



PUBLIC HEARING

US 69 WIDENING

Phase 1 (IH-10 to LNVA Canal)
Phase 2 (LNVA Canal to Tram Road)
Jefferson County, Texas



ELECTED & PUBLIC OFFICIALS

DISTRICT & AGENCY STAFF

CONSULTANTS



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.

- **Purpose of the Public Hearing:** To present the planned improvements and receive comments from the public

- **Options for Commenting:**
 - 1) Verbal comments will commence after the presentation
 - 2) Written comments can be placed in the comment box
 - 3) E-Mail comments to: ahmed.gaily@txdot.gov
 - 4) Mail comments to: Ahmed Gaily, P.E., District Design Engineer
TxDOT Beaumont District
8350 Eastex Freeway
Beaumont, TX 77708

Deadline for comments: Friday, May 11, 2018

Public Hearing Procedures and Agenda

1	Welcome	TxDOT
2	Project Overview	Entech WPM
3	Environmental Overview	TxDOT
4	Public Comments	TxDOT
5	Project Schedule and Next Steps	TxDOT
6	Adjournment	TxDOT

Project Description – US 69: IH-10 to Tram Road



We want to improve safety and mobility.

Proposed upgrades include:

- Widen from 4 to 6 lanes in existing right-of-way
- Widen 6 bridges:
Delaware Street, Lucas Drive, SH 105, LNVA Canal, Chinn Lane, Tram Road
- Add merging lanes between ramps
- Relocate ramps between Chinn Lane and Tram Road
- Remove northbound US 69 exit ramp to Delaware Street
- Replace signs
- Add new high-mast lighting between Dowlen Road and SH 105

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$54,500,000

Need and Purpose

Need

- US 69 will not be able to accommodate the traffic expected with predicted population growth. Its capacity will not be sufficient.

Average Daily Traffic Projections

Location	2018	2020	2040
Tram Road to SH 105	53,000	55,100	75,500
SH 105 to I-10	91,600	95,100	130,100

42% Increase
(2018-2040)

- High crash rates, especially between IH-10 and Delaware Street, and between Dowlen Road and SH 105
- Existing congestion, especially in the southern half of the study area, will continue to worsen.

