

# Environmental Statewide Public Involvement Plan

## Stakeholder Fact Sheet

### Beyond The Road

Through collaboration and leadership, TxDOT delivers a safe, reliable, and integrated transportation system that enables the movement of people and goods. One of TxDOT's [strategic goals](#) is to foster stewardship by protecting the natural, human, and cultural resources in Texas. The agency's Environmental Affairs Division (ENV) is charged with this effort. ENV launched a new campaign, called "Beyond The Road."



**The message: TxDOT does more than build roads. TxDOT's archeologists, biologists, historians, and environmental scientists work together to ensure that as progress is made, the preservation of natural, human, and cultural resources in Texas is considered.**

TxDOT has a long history of discovering and preserving the resources of Texas during the environmental review process that is conducted during roadway projects. The Beyond The Road campaign tells stories, including such TxDOT discoveries as the Inner Space Caverns and the 150-year-old farm of a freed slave. This campaign aims to inspire the public to learn about and engage with TxDOT during the environmental process of preserving stories and protecting the state's resources.

#### WHY BEYOND THE ROAD IS IMPORTANT TO TEXAS

Texans take pride in the state's natural beauty and unique cultural heritage and can help TxDOT in their work of practicing good stewardship. The Beyond the Road campaign encourages Texans to be more engaged and eager to get involved.

#### APPROACH:

- 1. PUBLIC AWARENESS:** A public awareness and media campaign will reach a statewide audience with [stories](#) of TxDOT's discoveries and stewardship.
- 2. ENGAGEMENT:** TxDOT will engage a statewide audience in its work so that decisions reflect the needs of the state's population.

TxDOT will engage with consulting parties, resource agencies, and other groups who have an interest or stake, including federally recognized Native American tribes, historical commissions and environmental groups, in project planning and implementation. TxDOT's stakeholders will provide feedback on strategies to effectively reach the public with stories, projects, and opportunities to participate, including planning for or mitigating environmental outcomes.

The Beyond the Road campaign is a multi-year effort that supports the implementation of the Texas Transportation Plan (TTP), which is the statewide long-range transportation plan (SLRTP) through the year 2040 and adheres to TxDOT's Public Involvement Policy.

#### ENV's Mission

To enhance Texans' understanding of TxDOT's role in the environment and become inspired to engage in TxDOT's transportation programs.

#### TxDOT's Public

##### Involvement Mission:

TxDOT is committed to purposefully involving the public in planning and project implementation by providing for early, continuous, transparent, and effective access to information and decision-making processes.

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Go to [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov), keyword "Beyond The Road".



### GET INVOLVED

- 1. Share stories about TxDOT's fieldwork.** When you learn about TxDOT's stories of protecting endangered species or excavating ancient archeological sites, please share them online and in person with your audiences, whether they are stakeholders, colleagues, students, or neighbors.
- 2. Collaborate with TxDOT.** Participate in stakeholder groups, take an online survey, or host a meeting/forum with TxDOT. The Beyond the Road campaign depends on early and ongoing feedback from tribes, historic preservation groups, environmental stakeholders, and the public to keep projects on track. TxDOT will incorporate input and feedback received from the public into decision-making for plans and programs.
- 3. Keep TxDOT "in the loop."** When you have ideas for TxDOT, please share them. If you think of groups or people who should be involved in TxDOT's outreach and public involvement efforts, please let TxDOT know. Should you become aware of newly discovered archeological, biological, historical or community assets or mitigation issues, tell TxDOT about them.