



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FM 457

Public Hearing

Informational Handouts

FM 457 Bridge Replacement Project

Fact Sheet

Why a new bridge is needed on FM 457

The current FM 457 swing bridge in Sargent, Texas needs to be replaced because of its age and maintenance associated with its upkeep. TxDOT is proposing replacing the current swing bridge with a new, concrete “corkscrew bridge” that will span the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) to provide access to the south side of the GIWW. A corkscrew bridge is being considered because of the limited space along FM 457 combined with the height requirement for a replacement bridge to accommodate barge traffic through the GIWW. A new swing bridge is not being considered because of several factors including:

- Restricted access across the GIWW when the swing bridge is open to allow barge traffic to pass through
- Passing barge traffic requires a swing bridge to be open about 15 minutes
- Restricted access associated with a swing bridge could be problematic for emergency personal and others who need timely, reliable access across the bridge
- Maintenance for swing bridges is costly

Project Purpose

The purpose of the FM 457 bridge replacement project is to replace the dated, high-cost swing bridge with a new, concrete corkscrew bridge. The new bridge will provide reliable access across the GIWW by eliminating current wait times associated with barge traffic.

Project Timeline

Community open houses were held in September 2013 and March 2014 to gather citizen feedback on the proposed project. Using that feedback, TxDOT has studied and evaluated three proposed project options and arrived on a preferred option, or alternative, for replacing the existing FM 457 swing bridge. The details of the study are documented in the draft Environmental Assessment report.

Following the September 2015 public hearing, TxDOT will evaluate and consider public comments and send the comments and Environmental Assessment report to TxDOT headquarters. TxDOT headquarters in Austin will make the final decision on whether or not the project moves forward and is constructed. That decision is expected in late 2015. If the project is approved for construction, that is anticipated to begin in October 2016 and last about 24 months.

Contact Information

For further information, please contact:
Paul Reitz
TxDOT Yoakum Office
361-293-4347
Paul.Reitz@txdot.gov



FM 457 Preferred Alternative



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FM 457

Public Hearing

Display Boards



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

WELCOME!

Why Am I Here?

Learn

about the
proposed project

Ask

about proposed
project details

Review

the project
need, purpose, and
alternatives

Comment

on the
proposed project
and alternatives



Project Need and Purpose

What problems are we trying to address?

- Current bridge has to be open for barge traffic
- Motorists have to wait to cross current bridge
- Emergency response times can be delayed
- Current bridge is in need of major, costly repairs

What are we trying to do?

- Provide reliable access across the GIWW
- Provide a bridge that requires less upkeep and does not need 24/7 staffing



Corkscrew Bridge Details

A corkscrew bridge best accommodates the limited space along FM 457 and height requirements for a new bridge.

Benefits of a Corkscrew Bridge include:

- Unrestricted vehicular flow across the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW)
- Unrestricted boat and barge traffic
- Unrestricted emergency access across the GIWW
- Eliminate swing bridge maintenance costs



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Project Alternatives	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
Description	No build alternative – the current bridge would remain		
Consistent with Purpose and Need?	No	Yes	Yes
Potential for residential relocations?	No	Yes (4)	Yes (1)
Potential for commercial displacements?	No	Yes (1)	No
Impacts to Waters of the U.S.?	No	No	Yes
Impacts to potential wetlands?	No	Yes	Yes
Additional right-of-way (ROW) required?	No	Yes	Yes
Preliminary Decision	Required to be further considered	Not Recommended	Preferred alternative