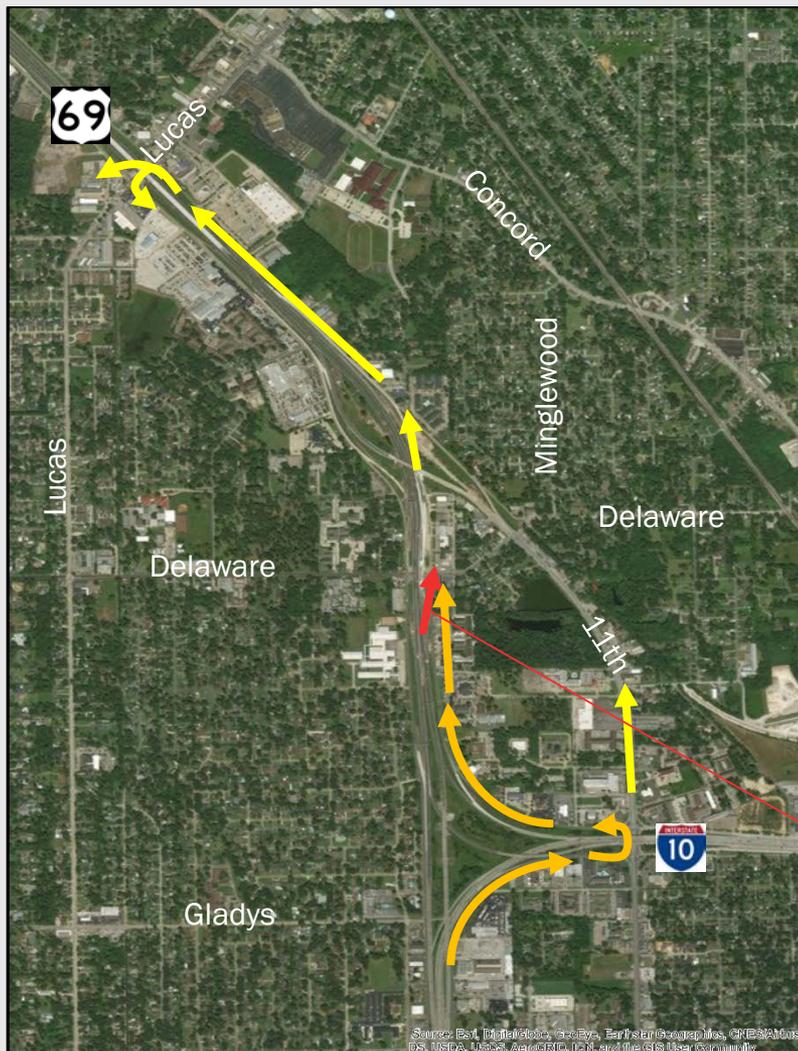
Purpose

- Improve mobility, increase safety, and relieve congestion

Remove US 69 northbound ramp to Delaware Street

WHY NOW?

1. Traffic on highway is getting heavier
2. Too many conflicts or “weaving” traffic
3. Not enough room to change lanes
4. Cars stopped on the highway from the Delaware traffic signal
5. Lots of accidents today
6. Causes adverse effects on IH-10



ALTERNATE ROUTE:

(orange arrows)

1. Use IH-10 to 11th St. exit
2. Avoid the traffic signal by using the turnaround
3. Travel the frontage road to Delaware St.
4. Other alternate routes are also available

(yellow arrows)

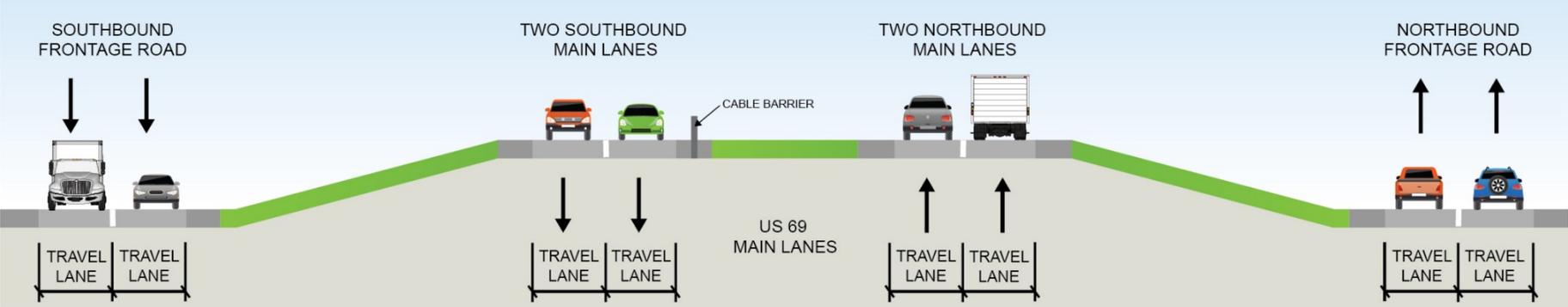
- a. 11th St. northbound
- b. Lucas Dr. exit

Remove Northbound Exit to Delaware St.

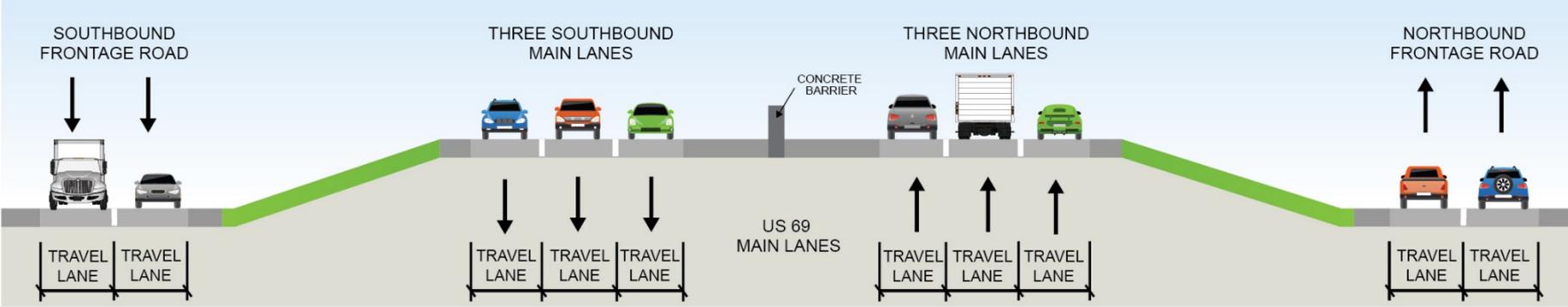
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Roadway Sections

