

Paris District
US 82 Improvement Project
From Fannin County Line to Loop 286 West of
Paris, Texas
Lamar County
CSJs: 0045-08-039 and 0045-09-103

August 25, 2020
VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

August 25, 2020

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. I would like to welcome you to the US 82 Improvement project virtual public meeting, which has been pre-recorded, for the proposed project from Fannin County Line to Loop 286 West of Paris, Texas.

Welcome

Welcome by Dan Perry, P.E.

Director of Transportation Planning and Development for the Paris District, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)



Virtual Public Meeting documents available online at the website www.txdot.gov.

Type "US 82 Lamar County" in the keyword search box.

US 82 Improvement Project – Lamar County

August 25, 2020

Thank you for joining us. My name is Dan Perry and I serve as the Director of Transportation Planning and Development for the Paris District of the Texas Department of Transportation, better known as TxDOT.

This virtual public meeting, presented by TxDOT, is being provided to share information and to encourage comments from the public regarding the proposed US 82 Improvement Project in Lamar County. The following Virtual Public Meeting documents are made available online at the website www.txdot.gov. Type "US 82 Lamar County" in the keyword search box.

Virtual Public Meeting in Response to Public Health

TxDOT changed the in-person public meeting to a virtual format in response to the COVID-19 outbreak:

The pre-recorded virtual public meeting and TxDOT website provide the same information as the in-person meeting:

- Project information
- Estimated timeline
- Process for submitting comments
- Key contacts

Share Facts About COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

FACT 1 Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

People of Asian descent, including Chinese Americans, are not more likely to get COVID-19 than any other American. Help stop fear by letting people know that being of Asian descent does not increase the chance of getting or spreading COVID-19.

FACT 4 You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Seek medical advice if you

- Develop symptoms

AND

- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

FACT 2 Some people are at increased risk of getting COVID-19.

People who have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or people who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread are at an increased risk of exposure.

FACT 5 There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

FACT 3 Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.

