

# WASHINGTON COUNTY VISITOR CENTER PROPOSAL

BIRTHPLACE OF TEXAS



Concept for community discussion

Suggested location at Brenham's west entrance

Revised September 30, 2026 • TxDOT July 2026 schematic

Proposal website: [brenham.org](https://brenham.org)

Contact: [info@brenham.org](mailto:info@brenham.org)

# Washington County Visitor Center

A more visible welcome to Washington County's attractions and local businesses.

\*Paid ads and family names require City and historical review.

## 01

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### Visitor gateway

- Northeast visitor center
- S Dixie entry + exit only
- Digital community media sign
- Community-event messages
- Paid local-business ads\*

## 02

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### History + culture

- Dr. Brenham central plaza
- Northwest art + heritage park
- Rotating Washington County art
- Heritage Family Plaza
- Long-established families\*

## 03

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### Site + TxDOT

- Suggested site: 2.955 acres, B2
- NW detention pond + fountain
- NE visitor center
- Center-right parking + bus loop
- SW reflection garden + Jesus
- TxDOT path + signal

# A visible parcel with a regional outlook

## Suggested site

**2.955 acres**

Current tract acreage  
confirmed by owner

## B2 zoning

Entry and exit from  
S Dixie Street only



Existing-road aerial; yellow outline is approximate. July 2026 TxDOT geometry follows.