Existing

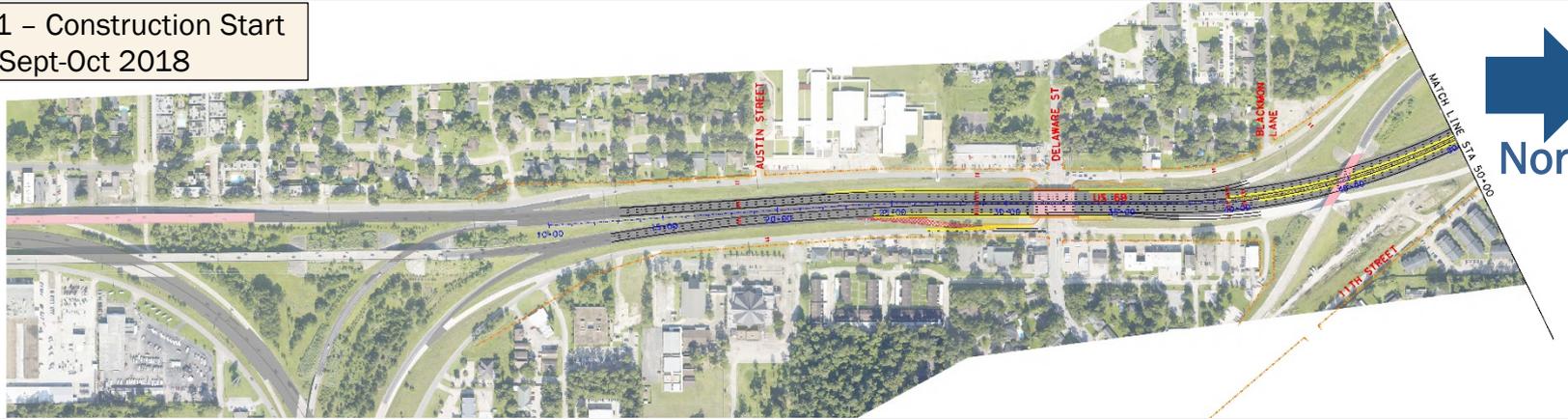


Proposed

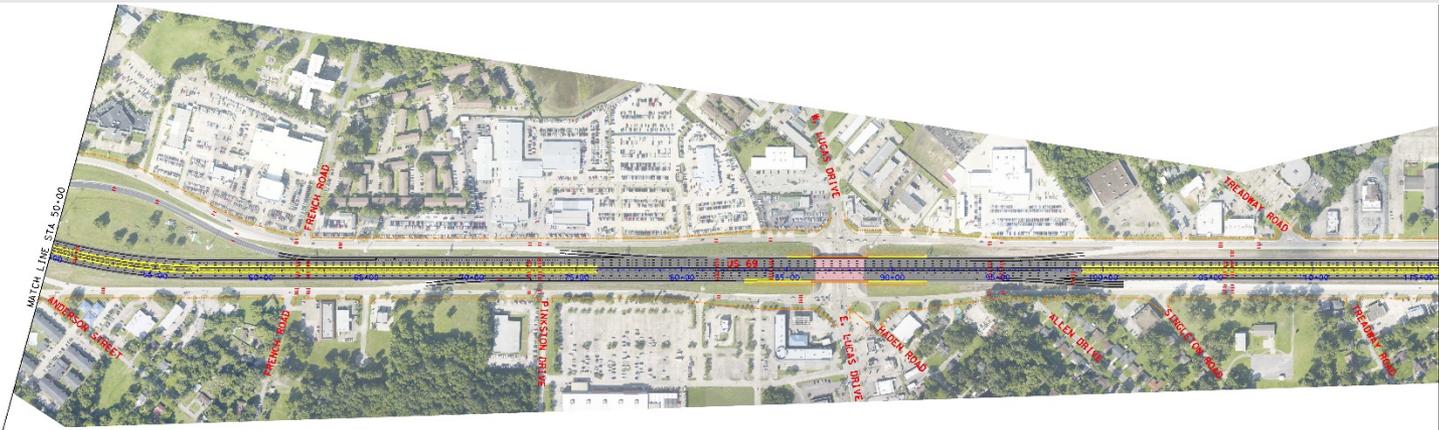


Proposed Roadway Design – IH-10 to Odom Road

Phase 1 – Construction Start
