

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jon Budd - TxDOT ENV
FROM: David Sandrock, MA, RPA - CMEC
DATE: November 22, 2019
RE: Update for Oak Hill Parkway Archeological Survey



On behalf of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and under Texas Antiquities Permit 8810, Cox|Mclain Environmental Consulting, Inc. (CMEC) conducted an intensive archeological survey of proposed widening improvements at the intersection of US Highway (US) 290 and State Highway (SH) 71, locally known as “The Y”, in southwestern Travis County, Texas. The project extends 6.16 miles (9.91 kilometers) along US 290 and 1.26 miles (2.03 kilometers) along SH 71, and includes an isolated detention pond location north of SH 71. At the time of the Texas Antiquities Permit Application, the undertaking’s area of potential effects (APE) covered 398.51 acres, consisting of 313.87 acres of existing right-of-way, 78.07 acres of proposed right-of-way, 0.18 acres of permanent easements, 3.45 acres of driveway license, 0.27 acres of proposed temporary construction easements, and an additional 2.67 acres of overbank flood mitigation area. The overbank flood mitigation area measures 11.13 acres total; however, the majority of this area (8.46 acres) is accounted for within either existing or proposed right-of-way.

Two previous reports covering archeological surveys associated with this project have been cleared by TxDOT and the Texas Historical Commission (THC): a 2017 report under Texas Antiquities Permit 7661, which gained THC concurrence on January 12, 2017, and a 2019 report under Texas Antiquities Permit 8810, which was reviewed and accepted by TxDOT on April 18, 2019. Following the 2019 report, 22.03 acres still required assessment and coordination with the THC once right-of-entry was obtained.

Following further design changes which slightly decreased the amount of area requiring survey to 21.5 acres, additional survey of previously inaccessible areas was undertaken in September and November 2019. Based on the results of background review and coordination with TxDOT, only the proposed new right-of-way and easements for which CMEC had been granted access (totaling 6.78 acres) were subjected to archeological survey. The majority of the surveyed area’s ground surface was sloping, eroded, gravelly, and likely disturbed by nearby utility, roadway, and commercial development (**Figure 2**). Typical profiles encountered in excavated shovel tests contained gravelly, friable to firm, 10YR 3/2 (very dark grayish brown) clay loam with many rootlets from 0 to between 5 and 20 centimeters below ground surface, underlain by limestone bedrock or degrading limestone bedrock (**Figure 3**). During this portion of the survey, 10 shovel tests were excavated, no archeological materials or features were encountered, and no new archeological sites were identified (**Figure 4a–e**).



As a result of this survey, CMEC recommends that no further work is necessary within the existing right-of-way or within evaluated portions of proposed right-of-way prior to construction. This recommendation, as well as the findings of the most recent survey effort, will be further documented in a forthcoming survey report to be submitted to the THC. Evaluated portions of proposed right-of-way included surveyed areas (6.78 acres) and small slivers of proposed right-of-way where right-of-entry was not available, but ground conditions and disturbances were completely visible from existing right-of-way (4.13 acres).

Outside the existing right-of-way and evaluated portions of proposed right-of-way discussed above, pedestrian survey with judgmental shovel testing is recommended for the remaining portions of the APE when rights-of-entry are obtained or right-of-way is purchased. At present, 10.58 acres remain that were not available for survey, but for which survey is recommended, including areas near two previously recorded sites (41TV2194 and 41TV2516). These areas will be surveyed as access becomes available, and the findings of these surveys will be included in the forthcoming report to be submitted to the THC.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at davids@coxmcclain.com or 512-338-2223.

Sincerely,



David Sandrock MA, RPA
Principal Investigator/Staff Archeologist
Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting, Inc.