Alternative C

Preferred Alternative

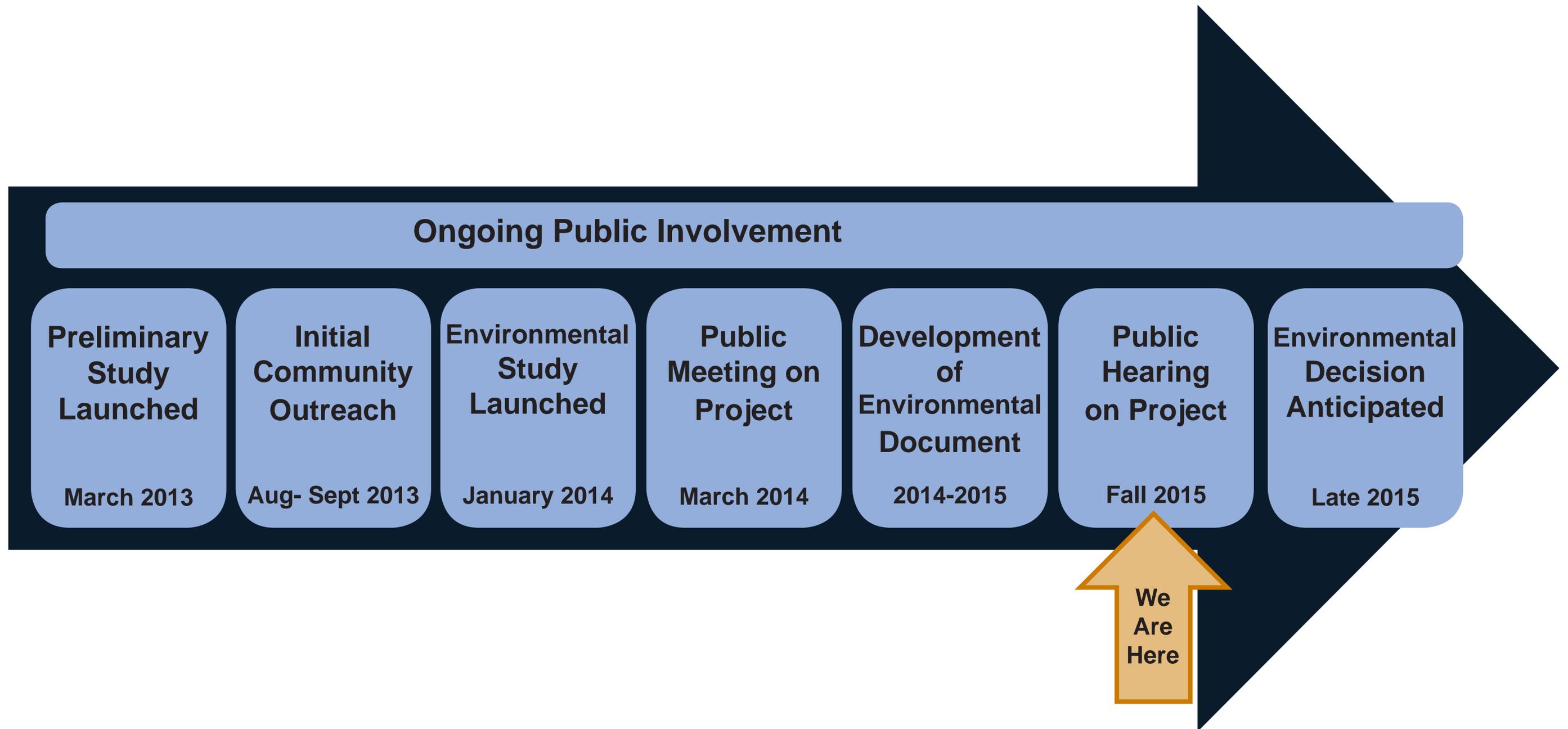
Alternative C is the preferred alternative because it:

- Meets the project purpose and need.
- Requires fewer residential displacements.
- Does not require any commercial displacements.
- Has fewer permanent impacts to wetlands.
- Uses natural vegetation as a buffer between the construction area and the beach. This natural buffer provides protection for federally listed sea turtles and shore birds.





TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



*** This schedule is preliminary and subject to change.**



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Tell us what you think!

Submit your comments by
Monday, September 14, 2015



by Fax

Written or typed comments
can be faxed to **361-293-4372**



by Mail

TxDOT Yoakum Office
403 Huck Street
Yoakum, TX 77995



by Email

Send to
Paul.Reitz@txdot.gov or
to the FM 457 Comment Page.



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FM 457

Public Hearing

Presentation



FM 457 SWING BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Public Hearing

September 1, 2015



Agenda

- Meeting Format
- Project Overview
- Environmental Overview
- Project Schedule
- Public Comments

Why Am I Here?

- Learn and ask questions about the proposed project
- Review purpose and need for project
- Review the proposed project alternatives, including the preferred alternative
- Provide comments and feedback on the proposed project and alternatives

How To Submit Comments

- Verbal comments will commence after presentation
- Written comments can be placed in the comment box
- E-Mail comments to: Paul.Reitz@txdot.gov
- Fax comments to: 361-293-4372
- Mail comments to: TxDOT Yoakum Office
403 Huck Street
Yoakum, Texas 77995

Deadline for comments is Monday, September 14, 2015



PROJECT OVERVIEW

FM 457 Swing Bridge Replacement Project

Project Overview

- Replace current swing bridge with concrete “corkscrew” bridge over the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW)
- Corkscrew bridge will have two lanes – one lane in each direction
- Anticipated displacements are one residence and TxDOT bridge control tower
- Estimated project cost \$28.7 million



What are we trying to do?

- Provide reliable access across the GIWW
- Provide a bridge that requires less upkeep and does not need 24/7 staffing

What problems are we trying to address?

- Current bridge has to be open for barge traffic
- Motorists have to wait to cross current bridge
- Emergency response times can be delayed
- Current bridge is in need of major, costly repairs

Why a Corkscrew Bridge?

