

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

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## VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING QUESTIONS

**Q: How do I get assistance with special communication or accommodation needs?**

- The US 82 West Virtual Public Meeting will be conducted in English. If you need an interpreter or document translator because English is not your primary language or you have difficulty communicating effectively in English, one will be provided to you. If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. If you need interpretation or translation services or you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation to attend and participate in the US 82 West Virtual Public Meeting, please contact Katie Martin, P.E., Atlanta District, at (903) 799-1342 no later than 4 p.m. CT, Sept. 11, 2020. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for the Texas Department of Transportation to arrange.

**Q: How do I access the meeting materials if I do not have internet access?**

- If you do not have internet access, you may call Katie Martin, P.E., at (903) 799-1342 to request materials or ask questions.

**Q: How do I navigate the Virtual Public Meeting?**

- To get around in the meeting room, you can use the site map provided in the upper left-hand corner to identify and click on the station that you would like to visit. This site map can be minimized by clicking the x in the upper left-hand corner. Or to visit each station in order, simply click the double right arrow on the right side of each page to advance through the room.
- To zoom in and out, you can scroll your mouse backwards or forwards, hold the left mouse button down and move the mouse left or right, or click the + icon to zoom in or the – icon to zoom out at the bottom of the page. The icon with the screen and arrow at the bottom of the page allows you to view each board or station in full screen - click the icon to do so, and

to return to normal view, either hit the escape (ESC) button on your keyboard or click the icon again.

**Q: How do I view my property on the schematic drawings?**

- A schematic drawing of the preferred recommended alternative for US 82 West is available for download in PDF format at Station 9 in the Virtual Public Meeting. The PDF is also available in the downloads section on the main Virtual Public Meeting - US 82 West webpage.
- The schematic provides information about potential property impacts as a result of proposed changes to right of way to accommodate the project. The pink lines are the existing right of way, and the blue lines are the proposed right of way.
- The file is best viewed when you download the PDF and use the green street name signs to zoom into the general vicinity of your property. From there, you can locate your (or the property owner's) name and zoom in further to view details.
- If you have any questions about potential/proposed right of way impacts to your property, please contact Katie Martin at [Katie.Martin@txdot.gov](mailto:Katie.Martin@txdot.gov).

**Q: How do I submit comments on the proposed projects?**

- Fill out the online comment card that is in the virtual public meeting room, or
- Download the comment card in the virtual public meeting room or on the TxDOT website and email comments to: [Katie.Martin@txdot.gov](mailto:Katie.Martin@txdot.gov), or
- Download the comment card in the virtual public meeting room or on the TxDOT website, print, and mail comments to: TxDOT Atlanta District Office, Attention: Katie Martin, P.E., 701 E. Main St, Atlanta, TX 75551.

**Q: How can I access meeting materials after the meeting?**

- All meeting materials will be available in PDF format to download on the TxDOT website.

**Q: Will I be able to access the virtual meeting after Sept. 15, 2020?**

- The virtual meeting will be available for 30 days (until Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>). After the virtual meeting site is no longer available, the meeting materials will continue to be available in PDF format to download on the TxDOT website.

## PROJECT SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

**Q: Why is this portion of US 82 being improved?**

- The purpose of the proposed project is to improve safety, mobility, regional connectivity, and address roadway deficiencies. The proposed improvements are needed to accommodate future traffic volumes and establish continuity along the US 82 corridor.

**Q: Will the improvements be done as one project?**

- Depending on available funding, a 2-lane roadway with alternating passing lanes could be constructed as an interim improvement prior to construction of the ultimate roadway including two 12-foot travel lanes in each direction, a continuous 16-foot wide paved median, and a 10-foot shoulder in each direction. Either of these configurations are anticipated to be constructed for the entire project limits.

**Q: Will there be new traffic signals at intersections along the project?**

- No new traffic signals are anticipated within the project limits at this time.

**Q: What was the evaluation process used to select the US 82 West recommended alternative?**

- Three conceptual alternatives were considered for widening US 82: a North Alternative (widening to the north), Center Alternative (widening about the existing center), and South Alternative (widening to the south). In addition, the no build alternative was included in the evaluation and will be carried forward throughout the NEPA process.
- The conceptual alternatives were analyzed for potential impacts to the human and natural environment including previously identified historic and archeological resources, water resources, biological resources (vegetation and threatened and endangered species habitat), churches, parks, cemeteries, farmland soils, floodplains, displacements, ROW acquisition, etc. In addition, the conceptual alternatives were analyzed for engineering constraints such as potential impacts to utilities, constructability, cost, etc.
- Based on that analysis, the South Alternative was identified as the recommended preferred alternative because it minimized overall impacts. This alternative is being presented to the public for comments before proceeding with further development of the design and environmental studies.