Sept-Oct 2018



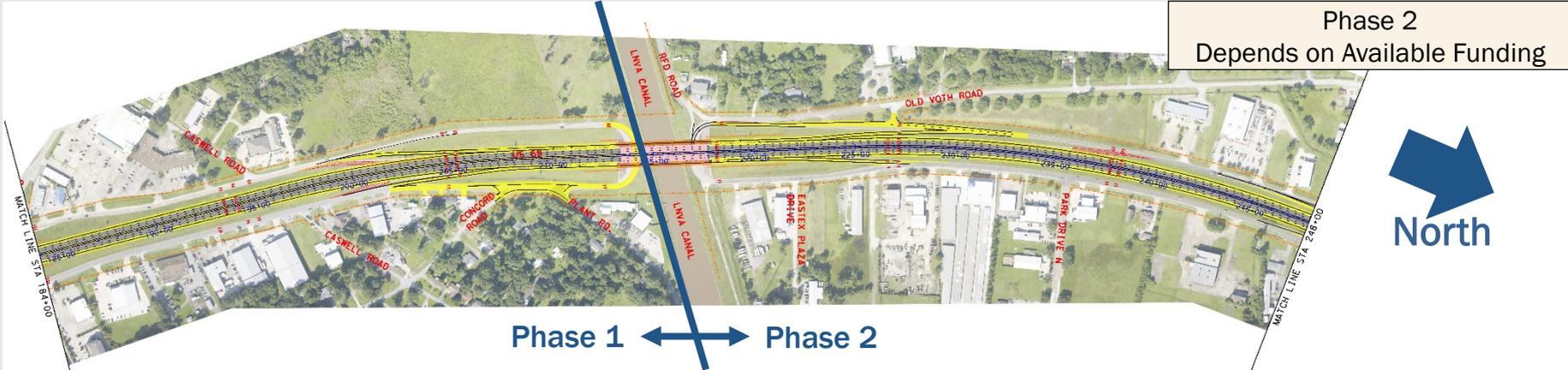
North



North

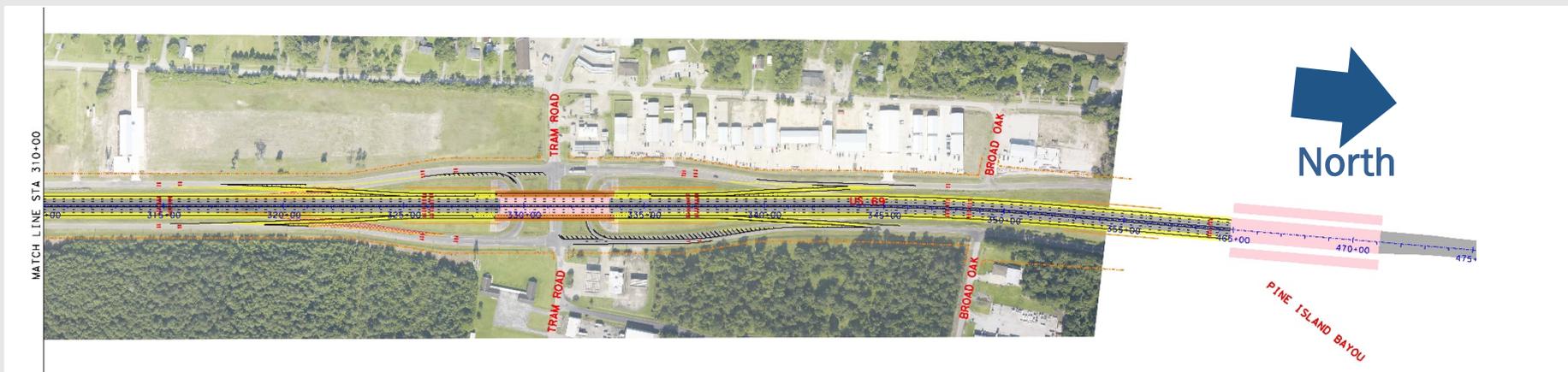
Proposed Roadway Design – Odom Rd. to Lawrence Dr.