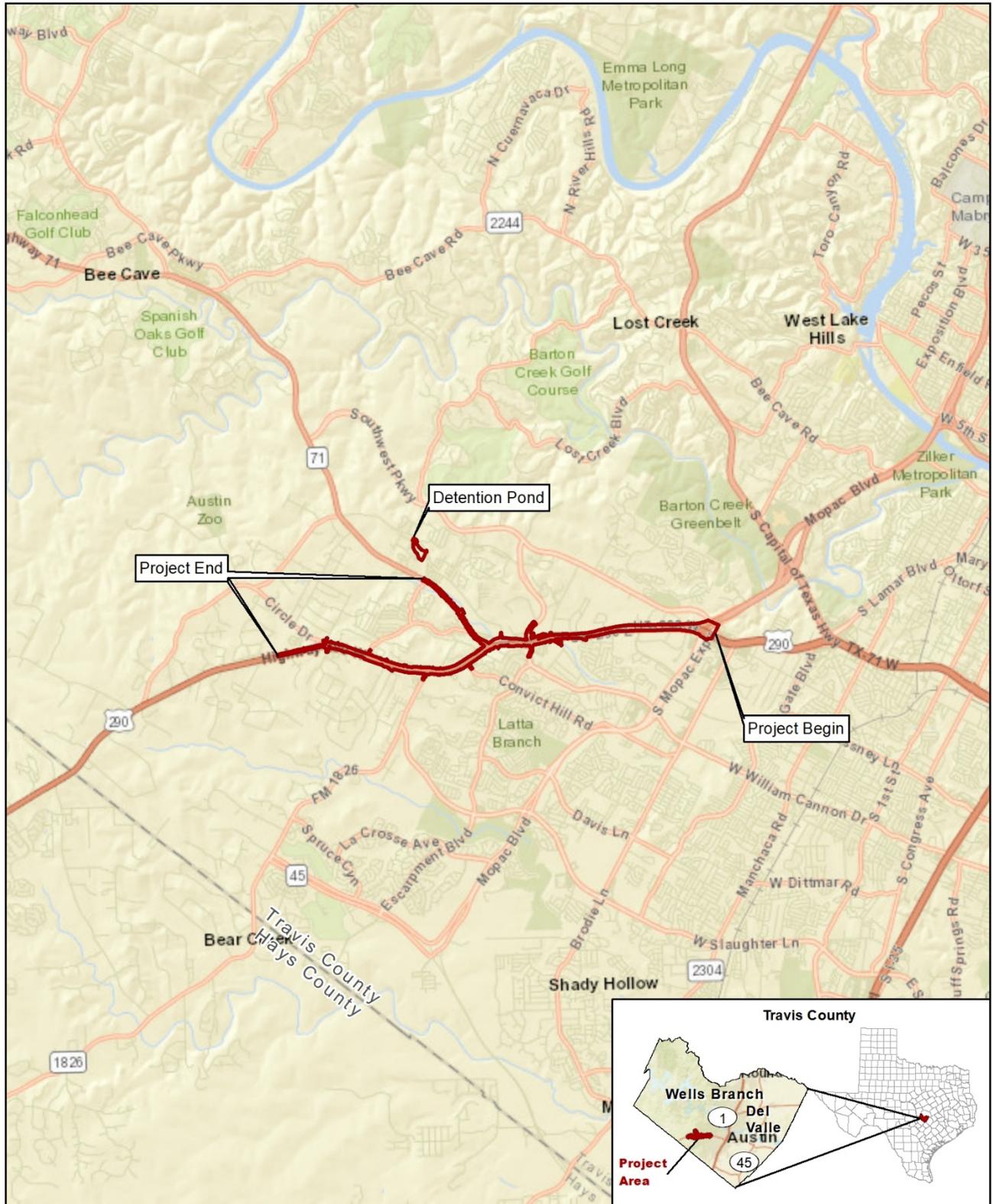


Figure 1. Project Location (Road Base)

Oak Hill Parkway: US 290W from Mopac/Loop1 to west of Circle Drive and SH 71 from US 290W to Silvermine Drive

Project Location

	0 2 Miles 0 3 Kilometers
Prepared for: TxDOT	1 in = 2 miles
Basemap Source: ESRI (2019)	Scale: 1:126,720
CSJ: 0113-08-060 and 0700-03-077	Date: 11/20/2019

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Figure 2: View of development and stony slopes present throughout much of APE.