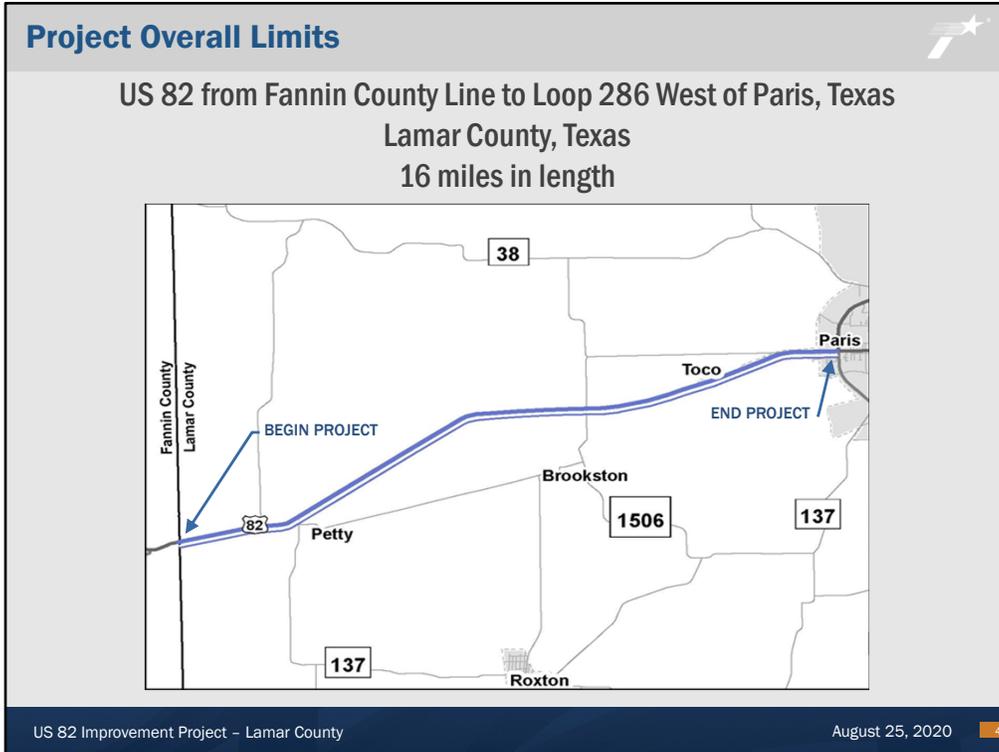


For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

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Given the unique circumstance of the COVID-19 outbreak, along with our commitment to protecting public health during this national emergency, TxDOT is conducting this virtual public meeting to avoid in-person contact. At this time, the virtual format will be in lieu of an in-person public meeting.

The presentation will cover the same information the Paris District would have shared at the in-person public meeting. However, the comment process for this virtual public meeting will be different from what we normally conduct at an in-person meeting and will be explained shortly. All project information can be found on the TxDOT webpage.



The proposed project limits extend approximately 16 miles along US 82 from the Fannin County Line to Loop 286 West of Paris, Texas.

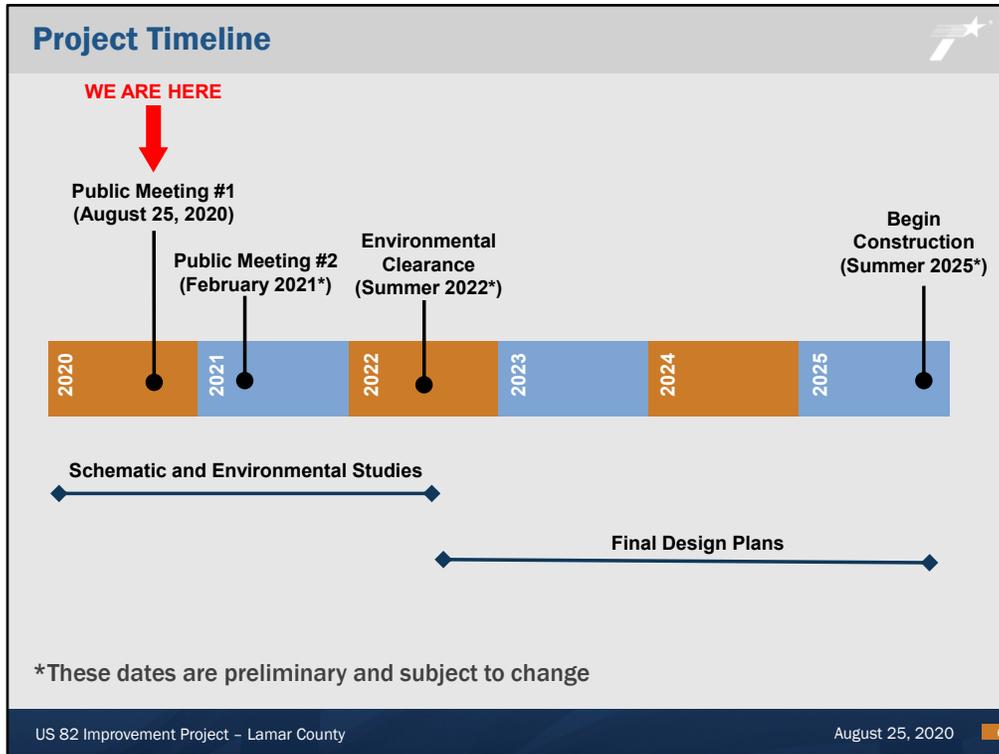
Project Purpose



The purpose of this project is to:

- Improve safety
- Improve mobility and regional connectivity
- Manage congestion
- Upgrade to current design standards

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve safety, improve mobility and regional connectivity, manage congestion, and upgrade to current design standards.



