



Loop 286 Improvements

CSJs: 1690-001-123, 1690-001-124, 1690-001-125
Paris, TX – Lamar County



July 16, 2020

WELCOME

Loop 286 Improvements

Virtual Public Meeting

Thursday, July 16, 2020

TxDOT Paris District





This public meeting has four essential purposes:

1. Inform the public of the status of the project.
2. Describe how the proposed improvements for Loop 286 may potentially affect the community.
3. Provide the public an opportunity to view information and express their viewpoints before recommendations are finalized.
4. To develop a record of public views and participation to accompany recommendations for subsequent decisions.





- The purpose of the Loop 286 Improvements project is to:
 - Improve safety
 - Increase regional mobility
 - Improve traffic operations
 - Address roadway deficiencies
- The project is currently in the schematic design and environmental study phase, which is one of the early stages in the project development lifecycle.



Project Area



- The proposed long-term project encompasses the entire Loop around Paris, a length of 15.5 miles.
- Two short-term projects, the Southeast Loop and Northeast Loop, are also proposed.



Project Timeline



Timescales

TASK	SEP 2018	NOV 2018	MAR 2019	APR 2019	MAY 2019	JUN 2019	FEB 2020	MAY 2020	JULY 2020	FALL* 2020	SPRING* 2021
Project Kick Off	█										
Stakeholder Coordination	█										
Alternative Analysis		█									
Public Meeting #1				█							
TxDOT Review and Selection of Preferred Alternative					█						
Detailed Schematic Design						█					
Environmental Study for Interim Projects					█						
Public Meeting #2									█		
Public Hearing										█	
Anticipated Project Completion											█

**Dates subject to change*



What We Heard From You – April 2019



Top priorities of survey respondents (ranked highest to lowest):

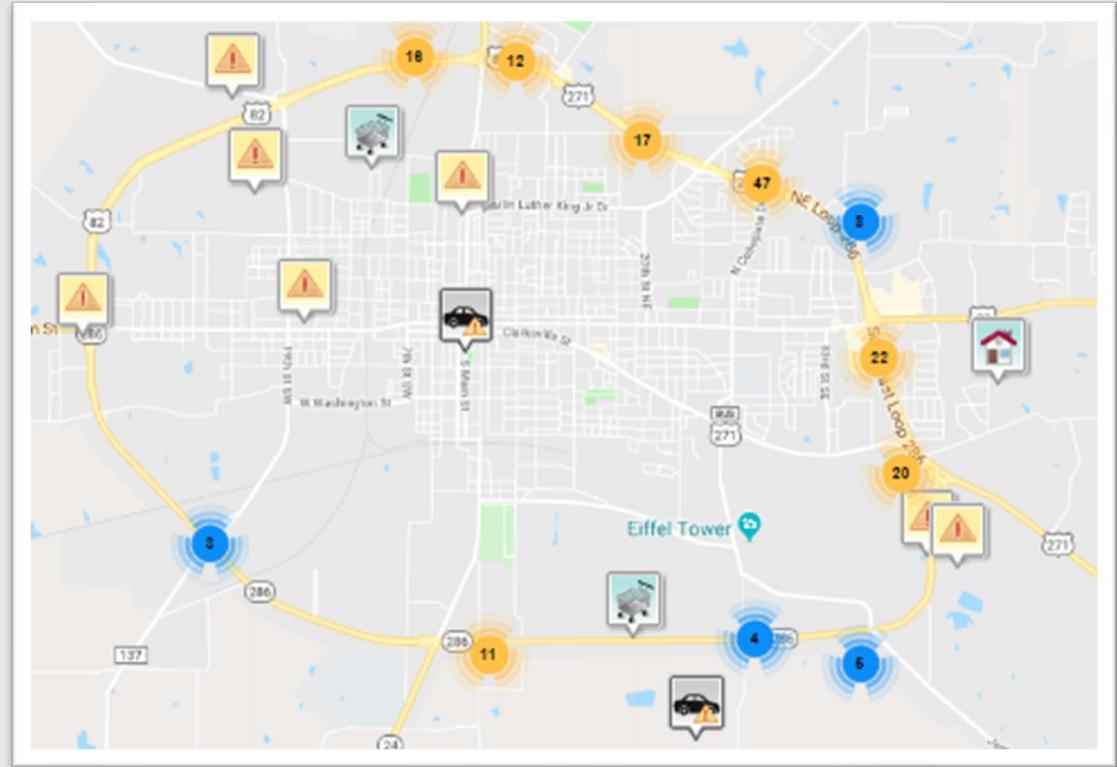
- Enhance safety
- Reduce congestion
- Economic growth
- Bike/pedestrian improvements
- Business access
- Business impacts
- Neighborhood access
- Residential impacts