# TxDOT's path follows the west frontage

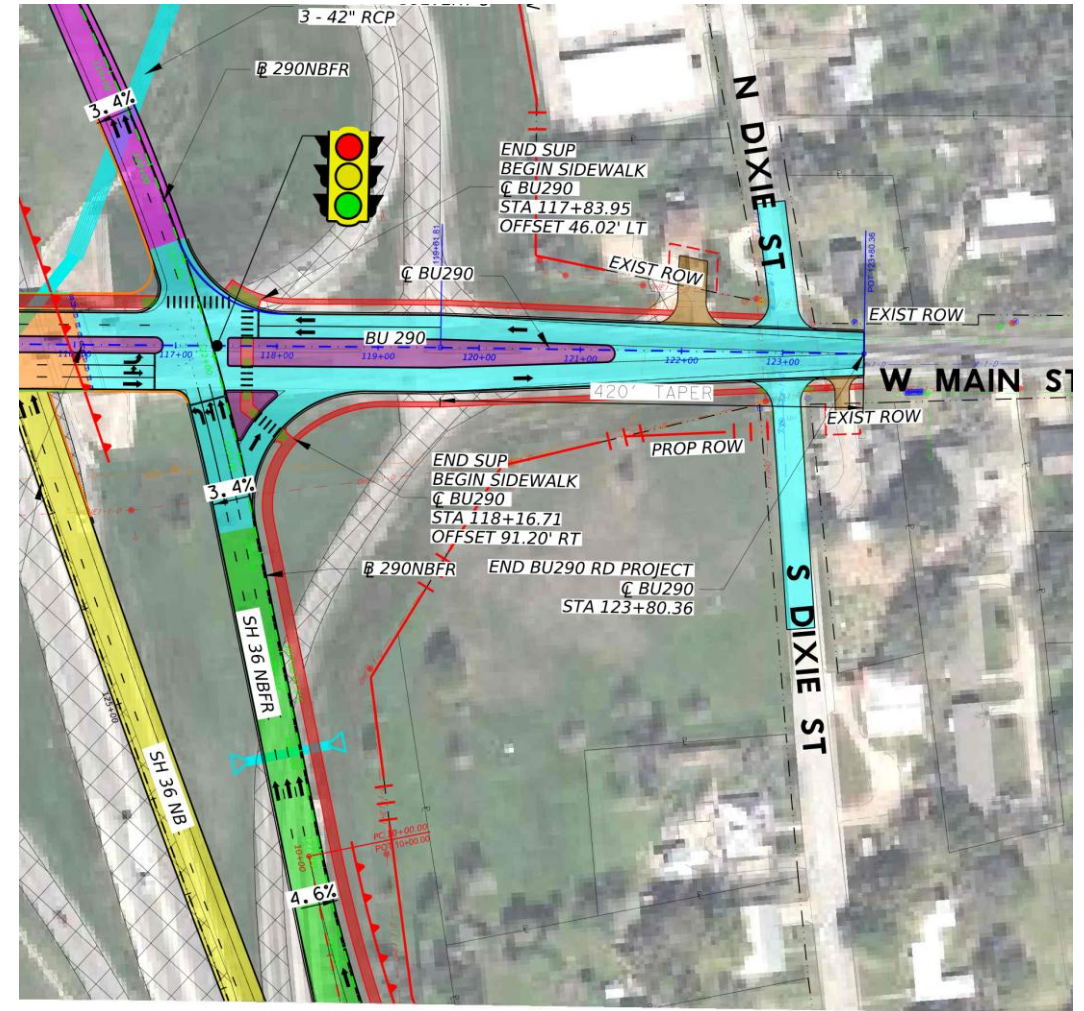
## West-side pedestrian route

## Shared-use path

Along the frontage road from the exit, continuing north to the W Main signal.

## Sidewalk along W Main

At W Main, the path becomes a sidewalk. It continues east toward S Dixie.



TxDOT roll 5 • July 9, 2026 • Issued August 20, 2026 • Preliminary; subject to change