Phase 1 – Construction Start
Sept-Oct 2018



Phase 2
Depends on Available Funding

Proposed Roadway Design –Lawrence Dr. to End of Project



Project Planning and Funding

- The proposed project is consistent with the South East Texas Regional Planning Commission – Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2040, as amended, and their Transportation Improvement Program.
- Total Project Estimated Cost: **\$54,500,000**
(with construction mobilization and 20% contingency)
- Phase 1 (CSJ 0200-11-095):
 - Total Estimated Project Funding: **\$21,230,000**
 - Funding Source: Federal and State Funds
- Phase 2 (CSJ 0065-07-062):
 - Total Estimated Project Funding: **\$15,675,000**
 - Funding Source: Federal and State Funds

Environmental Overview

An Environmental Study was conducted for the proposed project to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The study identified and assessed potential impacts to the natural and human environment, including:

- Air Quality
- Archeological Resources
- Non-Archeological Historic Properties
- Community Impacts
- Biological Resources
- Hazardous Materials
- Traffic Noise
- Water Resources

Agency coordination

- Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA)
- US Army Corps of Engineers - Galveston
- Federally-recognized Tribes with interest in TxDOT projects
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)
- Texas Historical Commission (THC)
- Texas State Preservation Officer (SHPO)

Environmental Overview

Air Quality

- National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)
- Mobile Source Air Toxics (MSAT)
- No Impact

Archeological Resources

- Research/Databases
- Archeological Background Study
- No Impact

Non-Archeological Historic Properties

- National Register of Historic Places – no properties listed or eligible
- No Impact

Community Impacts

- No disproportionately high or adverse impacts to Environmental Justice or Limited English Proficiency populations

Biological Resources

- Threatened and Endangered Species
 - Eight federally-listed – no effect
 - Nine state-listed, and two species of greatest conservation need
- Vegetation Types – potential impacts
 - Urban – 66 acres
 - Open Water (LNVA Canal) – less than 0.2 acres
 - Coastal Grassland – less than 0.2 acres

Hazardous Materials

- Initial Site Assessment
 - Regulatory Databases / Site Visit – no concerns identified
- Testing
 - Lead-based paint – present on LNVA Canal bridge; disposal per current regulations
 - Asbestos containing materials – test results not yet available

Traffic Noise

- Traffic Noise Model – TNM (FHWA approved)
- 34 representative receivers modeled; 20 showed a noise increase
- Greatest noise increase +3 decibels
- Traffic Noise Workshop to be scheduled with 1 Adjacent Property Owner where abatement is reasonable and feasible

Water Resources

- Construction General Permit is applicable (coordinate with TCEQ)
- LNVA Canal – jurisdictional determination pending;
Nationwide Permit #14 will be applicable if USACE has jurisdiction

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

- *a class of action that normally does not individually or cumulatively have significant environmental impacts. This action does not induce significant impacts to planned growth or land use for the area; does not require the relocation of significant numbers of people; does not have a significant impact on any natural, cultural, recreation, or historic resource; does not involve significant air, noise, or water quality impacts; does not have significant impacts on traffic patterns; or does not otherwise, either individually or cumulatively, has any significant environmental impact.*

Reviewing Project Information

- Project information can be viewed Monday through Friday at the TxDOT Beaumont District Office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**TxDOT Beaumont District Office
8350 Eastex Freeway
Beaumont, TX 77708**

Options for Commenting:

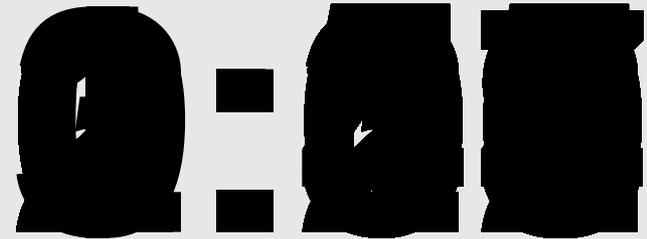
- 1) Verbal comments will commence now
- 2) Written comments can be placed in the comment box
- 3) E-Mail comments to: ahmed.gaily@txdot.gov
- 4) Mail comments to: Ahmed Gaily, P.E., District Design Engineer
TxDOT Beaumont District
8350 Eastex Freeway
Beaumont, TX 77708

All comments must be submitted or postmarked by Friday, May 11, 2018, to be included in the public hearing summary report.