The anticipated project schedule for the proposed project includes today's August 25, 2020 Virtual Public Meeting followed by a second public meeting anticipated in February 2021. Once public comments and environmental reviews have been completed, they will be submitted for approval in Summer 2022. After final design is complete, the construction is anticipated to begin in Summer of 2025. Please note that these dates are preliminary and subject to change.

Environmental Process



Prior to December 16, 2014, the Federal Highway Administration, otherwise known as FHWA, reviewed and approved documents prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act, known as NEPA. However, on December 16, 2014, the Texas Department of Transportation assumed responsibility from the FHWA for reviewing and approving certain assigned NEPA environmental documents. This memorandum of understanding was renewed on December 9, 2019. This review and approval process apply to this proposed project.

Prior to December 16, 2014, the Federal Highway Administration, otherwise known as FHWA, reviewed and approved documents prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act, known as NEPA. However, on December 16, 2014, the Texas Department of Transportation assumed responsibility from the FHWA for reviewing and approving certain assigned NEPA environmental documents. This memorandum of understanding was renewed on December 9, 2019. This review and approval process apply to this proposed project.

Public Involvement Goals



- Provide public involvement opportunities for stakeholders, roadway users, and the general community to engage with the project team and share feedback
- Update those interested on the project process and timeline

The public involvement goals for the propose project include providing public involvement opportunities for stakeholders, roadway users, and the general community to engage with the project team and share feedback and to update those interested on the project process and timeline.

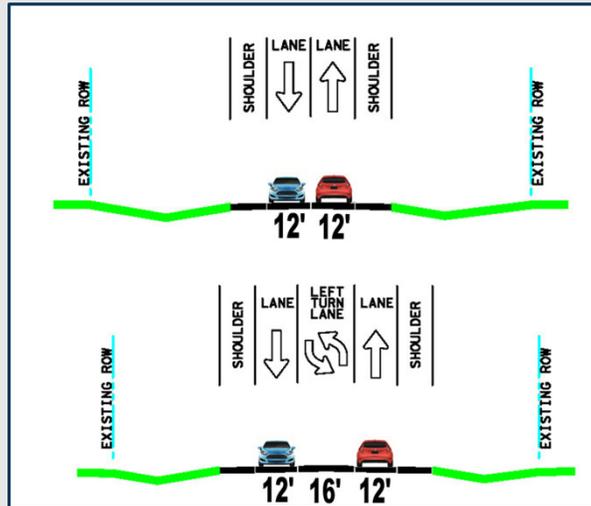
Project Considerations



- Upgrade highway to current safety standards
- Improve regional mobility and connectivity
- Add highway capacity for increasing traffic volumes, including trucks
- Minimize right of way and environmental impacts
- Minimize utility impacts where feasible
- Utilize recently constructed pavement where feasible

Important considerations for the proposed project include upgrading the highway to current safety standards, improving regional mobility and connectivity, adding highway capacity for increasing traffic volumes (including trucks), minimizing right-of-way impacts, and minimizing utility impacts where feasible while utilizing recently constructed pavement where feasible.

Existing Conditions



Existing Typical Sections:

Two-lane undivided highway with one 12-foot-wide travel lane in each direction and 10-foot-wide shoulders with passing lanes in various locations and a 16-foot-wide two-way left turn lane within the City of Paris.

The existing US 82 includes a two-lane undivided highway with one 12-foot-wide travel lane in each direction and 10-foot-wide shoulders with passing lanes in various locations and a 16-foot-wide two-way left turn lane within the City of Paris limits.

Proposed Improvements 

Widen US 82 from a two-lane highway to a four-lane divided highway for a distance of approximately 16 miles. Two alternatives, each consisting of two typical sections, are proposed:

Alternative 1: Improve existing roadbed and utilize for eastbound traffic, widening on the North side of US 82.

Alternative 2: Improve existing roadbed and utilize for westbound traffic, widening on the South side of US 82.

From Fannin County Line to Toco, Typical Section 1 includes two travel lanes in each direction divided by a **depressed median**.

