

## **Love's Travel Stop to locate in George County**

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Anyone who travels much is familiar with the distinctive yellow signs with the big red hearts. Love's Travel Stops offer truckers and motorists fuel, coffee, clean restaurants, good food and convenience stores packed with merchandise travelers might need in more than 560 locations in more than 41 states. One may be coming to George County within the next year.

Many of the details are still to be worked out, but the George County Board of Supervisors took care of one of those details during its regular monthly meeting on Monday. The Board approved a tentative plan to construct a wastewater line and lift station system from the intersection of Hwy. 98 and Hwy 198 E along county road right-a-way to the county industrial park where it will connect to an existing wastewater line serving the industrial park. The effluent eventually ends up in the city-operated wastewater treatment plant.

George County Community Development Director Ken Flanagan presented the Board with a letter from Love's Travel Stops and County Stores stating the company's intention to build the travel stop featuring separate auto and truck entrances, RV parking stands and hookups, truck and auto fueling, a large convenience store, a franchise restaurant, a dog walking area, showers and a laundry.

While the plan is to build a smaller facility than many of its other locations, the Travel Stop is estimated to cost nine million dollars and employ about 30 full and part-time people.

The proposed wastewater line is estimated to cost \$450,000 to construct and will be paid by Love's. Once constructed, it will become county property.

Flanagan said highway traffic on Hwy. 98 is about 10,000 vehicles per day and one of the deciding factors for Love's to locate in George County is the anticipated truck traffic serving the new Enviva wood pellet mill.