A corkscrew bridge best accommodates the limited space along FM 457 and height requirements for a new bridge.

Benefits of a Corkscrew Bridge

- Unrestricted vehicular flow across the GIWW
- Unrestricted boat and barge traffic
- Unrestricted emergency access across the GIWW
- Eliminate swing bridge maintenance costs

Road Design Considerations

- Designed for 30 mph speed
- Road width minimum of 32' with 48' width preferred
- Lane width of 12'
- Shoulder width 4' with 12' width preferred
- Flush 4' median for large trucks
- Maximum grade of 7%
- Pedestrian and bicycle access

Bridge Design and Construction Considerations

- Need 73' of vertical clearance over 225' of GIWW
- Main span and support span length
- Limited footprint on island
- Potential storm surge and other environmental forces
- Corrosion protection for 75 to 100 year service life
- Few or no retaining walls
- Location for new bridge substructure
- Aesthetics
- Access to residences and businesses
- Minimizing work in channel clearance zone

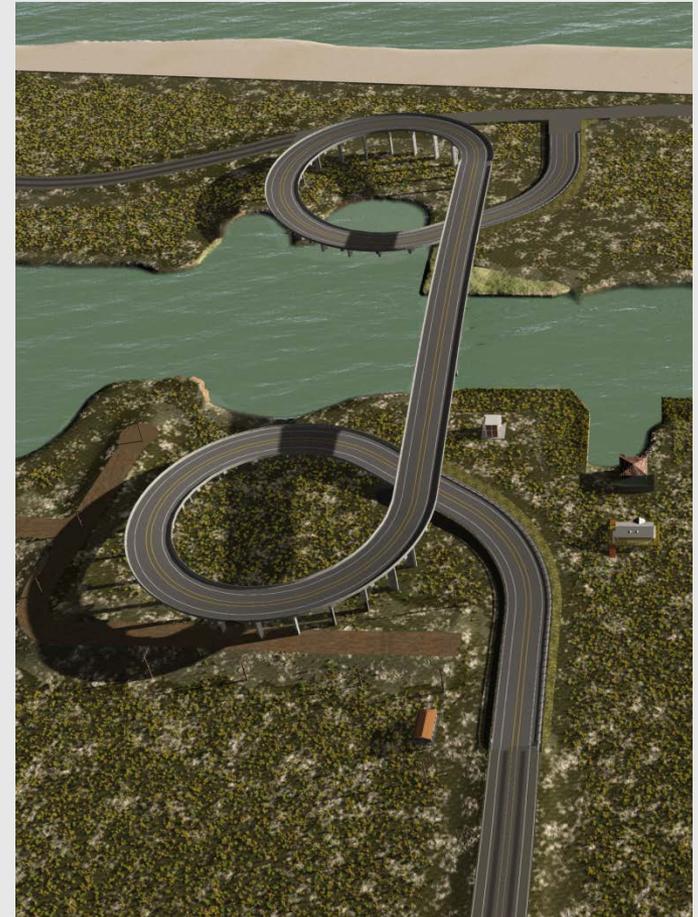
Project Alternatives

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Additional right-of-way (ROW) required?	No	Yes	Yes
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Preferred Alternative – Alternative C

Alternative C is the preferred alternative because it:

- Meets the project purpose and need.
- Requires fewer residential displacements.
- Does not require any commercial displacements.
- Has fewer permanent impacts to wetlands.
- Uses natural vegetation as a buffer between the construction area and the beach. This natural buffer provides protection for federally listed sea turtles and shore birds.





ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW

FM 457 Swing Bridge Replacement Project

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 16, 2014, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

Environmental Assessment (EA)

- A detailed study called an Environmental Assessment (EA) was done for the proposed project.
- The study resulted in a draft EA report.
- The study and report document impacts to the natural and human environment including potential impacts to:
 - Floodplains
 - Potential wetlands
 - Vegetation
 - Wildlife
 - Land use
 - Threatened and endangered species
 - Aesthetic and visual resources
 - Surface water
 - Historic and archaeological resources
 - Potential displacements to residents and businesses
 - Social and community impacts

Project plans and the draft environmental assessment report document are available for viewing:

- Tonight at the Public Hearing
- Project website at www.txdot.gov and search keywords “FM 457”
- TxDOT Matagorda County Maintenance Office
 - Monday – Thursday 7:30 am - 5:30 pm
 - 500 Ave. F
 - Bay City, TX 77414
- TxDOT Yoakum District office
 - Monday – Friday 8 am - 5 pm
 - 403 Huck St.
 - Yoakum, TX 77995