Figure 3: View of typical shovel test excavated during this portion of survey.



Figure 4a. Survey Results

Oak Hill Parkway: US 290W from Mopac/Loop1 to west of Circle Drive and SH 71 from US 290W to Silvermine Drive

Data Sources: CMEC (2019), TARL (2019), NHD (2018)
Aerial Source: Google (2018)

Prepared for: TxDOT	1 in = 800 feet
	Scale: 1:9,600
CSJ: 0113-08-060 and 0700-03-077	Date: 11/22/2019

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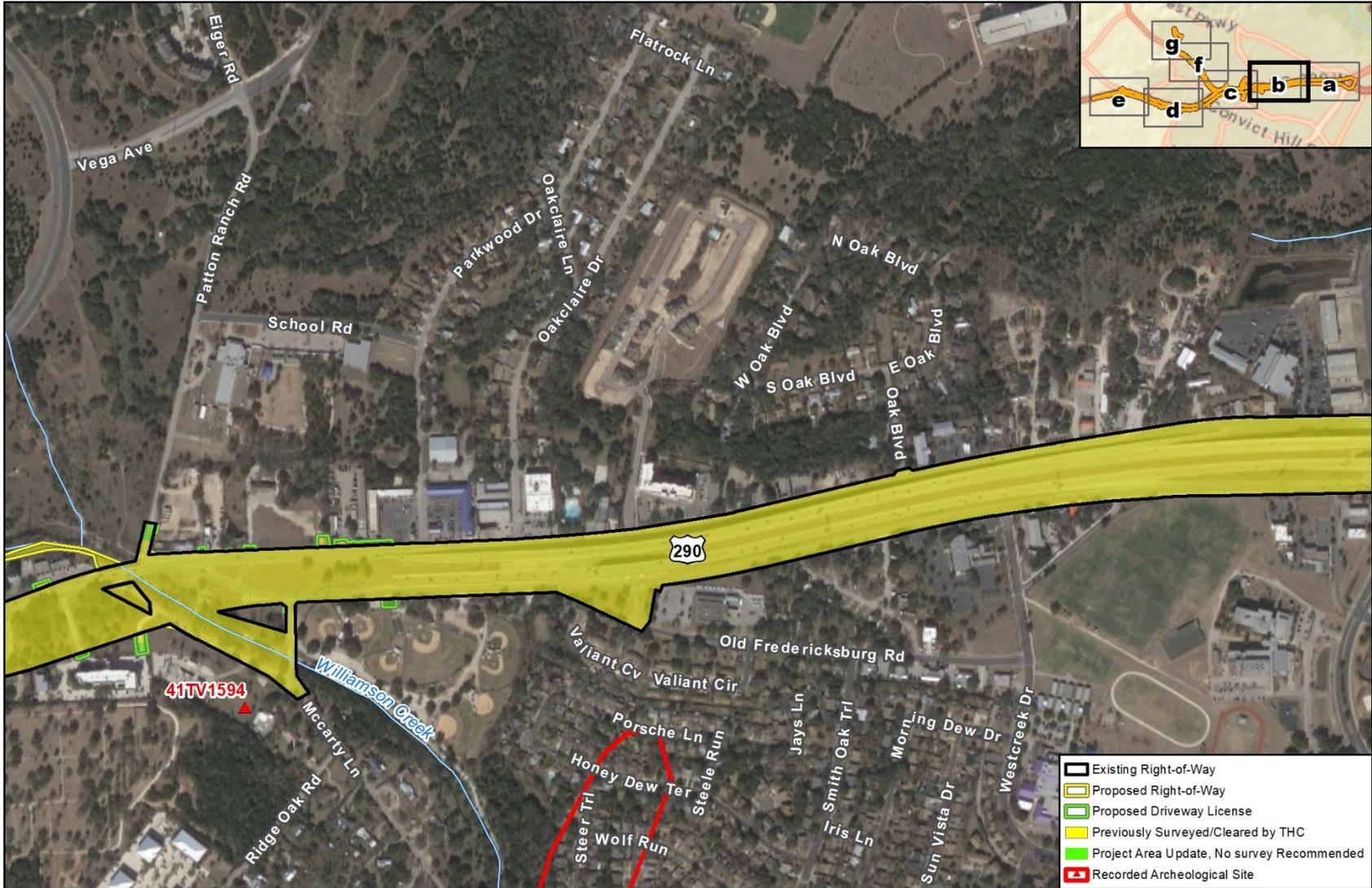


