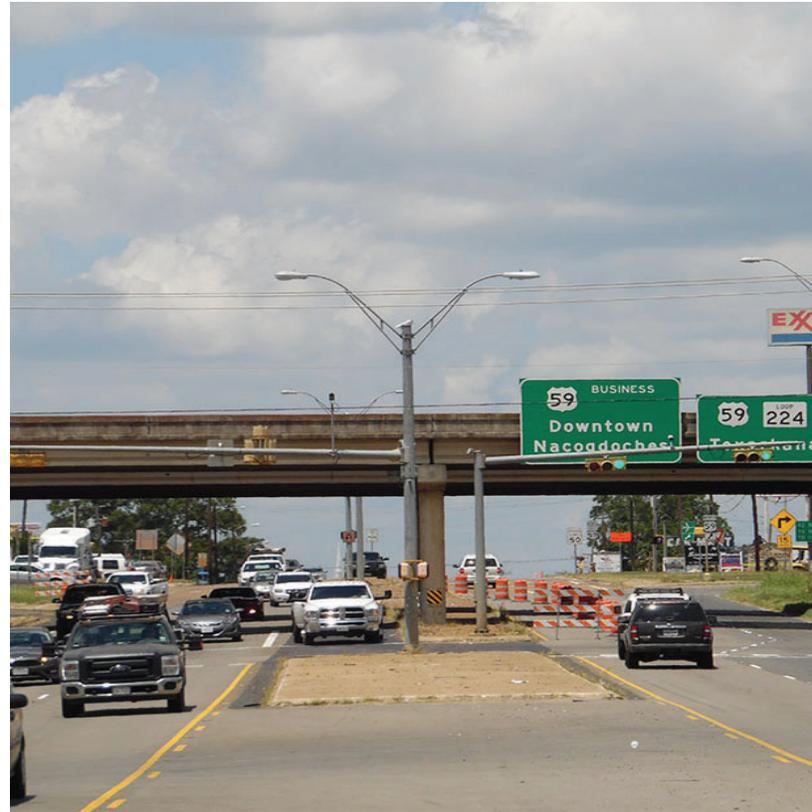


US 59/STATE LOOP 224 SOUTH INTERCHANGE (FUTURE I-69) NACOGDOCHES COUNTY



LUFKIN DISTRICT

August 2015



Project Background

This project is dedicated to improving safety and mobility from south of Spradley Street on United States Highway (US) 59 to the intersection of State Highway (SH) 7 West and State Loop (SL) 224. Due to increasing traffic, congestion and a high number of traffic accidents, this project was one of three identified near term improvements needed in Nacogdoches County according to the US 59 Corridor Master Plan study. According to the US 59 Corridor Master Plan study, near term improvements would improve safety under present and projected traffic loads until the long term solution, proposed Interstate 69, is constructed. In 2011, TxDOT received a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issuing clearance of the environmental document and final approval of the schematic. Due to budgetary constraints, the project will be constructed in two phases:

Phase I

This phase is already under construction and was awarded to Webber Construction for \$14.0 million. The project is currently projected to be completed Spring 2017 and includes the following improvements:

- Converting the center two-way, left-turn lane on US 59 from south of Spradley Street to SL 224 to a raised median
- Constructing U-turns at Spradley Street and near SL 224
- Widening medians and lanes at Spradley Street and near SL 224 to accommodate future construction of US 59 main lanes
- Pedestrian safety will be accommodated by constructing sidewalks on both sides of US 59 from Spradley Street to SL 224
- Reconfiguring the US 59/SL 224 intersection would provide safer turning movements and reduce congestion by allowing two lanes of through traffic to make a left turn at the signalized intersection

Phase II

The proposed project focuses on eliminating traffic conflicts between through traffic and local traffic in this high density commercial area with the following improvements:

- Construct new US 59 northbound and southbound main lanes that would directly connect to SL 224 just south of SH 7
- Constructing overpasses at Spradley Street, existing US 59 and Old Lufkin Road
- Constructing frontage roads for SL 224, between SH 7 and BU 59

Project Location



This map shows Phase I and Phase II US 59 South/SL 224 project improvement area.

Project Summary and Funding Points

- On August 19, 2013, the I-69 Angelina and Nacogdoches Counties Committee identified this project as a top priority for development in Nacogdoches County.
- Since that time, TxDOT has received resolutions of support from the City of Nacogdoches and Nacogdoches County to upgrade US 59 through Nacogdoches to interstate standard for possible future designation as I-69.
- With support from local officials and the public, TxDOT is currently revising the schematic, bringing it up to interstate standards. These revisions will require the schematic to be reapproved and a reevaluation of the environmental document.
- Once the schematic and reevaluation are approved, TxDOT will utilize the \$6 million that was allocated for I-69 project development in Nacogdoches County to begin acquiring the right of way for Phase 2.
- The construction date for Phase 2 will be set once funding becomes available.

Other Local Updates

Upcoming Proposed Projects

FM 2609 (East Austin Street) Widening project

East Austin Street has four travel lanes from SL 224/Stallings Drive to Raguet Street and narrows to two lanes between Raguet Street and North Street, creating a bottleneck for traffic. TxDOT and the City of Nacogdoches are proposing to widen this section of East Austin Street from two lanes to four lanes to alleviate congestion and increase safety and mobility. On August 12, 2014, TxDOT held an open house to display options and gather local input. Environmental studies are currently underway, and a consultant has begun developing the plans. The proposed project has an estimated cost of \$1,500,000, and construction is tentatively scheduled to begin Summer 2017. For more information, visit www.txdot.gov and Search: FM 2609.

FM 1878 at Lanana Creek Bridge Replacement

The existing bridge on FM 1878 over Lanana Creek was constructed in 1953, and required a “load posting” sign (noting vehicle weight restrictions). The proposed project would replace the bridge, maintain the same number of travel lanes but expand the shoulders and add sidewalks. These improvements would also meet today’s vehicle load standards and would eliminate vehicle weight restrictions. TxDOT has just begun working with consultants to develop the proposed engineering plans. An open house will be held in 2016 to present the proposed project and gather local input. The project has an estimated construction cost of \$1,651,000, and construction is tentatively scheduled to begin Summer 2017.

To see a complete list of projects that are being developed in the Nacogdoches area, please visit

<http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/project-tracker.html>.

Upcoming Construction Projects

- **SL 224:** The project consists of extending and safety treating drainage structures and driveways, and upgrading the metal beam guard fence along SL 224 between SH 21 and US 259. The project was awarded to Drewery Construction Company, Inc. for \$1.6 million and is projected to be completed Fall 2015.
- **SH 21:** The construction of this project entails rehabilitating and widening the existing roadway between FM 3276 to just west FM 226. The project has been substantially completed and should be finished by Drewery Construction Company by early Fall 2015. The contract amount for this project is \$7.8 million.
- **Starr Avenue/FM 1878:** This project will consist of widening from two to four lanes and adding curb and gutter and sidewalks. The project was awarded to Drewery Construction Company for \$1.5 million. This project will start when utilities have been cleared and will last 10 months.

Get Involved

- US 59/SL 224 Open House: Sept. 3, 2015
- Learn more and provide comments online at www.txdot.gov
- Sign up to receive email updates by visiting the online project page; visit www.txdot.gov and enter: US 59/SL 224 in the search area



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