From Toco to Loop 286 in Paris, Typical Section 2 includes two travel lanes in each direction with a **two-way left turn lane** and accommodations for future sidewalks. Within the City of Paris limits, a **sidewalk** would be provided at the edge of the right of way on both sides.

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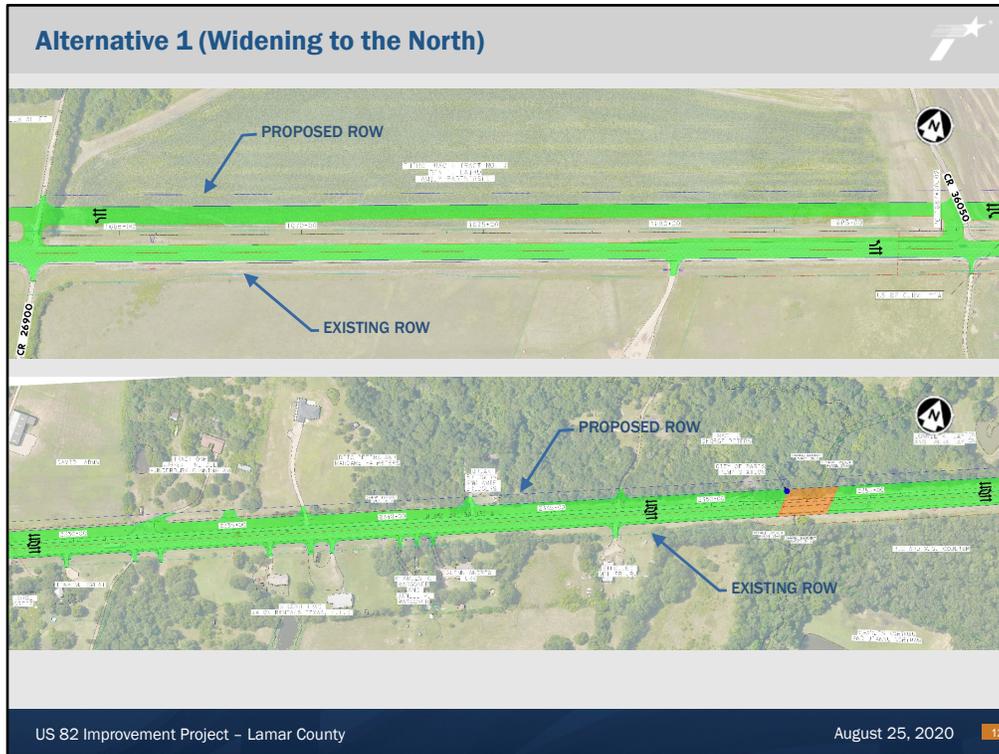
The proposed improvements include the widening of US 82 from a two-lane highway to a four-lane divided highway for a distance of approximately 16 miles. Two typical sections are proposed for the project and apply to each of two initial alternatives.

Alternative 1 improves the existing roadbed to accommodate eastbound traffic, widening to the North side of US 82.