Top three current issues:

- Too congested
- Concerns about safety
- Slowdowns at intersections

Safety improvements important to respondents:

- Reconfigure intersections to improve sight distance and safety
- Construct longer merge lanes onto Loop 286
- Additional turn lanes



Map shows important issues identified by survey respondents.





- Crash rates on Loop 286 between US 271 North and US 271 South are **nearly 2.5 times the statewide average** for similar roadway facilities.
- The area surrounding North Collegiate Drive **accounts for 1/3 of crashes** on the Loop.
- Safety improvements proposed for the Northeast Loop are expected to **reduce crashes by 65%**.





- The Ultimate Design is a long-range plan for the entire Loop that serves as a blueprint for the future.
- Funding for the entire Ultimate Design has not been identified.
- Segments of the Ultimate Design could be completed as funding becomes available.



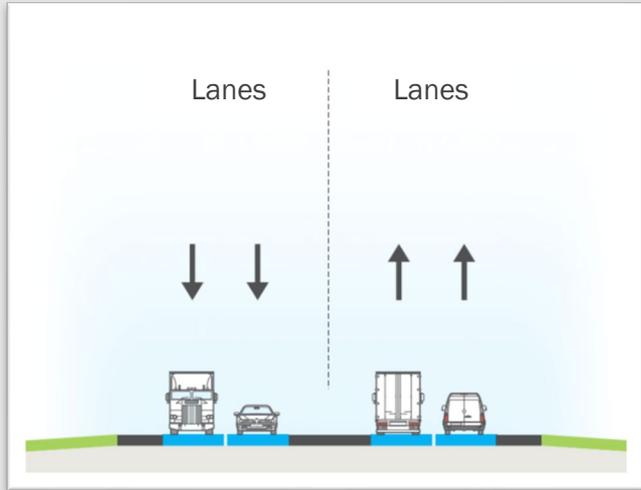


- Proposed improvements:
 - Add additional lanes
 - Separate high/low speed traffic with mainlanes and frontage roads on the north section of the loop
 - Improve safety (lighting and signage)
 - Improve traffic flow (turn lanes and signal timing/locations)
 - Improve drainage (culverts, ditches, curbs and gutters)
 - Improve access for existing and future developments
 - Add sidewalks and wide paths for bicycles and pedestrians
 - Ensure bridges/overpasses meet clearance requirements
- Estimated cost: \$415.5 million