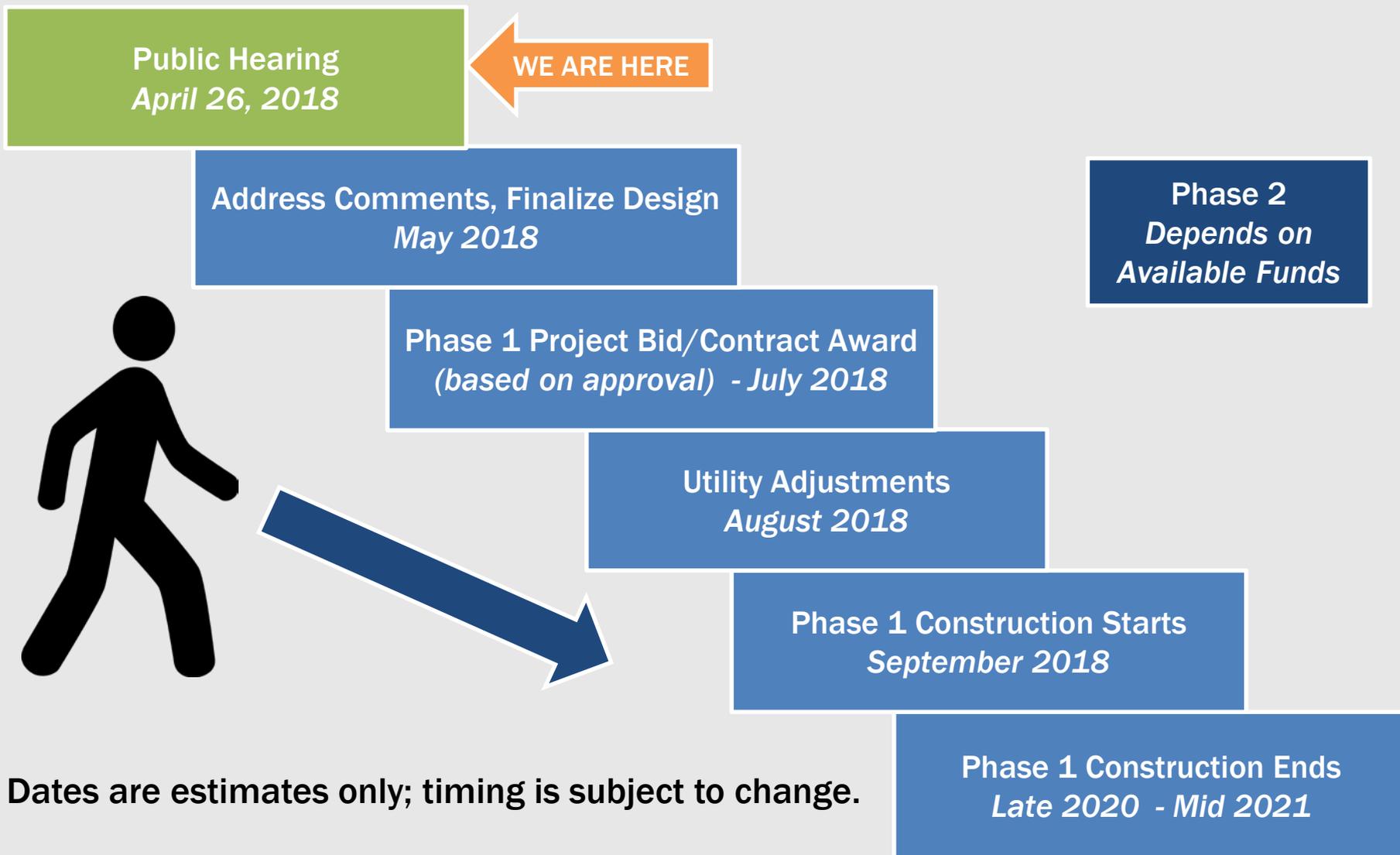
Verbal Comments

Public Comment Session

- Submit a Speaker Registration Card
- Limit your comments to 3 minutes
- Use microphone and face court reporter
- State your name and whom you represent (if applicable)
- Unused time may not be given to another speaker



What Happens Next?



Dates are estimates only; timing is subject to change.

Thank You For Your Participation!

Please remember to submit your comments on or before Friday, May 11, 2017, to be included in the public hearing summary report.

- Written comments can be placed in the comment box
- E-Mail comments to: ahmed.gaily@txdot.gov
- Mail comments to: Ahmed Gaily, P.E., District Design Engineer
TxDOT Beaumont District
8350 Eastex Freeway
Beaumont, TX 77708

***Public Hearing Summary will be posted at the website when analysis is complete:

<https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/get-involved/about/hearings-meetings/beaumont/042618.html>