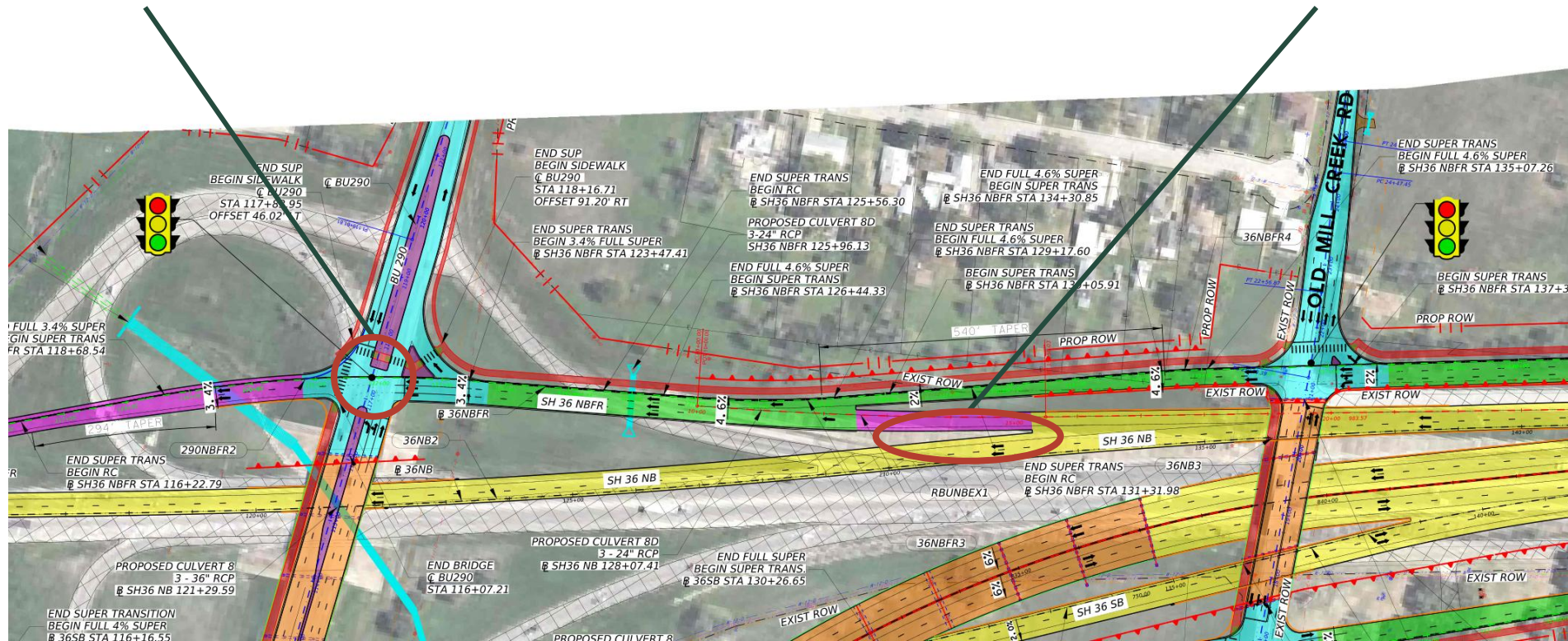
# The exit ramp feeds the W Main signal

## STOP LIGHT

W Main / northbound frontage road

## EXIT RAMP

South of W Main



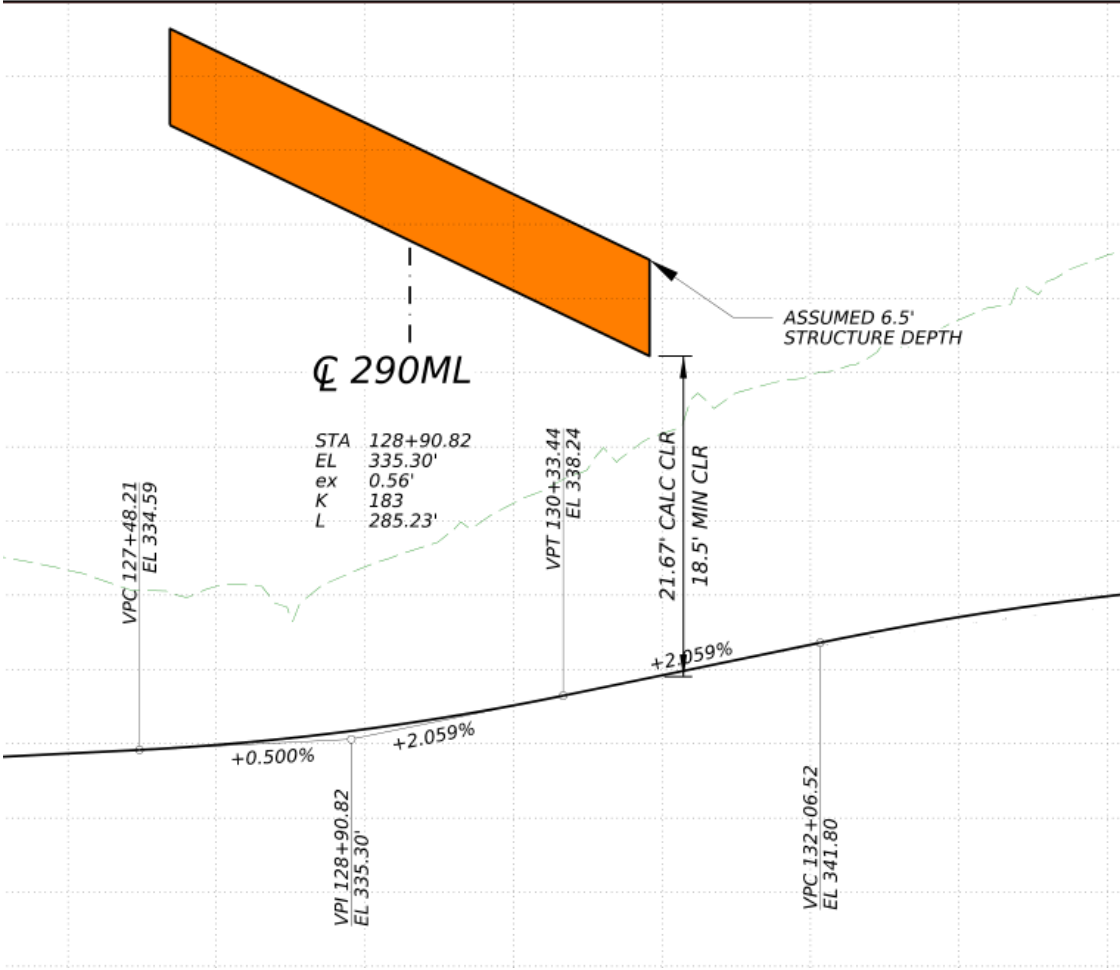
TxDOT roll 4 • July 9, 2026 • North is left • Preliminary; subject to change

# US 290 crosses above SH 36

The orange bridge section is US 290.  
The lower roadway profile is SH 36.

Review terrace sightlines, traffic noise  
and afternoon shade against the  
proposed highway elevations.

TxDOT profile excerpt  
July 2026 preliminary design;  
final elevations subject to change.



