

Leander ISD Road Proposal BCCP Staff Recommendation

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BCCP Coordinating Committee Secretary

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BCCP Permit Compliance

Leander ISD has proposed using an existing Primary Electric Infrastructure Corridor to construct a new street to provide additional access to Vandergrift High School and Four Points Middle School.

- Action not provided for in BCCP HCP, therefore may not be allowed by permit
- Infrastructure Management Plan distinguishes between Electric Corridors and Roadway Corridors

BCCP Permit Compliance

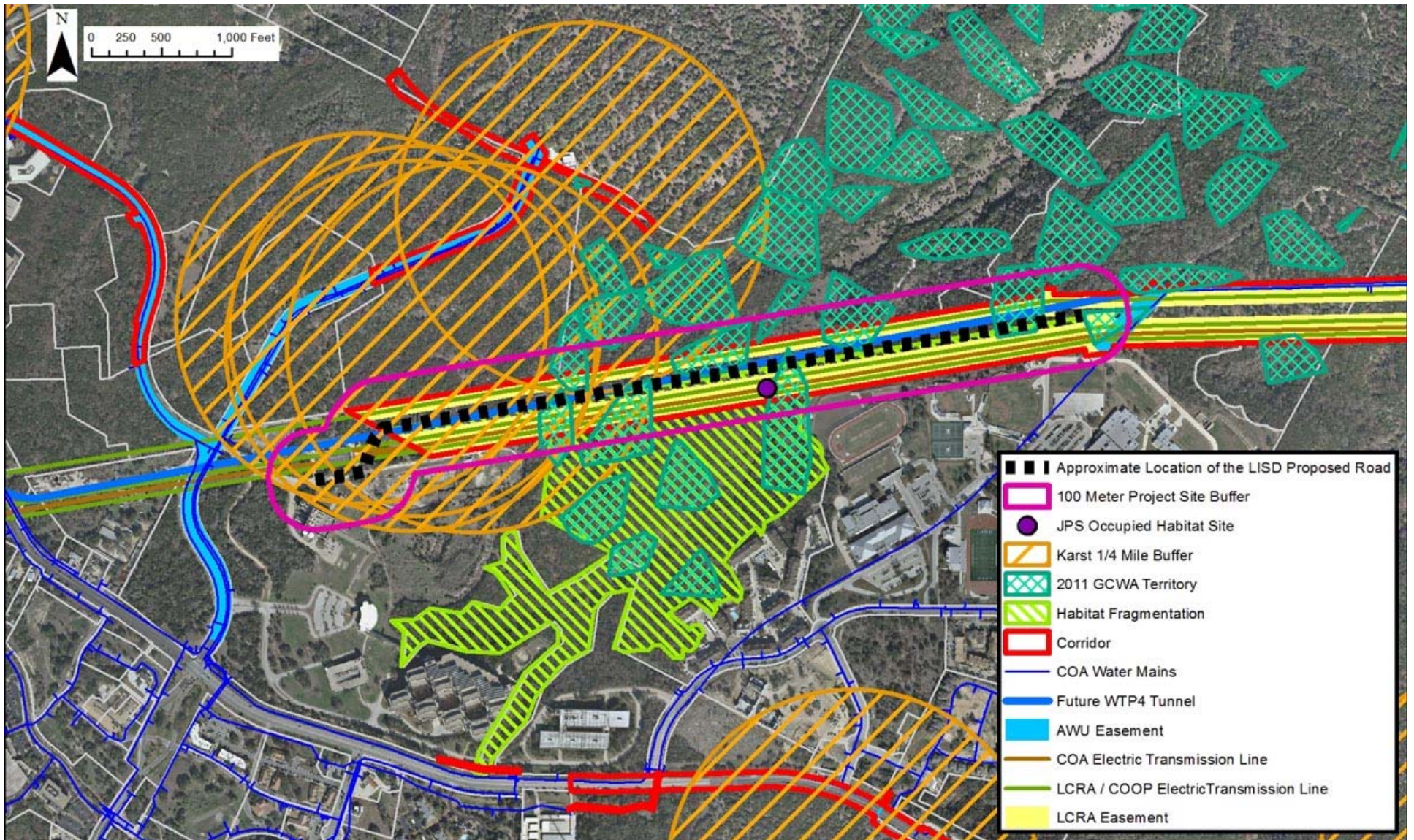
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Differing types of corridors are defined because roadways have greater potential effects on habitat

- Roadway
 - Any habitat value is paved over (8 acres)
 - Daily traffic/travel disturbances (they predict 6,000 cars a day)
 - No reduction during nesting season
 - This project will fragment an additional 91 acres of habitat
 - This project includes significant bridge construction and greater disturbance
 - Proposed road is within ¼ mile of five BCP caves with endangered karst invertebrates
 - Indirect impacts on habitat within 300 feet of the proposed road (90 acres)
- Electric
 - Habitat disturbance is minimized during clearing and maintenance
 - Ongoing maintenance now modified here to enhance habitat
 - Travel and other activity is minimal
 - During nesting season activity limited to patrol and emergency maintenance

BCCP Permit Compliance

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Requested Action is Not Authorized by BCCP Permit or HCP

- Conversion of an electric corridor to a roadway corridor
 - May increase direct take beyond that authorized by permit
 - May increase indirect effects from fragmentation and disturbance
- Results of proposed action
 - May exceed authorized Take
 - May reduce the level and quality of mitigation provided by BCCP
 - Establishes a precedent to allow conversion of other electric corridors to roadways
 - Conversions would not be limited to LISD (There are at least two other requests that may come forward)

Consequences of LISD Proposed Action

- Major Permit Amendment
 - “Changes in habitat conservation ... likely to increase level of incidental take...” is an example of a major amendment included in the HCP
- Chapter 26 hearings may be required for changed use.
 - A finding of “no reasonable and prudent alternative” could not be recommended by staff.
 - Other alternatives such as 3M access or traffic engineering solutions are not fully exhausted.

What Does a Major Amendment Entail

- Reevaluation and renegotiation of all incidental take authorized by the BCCP permit
- Renegotiation of all mitigation required by the BCCP permit based on most recent science
- New Biological Opinion
- New NEPA process
- Two year process, tens of thousands of dollars cost for COA and TC