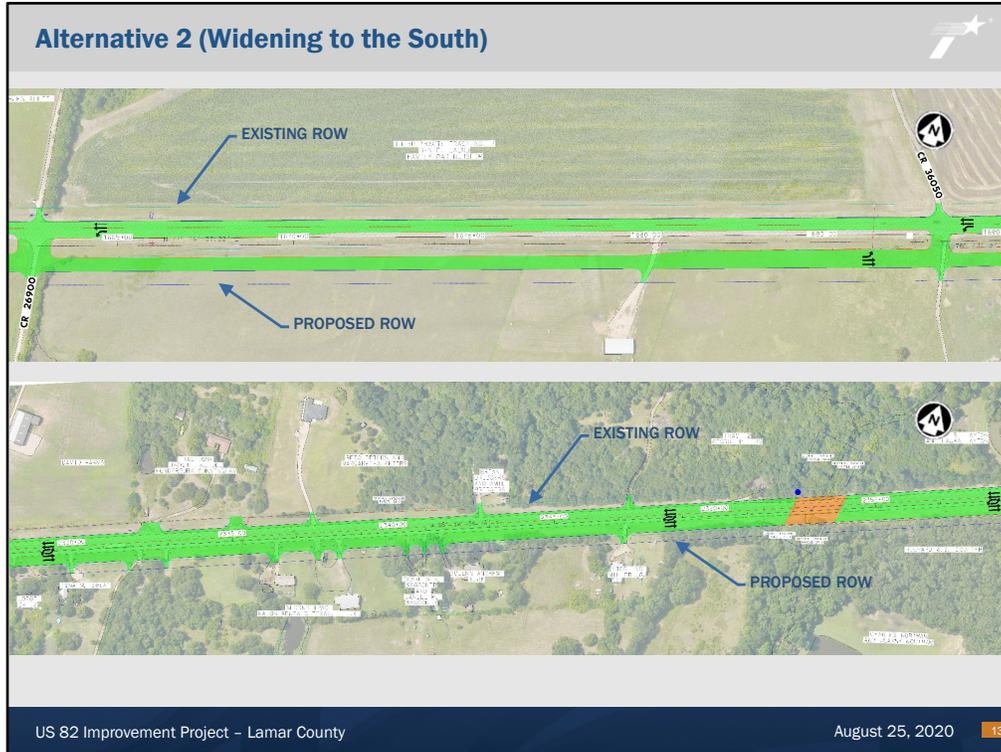
Alternative 2 improves the existing roadbed to accommodate westbound traffic, widening to the South side of US 82.

Typical Section 1, from Fannin County Line to Toco, includes two lanes in each direction divided by a 68-foot-wide depressed median.

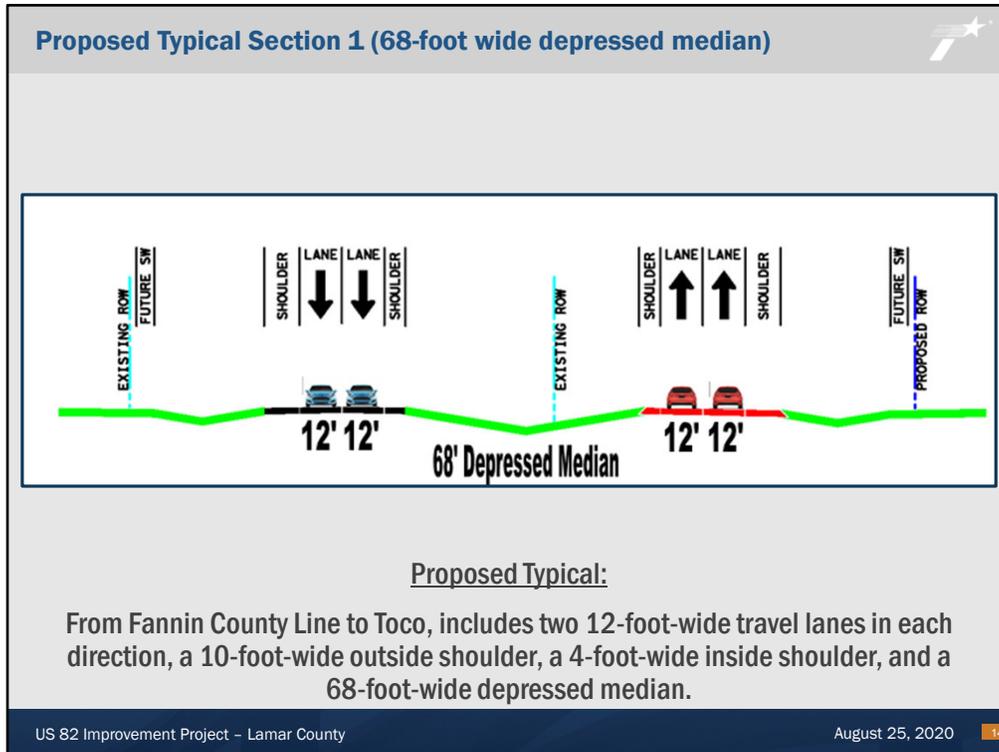
Typical Section 2, from Toco to Loop 286 in Paris, includes two lanes in each direction with a two-way left turn lane and accommodates future sidewalks at the edge of the right of way on both sides. Within the City of Paris limits, a sidewalk would be provided at the edge of the right of way on both sides.