# The whole site, arranged to the parcel



Illustrative route • West: TxDOT shared-use path • North: W Main sidewalk • Official schematic: page 4

# Welcome visitors at the northeast center



Northeast building • South-facing porch and private forecourt • Both vehicle driveways remain on S Dixie

# Introduce the center from S Dixie



East-side entry concept • Community information sign • Paid advertising and final sign placement require review

# Faith, Heritage, and Lasting Legacy

## Honoring the man behind the city's name

Dr. Richard Fox Brenham was a physician, Republic of Texas soldier, and the namesake of Brenham. He died during a Texan prisoners' escape attempt at Salado, Mexico, in 1843, at approximately 33 years of age.

## Creating a place for reflection

The central Dr. Brenham memorial would introduce visitors to local history, while the separate Jesus monument and reflection garden would offer a peaceful setting for faith, contemplation, and hope.

**Together, these spaces would invite visitors to consider service, remembrance, and the legacy a life can leave.**

History: Texas State Historical Association • Memorial and reflection garden: proposed concept

# Honor Dr. Brenham in the central art plaza



Central plaza • Dr. Richard Fox Brenham • Northwest pond beyond • Conceptual likeness; historical review required

# Let the northwest pond anchor the art park



North-up detail • Pond northwest • Center northeast • Parking southeast of the pond • Public path outside west edge

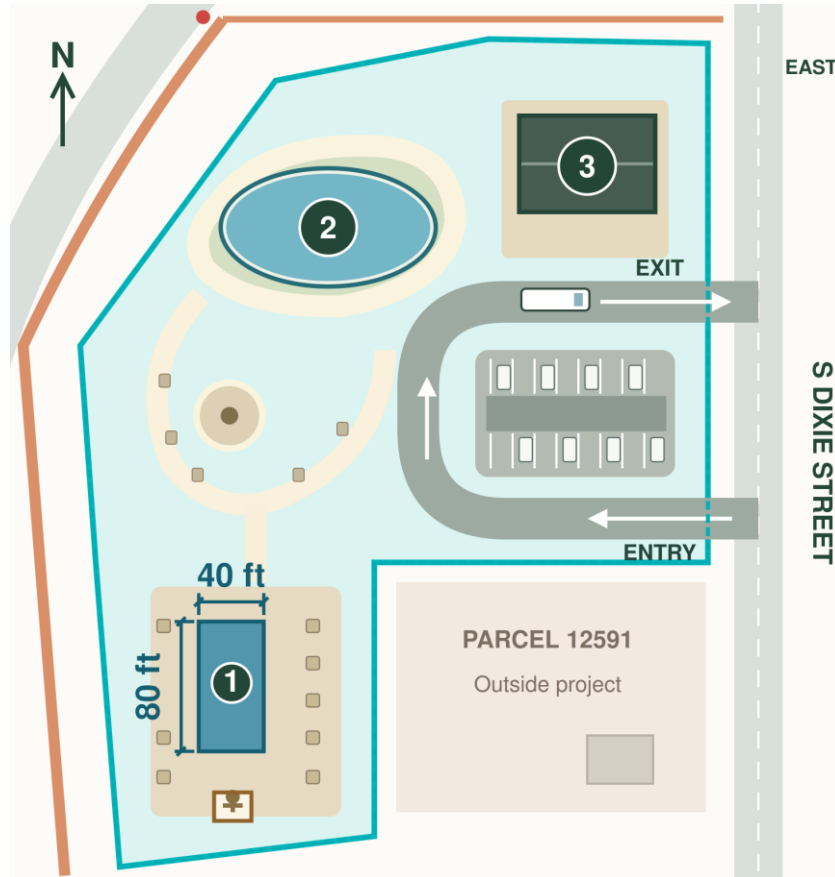
# Recognize local families beside the art plaza



Central heritage walk • Matching recognition plaques and benches • Family names and selection criteria require review

# Site placement and reflection pool dimensions

2.955-acre parcel • North-up • 40 × 80 ft pool concept • S Dixie entry + exit only



## Proposed locations

- 1 · Reflection pool: southwest.  
40 ft wide × 80 ft long.  
16 ft monument at south end.
- 2 · NW detention: size by civil design.
- 3 · NE visitor center.
- 4,500 SF planning program.

Concept locations • Pool dimensions are water-edge targets • Final offsets and detention sizing require survey / civil design.

# A reflection garden with a 16-foot monument



12 ft Jesus statue + 4 ft pedestal • 40 × 80 ft pool concept • Illustrative scale; subject to City review

# A recognition walk for every community church

## Recognition around the pond

A recognition plaque for every church along the reflection-pond walk, with space for future congregations.

