road and Bridge fund for the County.



Dane Haygood, Mayor