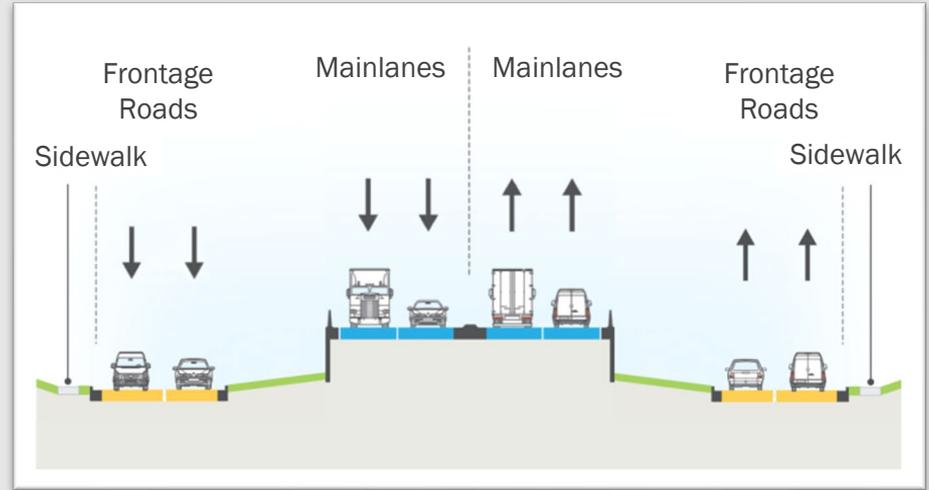




Existing Typical Section



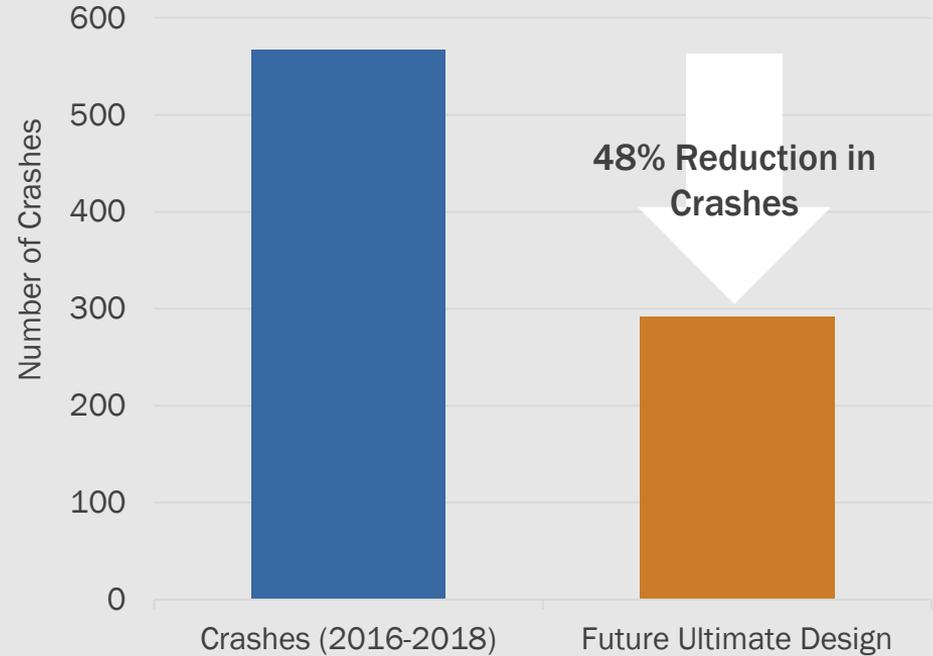
Proposed Typical Section with Grade Separation and Frontage Roads



Ultimate Design – Anticipated Crash Reduction



Proposed improvements for the Ultimate Design are anticipated to reduce crash rates by **48%**.



Southeast Loop Interim Project



- Project limits are from SH 19/SH 24 to FM 906 (shown in blue).



