

## Questions and Answers from the Town Hall Meeting

### Bandera Road Update

- 1) In regards to the R-cut at El Verde road. Will there be flooding in this area, like on North New Braunfels?**

**Ms. Moritz, Public Works Director Response:** *Ms. Moritz stated that Bandera Rd. only floods during extreme rain events and that over the last 30 years, it has only flooded twice and does not anticipate this being an issue. In addition, the L17 project has also helped with reducing flooding in that area.*

- 2) What is the social-economic impact on the local businesses with this new plan?**

**Dr. Caldera, City Manager Response:** *Back in 2018, UTSA conducted a study that analyzed the economic impact of the flyover on local businesses. The study determined that the flyover would have a negative impact on businesses. Dr. Caldera has reached out to UTSA to see if they would be interested in conducting a similar analysis on the At-grade Parkway with R-cuts option.*

- 3) Will the bike lanes be taking up sidewalk space and will they be delineated on the road? Yes, they will be marked as protected and TxDot is looking at purchasing additional land to fit the lanes in the plan.**

- 4) Are bicycles going to be allowed on Bandera Road? Yes.**

- 5) Then why are we spending the funds on bike lanes? To provide a protective lane for bicyclists that choose to use them. We are also spending funds on Hike & Bike Trails that are not located on Bandera Road.**

- 6) Can a bicyclist cross four lanes of traffic? They can as long as they follow all the traffic laws, but it would not be safe.**

- 7) Is there examples of the R-cut in other cities? The San Antonio area has had three sections of RCUTs: one on US 281 North (four intersections), one on Loop 1604 West (two intersections), and one on Bandera Road (currently one intersection.) In the 281 and 1604 cases, the RCUTs were in a transition area between the freeway and non-freeway sections of those roads, and both were intended to be short-term improvements while planning was completed and funding was acquired to upgrade those segments to freeways. The 281 and 1604 RCUTs were the first two super streets in Texas.**

*An RCUT intersection was completed on Bandera Rd. at FM 1560 in Helotes in 2018. This was the first of several RCUT intersections planned for Bandera Rd. from Loop 1604 to Triana Parkway. Unlike those on US 281 and on Loop 1604, the RCUT plan on Bandera is considered to be a long-term solution for existing and expected congestion. Another RCUT section now planned on Loop 1604 between US 90 and Macdona Lacoste Rd. is also planned to be a long-term solution.-TxDOT Rcuts Explained - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0k5wBxRrxA>*

### Emergency Preparedness

- 1) What about candles instead of flashlights? Candles are great to have, but the Chief cautions open flames (carnosine heater, stove) can consume oxygen in the room and can cause carbon monoxide poisoning.**

- 2) Has the city looked at holding CERT training? This training is held by Bexar County the program was on hiatus due to COVID and leadership changes. However, they are now accepting**

applications <https://www.bexar.org/FormCenter/OEM-Forms-37/Bexar-County-CERT-Volunteer-Application-177>

*There are a few requirements to be added as a member:*

- *Application*
- *G-317 CERT Basic Course (In-person)*
- *FEMA IS-100, IS-200, IS-700 courses (Online)*
- *Background check (conducted by BCOEM)*

*For available G-317 courses locally and visit <https://training.fema.gov/is/crslist.aspx> to complete the online courses. If you remain interested in joining our Program after completing the prerequisites, your information will be used to process your background check, which is required for all Bexar County CERT members. Upon a favorable background check result, we will reach out to you with more information on joining the Program. If you have any questions about this form or about volunteer opportunities, please contact us at: 210-206-8760 or [bexarcert@bexar.org](mailto:bexarcert@bexar.org).*

**3) What about a generator, can I put them inside? Chief Naughton, Fire Chief Response:**

*Generators are safe, but don't put it in your house or in our garage. Put it outside and run a cord into the house.*

## **Historical Society**

- 1) Where do you park?** *Parking is a challenge. The City allows us to use the parking lot and the Historical Society hires an off-duty police officer to escort people across Bandera Road. With large events, the Historical Society has used a shuttle. For people with limited mobility, there is room to drop someone off at the front gate.*

## **ARP Fund Priorities**

- 1) How many people have been helped with the utility assistance program?** *We allocated \$50,000 and there is \$34,000 remaining. The program assisted 27 households and paid a total of 31 bills. The most requested bill and the largest on average were for CPS.*
- 2) The walking trail at Raymond Rimkus park needs to be resurfaced.** *The Public Works Crew is already working on rehabilitating the trail in the portion of the path known as the "Quiet Area", near the Community Garden. The remaining portion of trail that aligns with the basketball court and tennis court will be completely demolished and replaced with a 10' wide trail as a part of the Hike & Bike Trail Segment II project.*

## **Citizens to be Heard.**

- 1) Short-term rental (STR) regulations were dismissively turned down by the Council. They want to know why the City Council will not adopt a similar ordinance to San Antonio?**

*City Manager Caldera did clarify that this was the fifth time in two years the council has discussed Short-term rentals.*

*Councilor Bradshaw – This was the fifth time we discussed short-term rentals. We understand the urgency of wanting to do something now, but there are some legal issues. If you do some research, like South Lake Tahoe they have been unable to do anything because of the courts*

*rulings on this. The Courts side with ownership rights and property rights, so unless you have an HOA like Pavona Place that prevents short-term rentals, it is very hard for the city to legislate that without getting into million-dollar lawsuits. The elitist comment was not made by a councilor member it was made by a citizen.*

*Mayor-shared the San Antonio ordinance with the council because it regulated how many short-term rentals per street and required a permit.*

