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## Roadway wrangling

Conley out as county's project rep

**By Brad Rollins**  
Staff Reporter

San Marcos — The commissioners court stripped one of its members of oversight of a state road package on Tuesday and returned control of individual roads to the commissioner in whose precinct the road falls.

Pct. 3 Commissioner Will Conley was named by the previous court as its designee to deal with the Texas Department of Transportation and consultants during engineering and design for widening Ranch Road 12 and Farm-to-Market Road 1626 and building a starter segment of the San Marcos loop.

Some of the court's new Democratic majority have said they have reservations about the funding arrangement for the projects and about how some roads were selected.

County Judge Elizabeth Sumter asked her colleagues to review Conley's designee status.

"I'd just like to see the process opened up to the community and have more involvement from the different commissioners that have those projects. I don't see any problem with being more shared between the members of the court and their constituents," Pct. 4 Commissioner Karen Ford said.

The court approved the change 3-2 with Sumter, Ford and Pct. 1 Commissioner Debbie Gonzales Ingalsbe voting in favor.

Conley, backed by Pct. 2 Commissioner Jeff Barton, argued that he has been deeply involved in the projects since taking office two years ago and had consulted closely with each commissioner.

For instance, some of Ingalsbe's constituents are angry that Conley initiated a lawsuit to gain right-of-entry to resident Reed Carr's property to survey for the San Marcos loop. But Conley has said Ingalsbe knew about the lawsuit and approved of it.

Ingalsbe said, "I had some knowledge of it."

It is unclear what effect the changed arrangement will have on the so-called pass-through financing projects. Under the agreement with the state transportation department, the county will pay for \$152.8 million to improve the roads and be reimbursed up to \$133.3 million depending on how many vehicles use the roads.

Some observers saw an attempt by the court to drag its feet on the project.

"This measure that has come before you today seems to be intended to delay these projects," said Woodcreek Mayor Warren Haverton, who spoke in favor of widening Ranch Road 12.

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