Figure 4b. Survey Results

Oak Hill Parkway: US 290W from Mopac/Loop1 to west of Circle Drive and SH 71 from US 290W to Silvermine Drive

Data Sources: CMEC (2019), TARL (2019), NHD (2018)
Aerial Source: Google (2018)

	0	800 Feet
	0	250 Meters
Prepared for: TxDOT	1 in = 800 feet	
	Scale: 1:9,600	
CSJ: 0113-08-060 and 0700-03-077	Date: 11/22/2019	

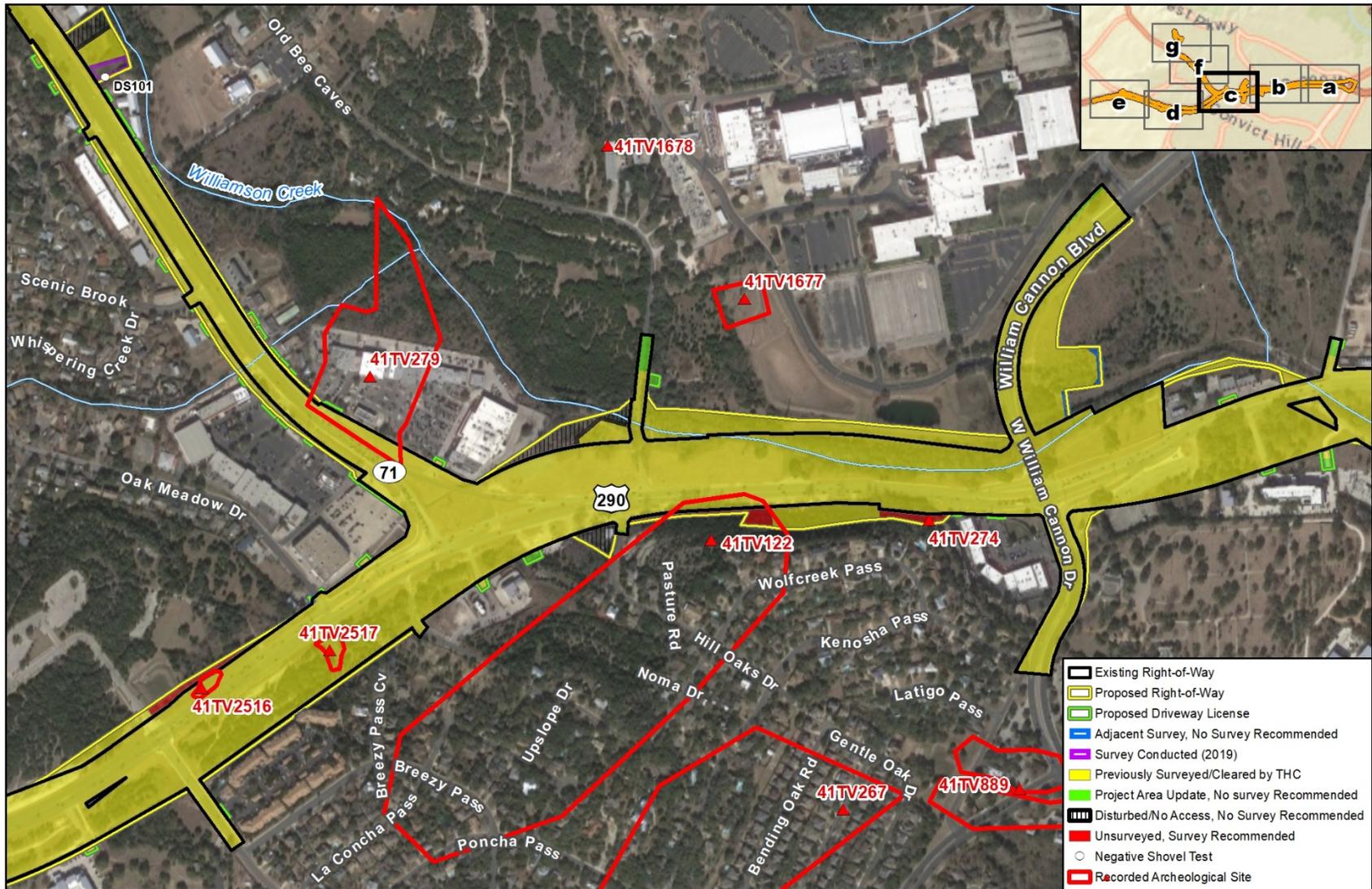


Figure 4c. Survey Results

Oak Hill Parkway: US 290W from Mopac/Loop1 to west of Circle Drive and SH 71 from US 290W to Silvermine Drive

Data Sources: CMEC (2019), TARL (2019), NHD (2018)
Aerial Source: Google (2018)

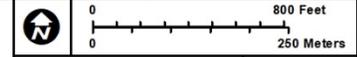
	0	800 Feet
	0	250 Meters
Prepared for: TxDOT	1 in = 800 feet	
	Scale: 1:9,600	
CSJ: 0113-08-060 and 0700-03-077	Date: 11/22/2019	



Figure 4d. Survey Results

Oak Hill Parkway: US 290W from Mopac/Loop1 to west of Circle Drive and SH 71 from US 290W to Silvermine Drive

- Existing Right-of-Way
- Proposed Right-of-Way
- Proposed Driveway License
- Survey Conducted (2019)
- Previously Surveyed/Cleared by THC
- Project Area Update, No survey Recommended
- Unsurveyed, Survey Recommended
- Negative Shovel Test
- Recorded Archeological Site



Data Sources: CMEC (2019), TARL (2019), NHD (2018)
 Aerial Source: Google (2018)

Prepared for: TxDOT	1 in = 800 feet
	Scale: 1:9,600
CSJ: 0113-08-080 and 0700-03-077	Date: 11/22/2019