*The City Council will be looking at some possible solutions in the future.*

- 2) **On January 6<sup>th</sup> there was an armed gunman (Althea/Hodges area) with a stolen vehicle. They were on lockdown because they back up to a city of San Antonio's vacant lot, that is overrun with high grass and dumping. The City of Leon Valley cannot regulate code enforcement in the City of San Antonio. The resident will need to call 311. The City will reach out to the COSA to see if they can get this cleaned up, but this will continue to be a problem since the property is not located in Leon Valley. The traffic to get out of the (Althea/Hodges area) they made it one way about three years ago; however, now, you can't get out of Evers rd. because the traffic is backup on Evers Road, they are using their street as a passthrough. Unfortunately, this section of Evers Road is in the San Antonio city limits, but we will reach out to their Public Works Department to see if there are any solutions. Due to the number of cars on their street, mail is often stolen. The police have been notified and will increase patrol.**

**No money is put into this area.** *The city spent about \$2,000 on making these streets a one-way, per their request and the streets themselves are in the Year 7 Street Maintenance Project to receive a mill & overlay. These streets were built in 1951, just prior to being incorporated with Leon Valley and are considered substandard, as there are no curbs and sidewalks. In the past, the residents of this neighborhood indicated they would like to keep them this way, so the only treatment to the streets was sealcoating and mill and overlay. If that has changed, please let us know.*

- 3) **Advocating for the repairs of the pool.** *As the repairs will cost over \$50,000, a bid is being prepared and will be advertised. Once all bids have been received and evaluated, the item will go before City Council for approval. ARP fund presentation will be provided at the 2/21/2023 City council meeting for fund allocation.*
- 4) **Statement -Short-term rentals in the Castle Estates area, there are only 26 homes, three of them are short-term rentals and they think they are about to get a fourth. It affects the whole area and they are requesting rules and making sure we collect the tax.**
- 5) **Street sweeping the last time was the middle of July and they would like a schedule; when is the next time their street will be swept?** *Our street sweeping personnel was out for two months on a medical issue and then the focus became the Christmas light installation. He is now back and has been street-sweeping for the past two weeks. The schedule for street sweeping is quarterly, unless and an unusual amount of leaves are being collected such as the Oak tree leaf fall in the spring and in the fall. Residents are encouraged to call for any street concerns outside of this schedule. Concerned about uneven and cracked sidewalks. Public Works Construction Crew regularly repairs sidewalks upon receipt of complaints from citizens; however, this is a four-man Crew and they have many other duties such as replacing street signs and repairing potholes*

and streets, so citizens are encouraged to call and report any uneven sidewalks. In addition, we include sidewalks in our annual street maintenance program. **Half privacy fence is this allowed?** Yes, it is allowed, but hoarding trash is not allowed, so we encourage citizens to call our Code Enforcement personnel and report these incidents. The front yard fence concern will be added to the City Council's pipeline for further consideration.

- 6) **The ridge at grass hill park needs attention it has been tagged and graffiti also the trash does not seem to be emptied regularly.** This has been forwarded to the Public Works department to look into.
- 7) **Citizen's concern is about fireworks. July fourth had firework catch fire to her bush.** Please contact the non-emergency number at 210-684-8897. If it is during regular business hours, please city hall at 210-684-1391.
- 8) **They would like the City to monitor next door.** The city cannot respond to posts because of the next-door rules. But we do correspond on other sites like Facebook and Instagram. Also, a lot of the complaints that are posted or commented on are not in Leon Valley or not in Leon Valley residents. **Other reminders to get information on other events.** Please sign up for e-news or download the Leon Valley app MyLeonValley.
- 9) **Have the Living conditions at Vista del Rey improved?** The City is in current litigation with the apartment complex. They have started to make some effort to improve the area, such as submitting fire lane plans and stair plans. They have also stated that the water issues have been repaired. We will not know until we actually get an inspection completed. **The restaurant at 5616 Bandera is an eyesore.** The city will be adopting a substandard building ordinance on February 7, 2023, and will be moving forward with getting this area remedied. The city does have a couple of liens on this property already.
- 10) **The nonemergency number can we get dispatch back?** The city can not afford a 24/7 service. If it is during normal business hours, please call city hall. We have a receptionist that answers the phone or call the City Manager.
- 11) **Received a redlight camera ticket left turn at Huebner off of Evers. The yellow light does not always blink and sometimes moves to solid yellow, red, or green.** The Public Works director will have someone take a look at the light to see if it is malfunctioning; however, it is the driver's responsibility to follow the traffic signals. Please do not try to determine a pattern and proceed in that manner. The redlight camera has legislation HB 177 to remove the cities that still have contracts. After further investigation, the company has determined there are no malfunctions at the light. Drivers should not try to establish a pattern they must simply follow the traffic signals.
- 12) **Residents in grass hill that are directly behind the business.** When the business has a power outage, those residents do not have power. We have made contact with CPS energy to see if they can be put on a different grid. At the same time, they are in the process of updating those lines.
- 13) **There is an issue with deer destroying the yards.** The City Council will be considering an Ordinance revision that will prohibit the feeding of any wildlife in city-owned parks and drainage ways at their next Council meeting. We do have new current signage at Raymond Rimkus Park that asks citizens to refrain from stating not to feed the deer. We do have current signage stating not to feed the deer. The suggestion was made to grade Dove soap on your yard; however, I believe the soap to use is Irish Spring. Stores such as Home Depot and Lowe's offer a spray-on product called Deer Fence, which is very effective.

14) **Where can I get a map of Leon Valley?** *On the city's website.*