Southeast Loop Interim Project



- Proposed improvements:
 - Expand roadway to four lanes
 - Add a wide path for bicycles and pedestrians
 - Improve the intersection of South Collegiate Drive near Paris High School
- Estimated cost: \$20.2 million



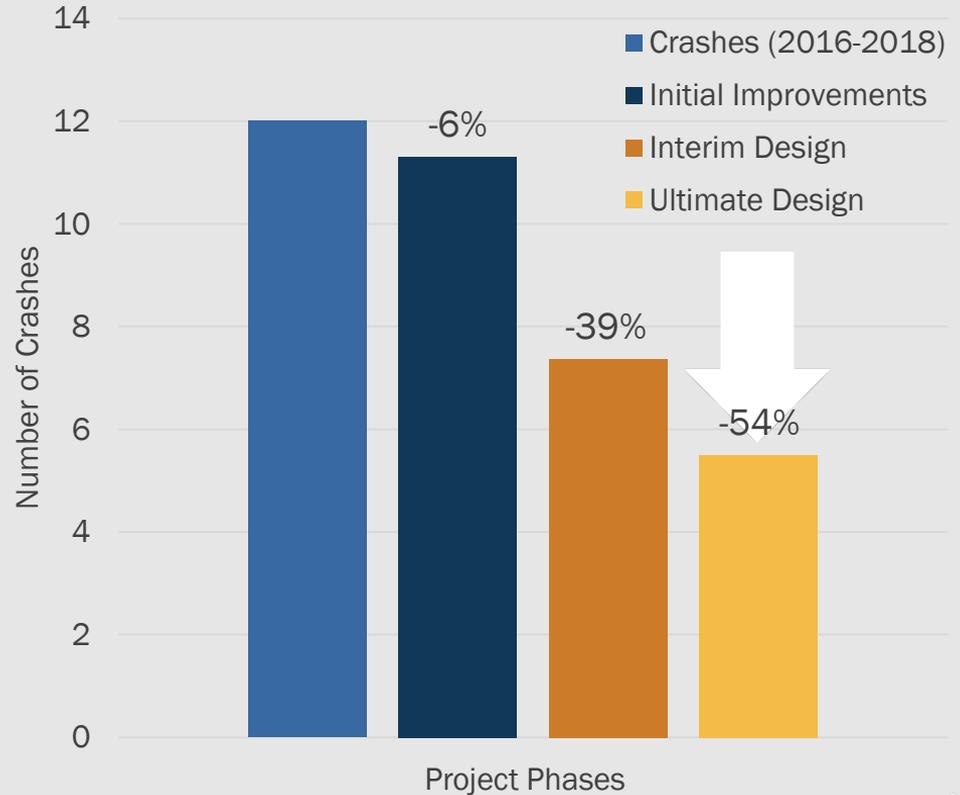
Paris High School



Southeast Loop – Anticipated Crash Reduction



Proposed improvements for the Southeast Loop are anticipated to **reduce crash rates by 54%.**





- Project limits are from Stillhouse Road to Lamar Avenue (shown in purple).
- Project is a continuation of TxDOT's 2010 Pine Mill Road intersection project.





- Proposed improvements:
 - Add lanes and an overpass at North Collegiate Drive
 - Add sidewalks and paths for bicycles and pedestrians
 - Improve safety with lighting, advance warning signs and flashing beacons
 - Improve drainage by adding culverts, curbs and gutters



*Pine Mill Road Intersection Project
Photo Credit: The Paris News*



Northeast Loop Interim Project



- Proposed improvements (continued):
 - Improve traffic flow by:
 - adjusting signal timing based on traffic needs
 - installing traffic signals at some stop-controlled intersections
 - adjusting the number of left turn/thru lanes based on traffic analysis
 - Improve driveway access for existing and future developments
- Estimated cost: \$73.4 million