**Q: How do I get more information about the North and Center Alternatives?**

- Additional information regarding the North and Center Alternatives is available upon request. Please contact Katie Martin, PE, at [Katie.Martin@txdot.gov](mailto:Katie.Martin@txdot.gov) to submit a request.

## RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW) ACQUISITION QUESTIONS

**Q: Who do I contact if I have questions or comments on ROW or property acquisition?**

- For all ROW or property acquisition questions / comments, please contact Ms. Jodi Watkins by phone at (903) 799-1311 or by email at [Jodi.Watkins@txdot.gov](mailto:Jodi.Watkins@txdot.gov).

**Q: How is my property impacted? Can that impact be changed?**

- A schematic drawing showing the proposed ROW limits for the South Alternative is available in PDF format to download for viewing in the virtual public meeting and on the TxDOT website.
- While the recommended preferred alternative is intended to minimize impacts, some impacts are unavoidable to meet design requirements and the project purpose and need as shown on the fact sheets. The ROW limits shown are still preliminary pending further design development.
- Please submit comment cards to document any comments for consideration in developing the final design.

**Q: Why is additional ROW needed?**

- US 82 West will be widened to add additional lanes, to accommodate utilities, and to meet current design standards.
- The existing ROW limits are inadequate to implement these needed improvements, so additional ROW is required. The abandoned railroad ROW will be utilized for most of the additional ROW needs with the South Alternative (Recommended Preferred Alternative).

**Q: How was the recommended alternative ROW footprint developed?**

- The conceptual alternatives were evaluated based on parcels impacted, structures impacted, impacts to cultural resources, impacts to natural resources, and other criteria shown on the Alternative Evaluation Matrix included in the Virtual Public Meeting. The South Alternative (Recommended Preferred Alternative) minimizes impacts while meeting the project goals as shown in the meeting materials.

## PROJECT COST AND SCHEDULE QUESTIONS

**Q: What is the cost of these projects?**

- Estimated Construction Cost:
  - Overall Total = \$45 million (ultimate 4-lane configuration with paved median)
- For more information, visit TxDOT Project Tracker website:  
[http://apps.dot.state.tx.us/apps-cq/project\\_tracker/](http://apps.dot.state.tx.us/apps-cq/project_tracker/)

**Q: When does construction begin? How long will construction take?**

- Construction is tentatively planned to begin in 2026 depending on funding availability and will take approximately 2-3 years to complete.

## MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS

**Q: How will property access be affected during construction and once construction is complete?**

- During construction, access will be maintained to all adjacent properties and impacts will be minimized to the greatest extent possible.
- If you see something during construction that is a concern, please contact the TxDOT Texarkana Area Office at (903) 838-8574 to report any issues.
- Access will be maintained to all adjacent properties with the completed construction and approved permits will be required for all driveways.
- Please submit a comment card with any concerns.

**Q: What will be done with my mailbox?**

- Mailbox access will be maintained throughout construction and will be replaced according to current standards, if necessary, to accommodate the proposed widening.
- If you see something during construction that is a concern, please contact the TxDOT Texarkana Area Office at (903) 838-8574 to report any issues.

**Q: Will utility services be affected?**

- Further utility coordination will occur as the project progresses and utility relocations are anticipated to accommodate the proposed widenings.
- Any interruptions to utility services will be minimized.

**Q: Will dust/mud be a problem during construction?**

- There are regulatory requirements in place to prevent stormwater and air pollution and dust/mud from leaving construction site.
- If you see something during construction that is a concern, please contact the TxDOT Texarkana Area Office at (903) 838-8574 to report any issues.

**Q: Are school bus routes affected?**

- TxDOT will closely coordinate with any affected schools during development of the construction planning to ensure school bus operations are accommodated.
- Coordination with the school district will continue throughout construction to address any unforeseen issues.

**Q: Are emergency services affected?**

- TxDOT will closely coordinate with emergency services during development of the construction planning to ensure emergency operations are accommodated.

- Coordination with the emergency services will continue throughout construction to address any unforeseen issues.

**Q: Will there be streetlights along the roadway (illumination)?**

- Additional safety lighting needs will be identified and may be added at intersections as warranted.
- Continuous lighting is not planned within the limits of this project.

**Q: What drainage improvements are being made?**

- Drainage improvements for this project would include replacement of the existing culverts and appropriate modifications to the open roadside ditches.

**Q: What will the speed limit be?**

- Current posted speed limits are not anticipated to change at this time.
- The proposed design will meet current criteria for the design speed established for the roadway.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Q: Who do I contact if I have further questions?**

- For all ROW or property acquisition questions / comments, please contact Ms. Jodi Watkins by phone at (903) 799-1311 or by email at [Jodi.Watkins@txdot.gov](mailto:Jodi.Watkins@txdot.gov).
- For all other questions / comments, please contact Ms. Katie Martin by phone at (903) 799-1342 or by email at [Katie.Martin@txdot.gov](mailto:Katie.Martin@txdot.gov).