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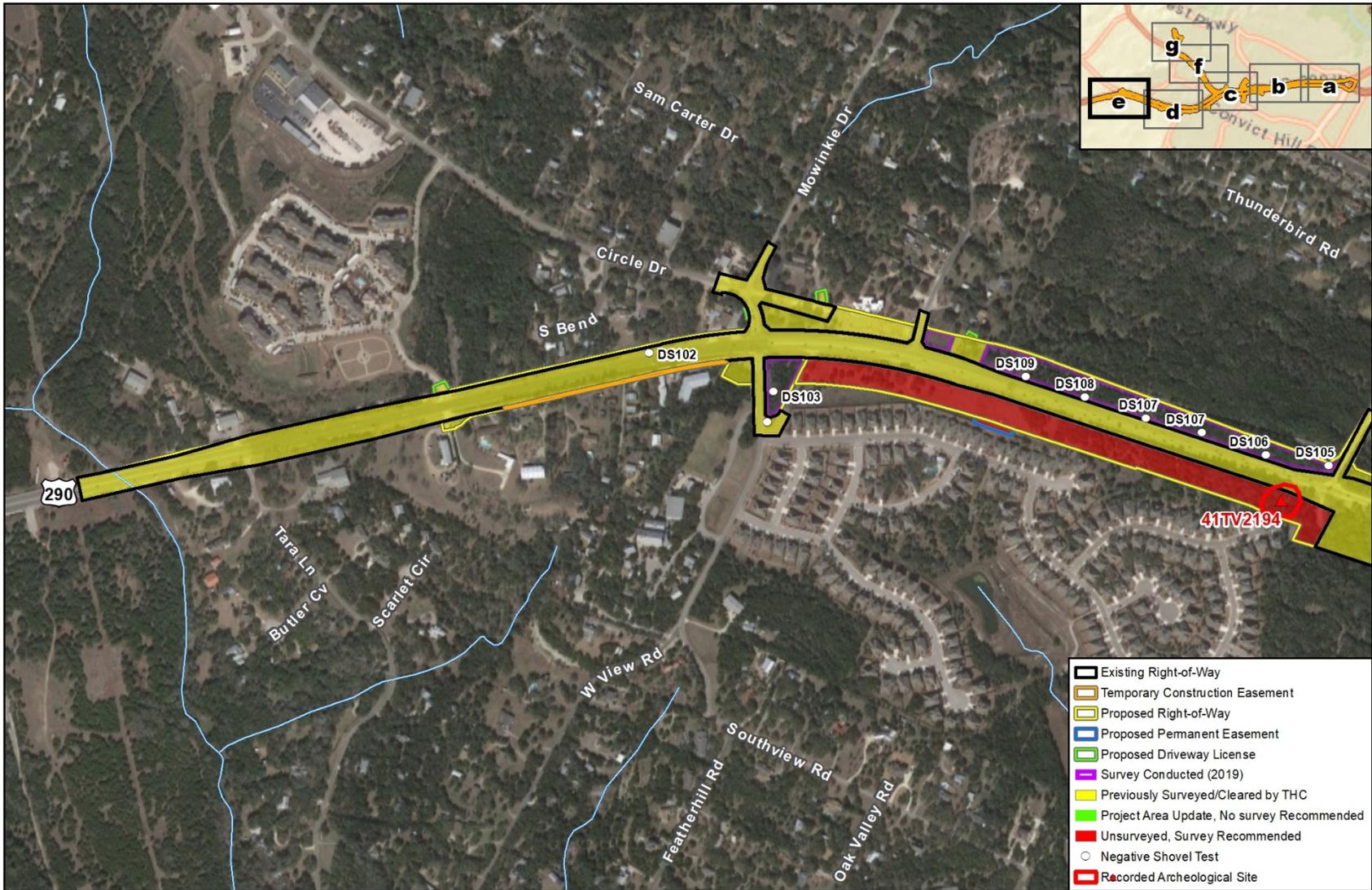


Figure 4e. Survey Results

Oak Hill Parkway: US 290W from Mopac/Loop1 to west of Circle Drive and SH 71 from US 290W to Silvermine Drive

Data Sources: CMEC (2019), TARL (2019), NHD (2018)
Aerial Source: Google (2018)

	0	800 Feet
	0	250 Meters
Prepared for: TxDOT	1 in = 800 feet	
CSJ: 0113-08-060 and 0700-03-077	Scale: 1:9,600	
	Date: 11/22/2019	