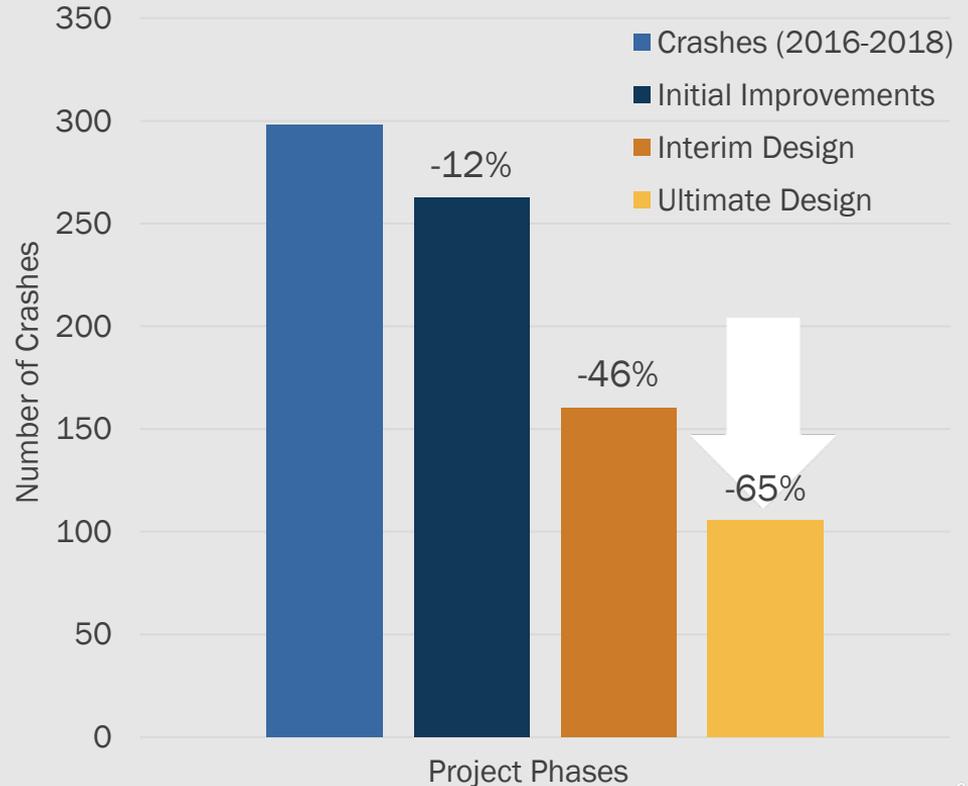
North Collegiate Drive



Northeast Loop – Anticipated Crash Reduction



Proposed improvements for the Northeast Loop are anticipated to **reduce crash rates by 65%**.



Northeast Loop – Anticipated Crash Reduction (Major Intersections)



Based on 2016-2018 Crash Data

Intersection	Crashes Before Improvements	Anticipated Crashes After Improvements
Clement Road	14	0.7
Spur 139	39	2
FM 195	38	32
North Collegiate Drive	189	55
Park Place/34th Street	15	11
Totals	295	101





MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Assignment to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)

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 9, 2019, and executed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and TxDOT.





- TxDOT is in the process of conducting environmental assessments for the Southeast Loop and Northeast Loop interim projects.

The environmental assessment process includes:





Examples of environmental features that may be evaluated during the environmental assessment include:



Natural habitats and developed areas



Historic properties and archeological resources



Streams, wetlands and flood plains



Public lands, parks and trails

- Once complete, the environmental document for each interim project will be available for public review and comment.
- TxDOT will issue an environmental finding at the end of the study to determine if the projects can move forward. The finding may include mitigation to offset adverse effects to sensitive resources.



How to Provide Comments



All comments must be received or postmarked by Friday, July 31, 2020.

Electronic Survey	Available at www.Loop286.com under “How to Provide Comments” or scan the QR code on the right to access the survey.
Mail	Attention: Duane Good, P.E. TxDOT Paris District Office 1365 North Main Street Paris, TX 75460
E-mail	Duane.Good@txdot.gov





Texas Department of Transportation

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the project, please contact the TxDOT project manager during regular business hours.

Duane Good, P.E.

(903) 737-9282

Duane.Good@txdot.gov

Monday – Friday / 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.





Thank you for your interest and for providing input on the Loop 286 Improvements project.

Visit **www.Loop286.com** for additional project information and to subscribe for updates.

