



## POSITION STATEMENT

### On the Proposed Darden Hill Road Expansion

*Driftwood Historical Conservation Society • May 12, 2026*

## OUR MISSION

*Driftwood HCS is dedicated to preserving and enhancing Driftwood's rural beauty, heritage, and sense of community and belonging.*

The Driftwood Historical Conservation Society (Driftwood HCS) has reviewed the proposed expansion of Darden Hill Road and offers the following position. Our mission compels us to speak: a road project of this scale will permanently shape the rural character, safety, and identity of the Driftwood community for generations. **What is currently proposed is an urban-scale roadway solution dropped into the middle of a rural area —** and a less invasive, proven alternative is available.

A meaningful local precedent already exists. **FM 967 is not a four-lane divided highway, yet it successfully serves three schools** and the surrounding community. It demonstrates that thoughtfully designed two-lane rural roadways can accommodate growth without sacrificing the character of the area they pass through. Darden Hill Road deserves the same considered approach.

## DRIFTWOOD HCS POSITION

The position of Driftwood HCS on the proposed Darden Hill Road expansion is as follows:

- **Driftwood HCS does not support a four-lane divided roadway.** A four-lane divided highway is unnecessary for the projected use of this corridor and is fundamentally inconsistent with the rural character of the Darden Hill area.
- **Driftwood HCS supports a “Super 2” alternative.** A Super 2 roadway (sometimes called a “2+1 road”) is a cost-effective, enhanced two-lane rural roadway that adds turn lanes where appropriate to reduce congestion and improve safety. The proposed four-lane divided highway should be reduced to a Super 2.
- **Driftwood HCS supports a 35 mph posted speed limit on Darden Hill Road,** consistent with the speed limit applied to comparable segments of Sawyer Ranch Road.
- **Driftwood HCS supports preserving the rural character of the Darden Hill area** to the greatest extent possible in any roadway design and right-of-way decision.

## WHY THIS MATTERS

The roads we build are among the most enduring decisions a community makes about its identity. A four-lane divided highway invites urban-scale traffic, higher traffic speeds, and urban-scale development pressure into a place whose value rests on being something different. **Driftwood HCS urges decision-makers to choose the design that fits the place** — in this situation it's a Super 2 roadway with a posted speed limit appropriate to a rural community, designed to move people safely without erasing the character that brought them here in the first place.

**Driftwood Historical Conservation Society**

*Preserving Heritage, Rural Beauty, and Sense of Community & Belonging • Driftwood, Texas*

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