Right of Way Acquisition and Relocation Assistance

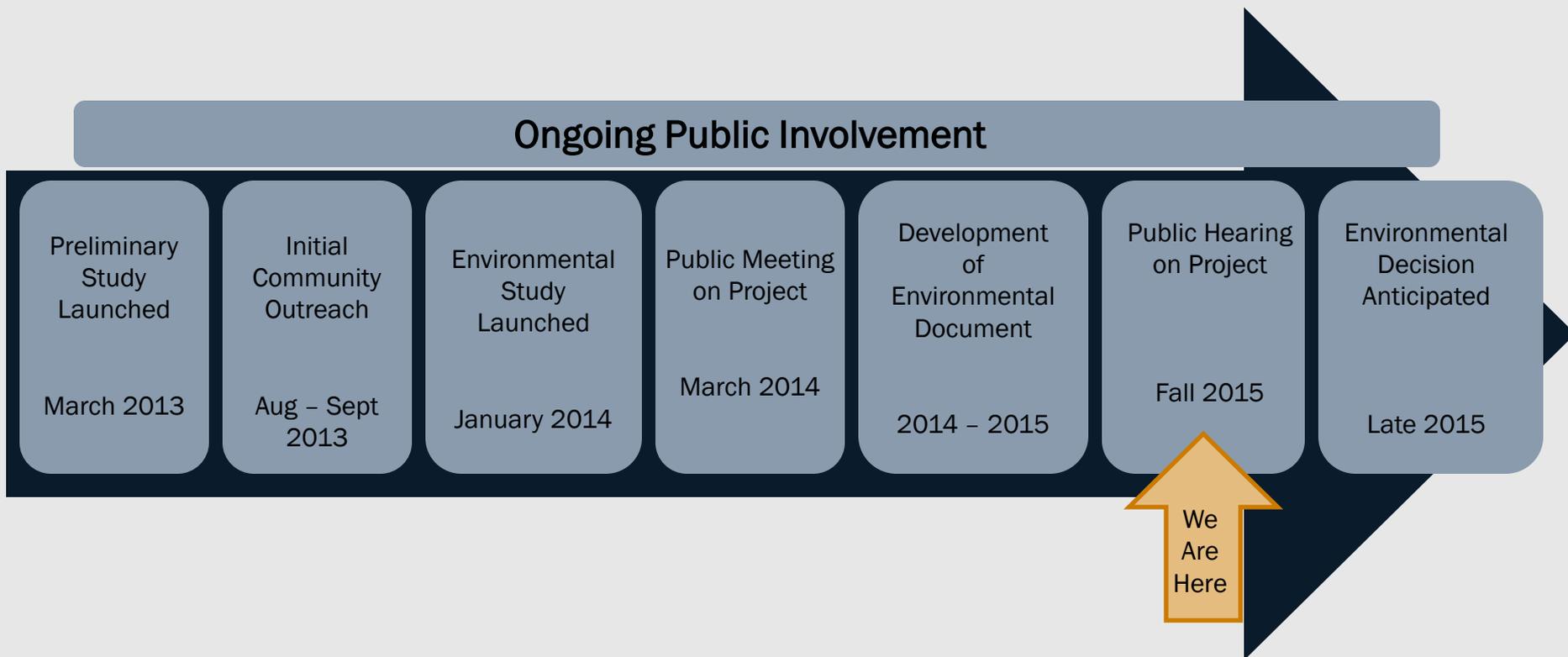
Greg Polasek

TxDOT Right of Way Supervisor

361-293-4312

Greg.Polasek@txdot.gov

Project Schedule*



*** This project schedule and dates are preliminary and subject to change.**

Next Steps

- Compile and consider community input from tonight's public hearing
- Submit Environmental Assessment document for a decision on if the project will be built

How To Submit Comments

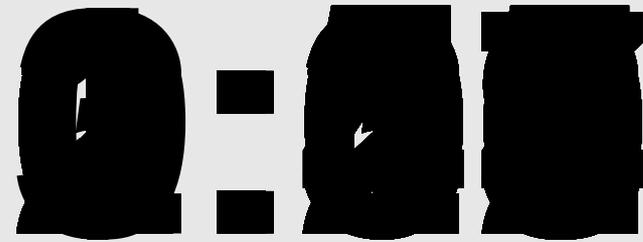
- Verbal comments period
- Written comments can be placed in the comment box
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403 Huck Street
Yoakum, Texas 77995

Deadline for comments is Monday, September 14, 2015

10 Minute Break

Public Comment Period

- Use the microphone
- State your name
- State your interest in the project
- Give your comments on the project
- Please observe 3 minute rule



Thank You for Your Participation!

Please remember to submit comments on or before
Monday, September 14, 2015

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- Fax comments to: 361-293-4372
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