

US 59 TEXARKANA—QUEEN CITY ROUTE STUDY

ATLANTA DISTRICT

STUDY PURPOSE

As part of the initial planning efforts to extend Interstate 369 (I-369) south, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is conducting a US 59 Texarkana—Queen City Route Study. The purpose of the study is to establish the need and purpose for the project, characterize the environmental setting, and develop and screen route options for upgrading US 59 to interstate standards, including potential new route locations to extend I-369 from I-369/SL 151 southwest of Texarkana to FM 2327 north of Queen City.

To meet interstate standards, a highway typically has a minimum of four lanes, continuous median, overpasses, and interchanges with no connecting driveways or intersections. Frontage roads may be included for local access.

The study is scheduled to be complete by Fall 2018, and at that time TxDOT will determine the next steps in the project development. It is important to note there is currently no funding to complete the design, right-of-way (ROW) acquisition and construction of this project.

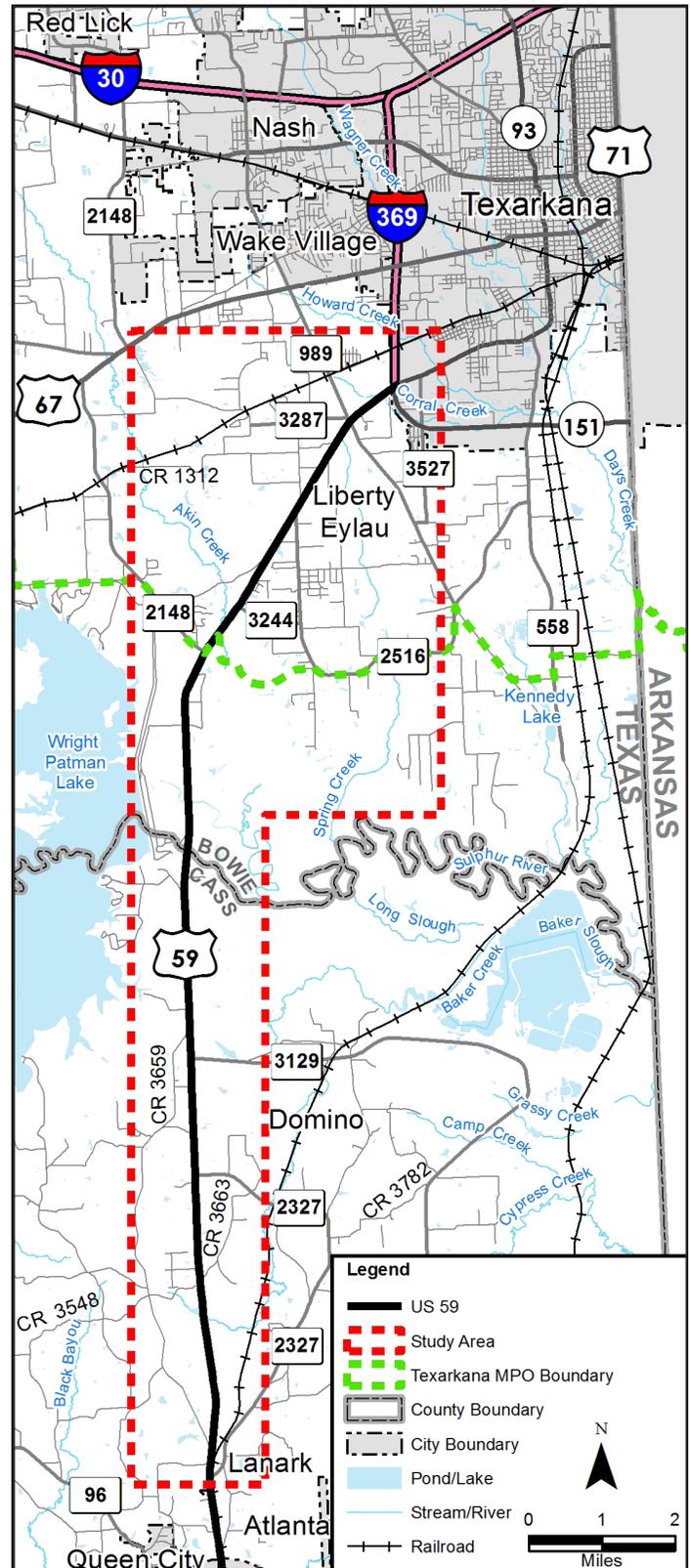
NEED FOR THE PROJECT

US 59 between Tenaha and I-30 in Texarkana is federally classified as a spur to the I-69 system, and is to be designated as I-369 as sections of US 59 are developed to meet interstate standards and connect to the interstate system. The limits of US 59 being studied do not meet interstate standards. US 59 is also identified as a primary freight corridor in TxDOT's statewide freight planning efforts. The current operational conditions of US 59 between Texarkana and Queen City impede freight mobility.

STUDY AREA CHARACTERISTICS

The study area is divided into a north section and a south section because of the distinctly different developmental characteristics along US 59.

- The north section is urban in character with many businesses, houses, and other community features along US 59. Four route options were developed to assess which one(s) would provide the greatest potential to serve the community as well as avoid and minimize adverse impacts.



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- The south section is rural in character with less development along US 59 than the north section. The four route options in the north tie into this US 59 South Common Upgrade.

NORTH SECTION - ROUTE OPTIONS STUDIED

- At-Grade US 59 Upgrade Route Option – Upgrading existing US 59 at ground level from I-369 to Park Road.
- Elevated US 59 Upgrade Route Option – Upgrading existing US 59 with an elevated mainlane structure on bridge and access road below from I-369 to south of CR 1325/Rock School Road and upgrading existing US 59 at ground level from south of CR 1325/Rock School Road to Park Road.
- West Route Option – On new location west of US 59 from I-369 north of US 59 to near FM 3244 and upgrading US 59 from near FM 3244 to Park Road.
- East Route Option – On new location east of US 59 from I-369 to near FM 2148 and upgrading US 59 from near FM 2148 to Park Road.

SOUTH SECTION – US 59 SOUTH COMMON UPGRADE

The planning rationale included maximizing the use of US 59 and its wider available ROW and, where additional ROW was needed to fit the upgrade facility, optimizing its layout to minimize potential adverse impacts adjacent to US 59.

US 59 ROUTE STUDY INFORMATION

Details regarding the study can be found at the open houses and the study website at www.txdot.gov, keyword search “US 59 Texarkana-Queen City Route Study”.

For more information please contact:

Deanne Simmons, P.E., TxDOT Atlanta District
903.799.1308, Deanne.Simmons@txdot.gov

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project is being, or has 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.