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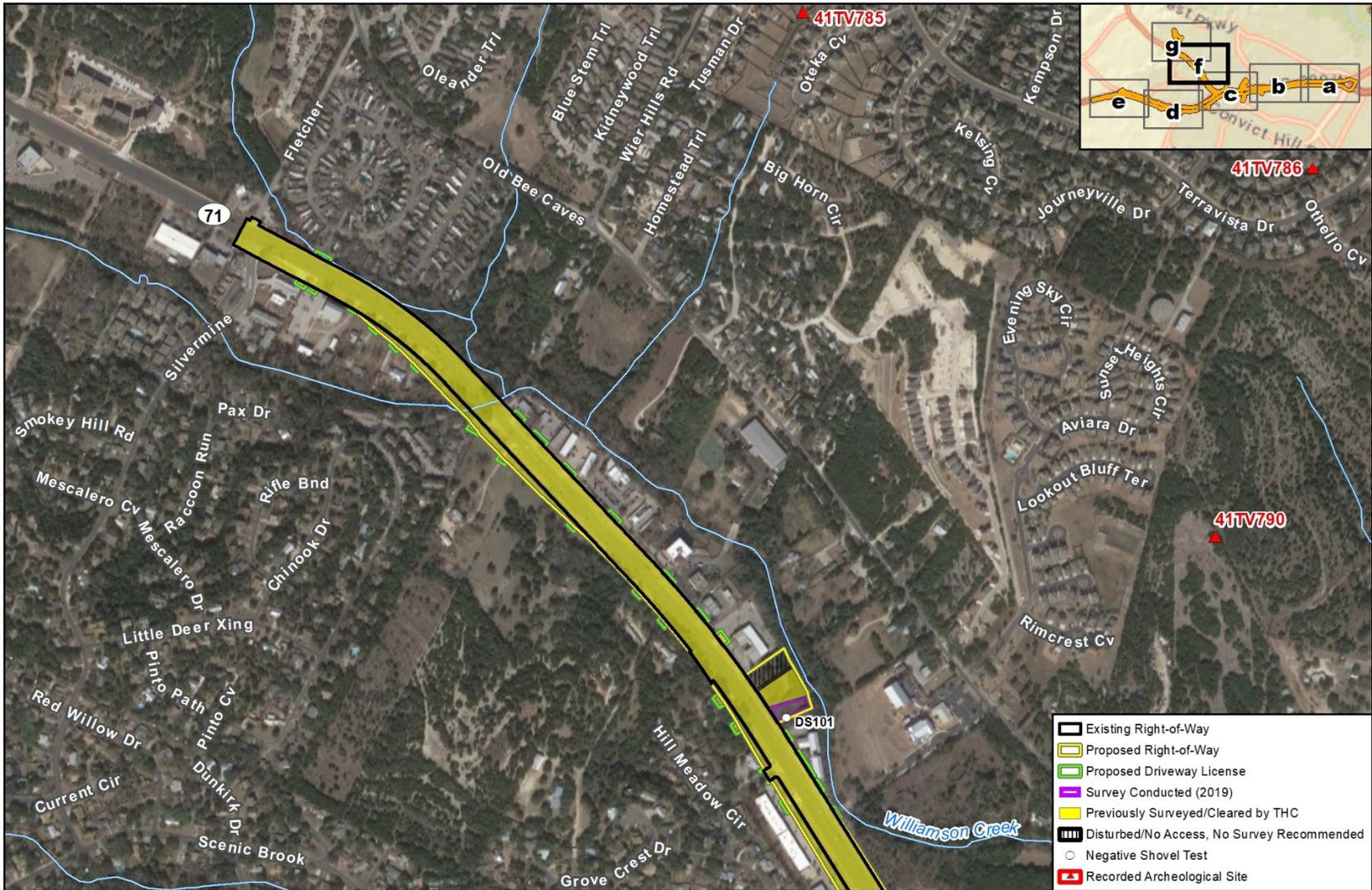


Figure 4f. Survey Results

Oak Hill Parkway: US 290W from Mopac/Loop1 to west of Circle Drive and SH 71 from US 290W to Silvermine Drive

Data Sources: CMEC (2019), TARL (2019), NHD (2018)
Aerial Source: Google (2018)

	0	800 Feet
	0	250 Meters
Prepared for: TxDOT	1 in = 800 feet	
CSJ: 0113-08-060 and 0700-03-077	Scale: 1:9,600	
	Date: 11/22/2019	

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Figure 4g. Survey Results

Oak Hill Parkway: US 290W from Mopac/Loop1 to west of Circle Drive and SH 71 from US 290W to Silvermine Drive

Data Sources: CMEC (2019), TARL (2019), NHD (2018)
Aerial Source: Google (2018)

	0	800 Feet
	0	250 Meters
Prepared for: TxDOT	1 in = 800 feet	
	Scale: 1:9,600	
CSJ: 0113-08-060 and 0700-03-077	Date: 11/22/2019	