## One consistent plaque design

Church name, founding year and a brief history. Use matching plaques and confirm each inscription with its congregation.



Concept • Plaque locations are illustrative • Keep paths clear; confirm participation and final site design

# Face the terrace toward the northwest pond

## A west-facing place to pause

Look across the northwest pond.  
Check raised-road views, traffic noise  
and afternoon shade in final design.

## Coordinate the public path

The public path stays outside the parcel.  
Plan an accessible on-site connection;  
confirm the tie-in with City / TxDOT.



West-facing terrace concept • Public path beyond the park • Final views, grading and pedestrian tie-in require review

# Pair a compact building with a civic landscape

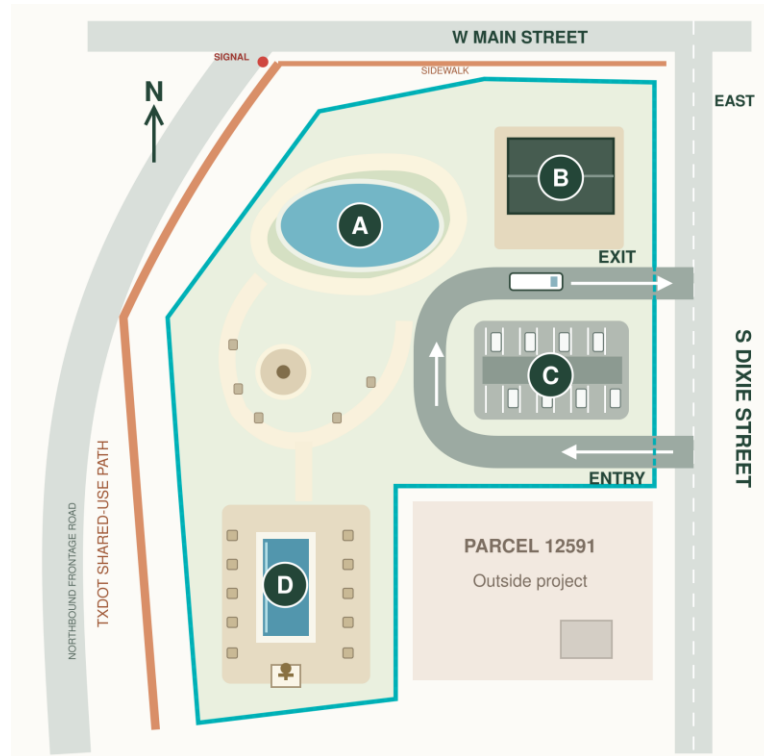
Illustrative 4,500 SF center + tour-bus drop-off + pond/fountain + heritage landscape

| Space                            | Planning area | Purpose                                      |
|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Welcome & trip planning          | 1,200 SF      | Staffed information, maps and orientation    |
| County story & exhibits          | 900 SF        | Rotating interpretation and partner displays |
| Offices & workroom               | 800 SF        | Tourism team and visitor-service support     |
| Small briefing room              | 400 SF        | Partner meetings and group orientation       |
| Restrooms, storage & circulation | 1,200 SF      | Public convenience and building support      |

Outdoor: NW detention + art park; central Dr. Brenham plaza; SW reflecting pool + Jesus; digital sign subject to review.

# Use the entire L-shaped parcel

North-up concept • West shared-use path • South-side W Main sidewalk • S Dixie entry + exit only



## Four distinct areas

- A · NW pond + art park.  
Dr. Brenham: central plaza.
- B · NE visitor center.
- C · Center-right parking.  
Bus returns to S Dixie.
- D · SW pool + Jesus statue.

Road and path relationships follow slide 4 • Diagram is not to scale • Final layout requires survey and civil design.

# A more visible welcome for local tourism

An updated visitor center at Brenham's west entrance could help more travelers discover Washington County.

## CURRENT VISITOR CENTER

**2,664**

walk-ins, January–June 2026

115 W Main Street, downtown Brenham

Jan–Mar: 1,427    Apr–Jun: 1,237

## Why a more visible center matters

A visible welcome point could encourage travelers to stop and explore.

Updated maps and local recommendations can connect visitors with downtown, church heritage and county attractions.

The goal: more visits to local shops, restaurants and overnight stays.

Current-center walk-ins measure use of visitor services. Additional visits and spending are goals to evaluate.