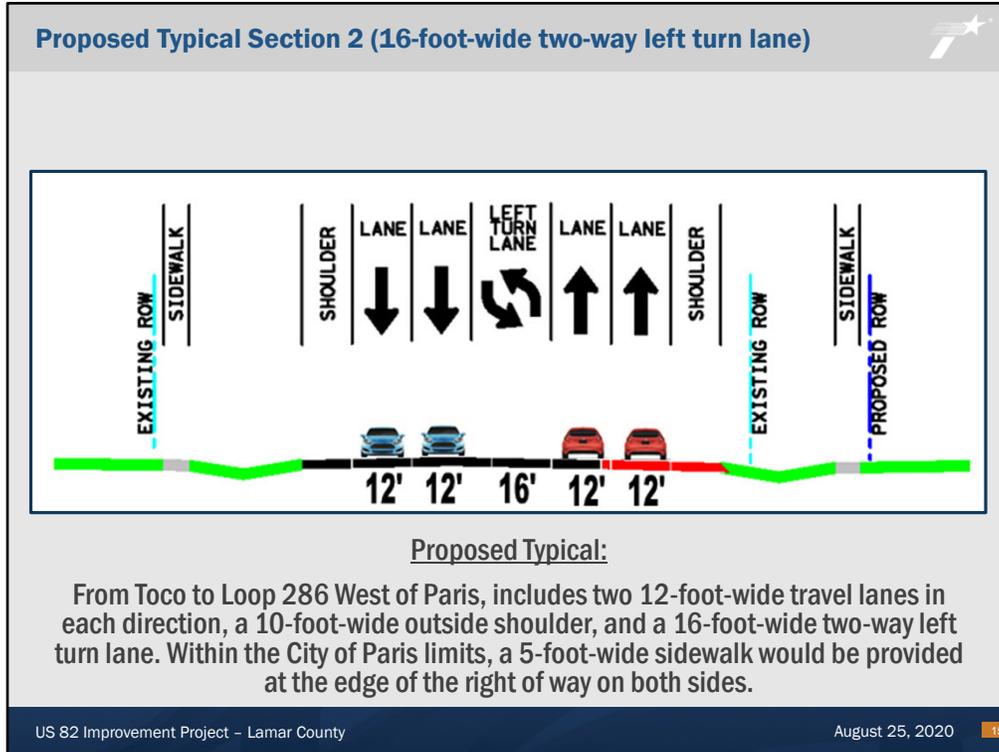
Alternative 1 provides improvements to existing pavement, shown here in a crosshatch pattern, widening to the North side of US 82 to accommodate two additional travel lanes. This is a small sample of the project. A downloadable copy of both alternatives is available at www.txdot.gov, Search “US 82 Lamar County”.



Alternative 2 provides improvements to existing pavement, shown here in a crosshatch pattern, widening to the South side of US 82 to accommodate two additional travel lanes. This is a small sample of the project. A downloadable copy of both alternatives is available at www.txdot.gov, Search “US 82 Lamar County”.



From Fannin County Line to Toco, the proposed typical section 1 would include two 12-foot-wide travel lanes in each direction, a 10-foot-wide outside shoulder, a 4-foot-wide inside shoulder, and a 68-foot-wide depressed median.

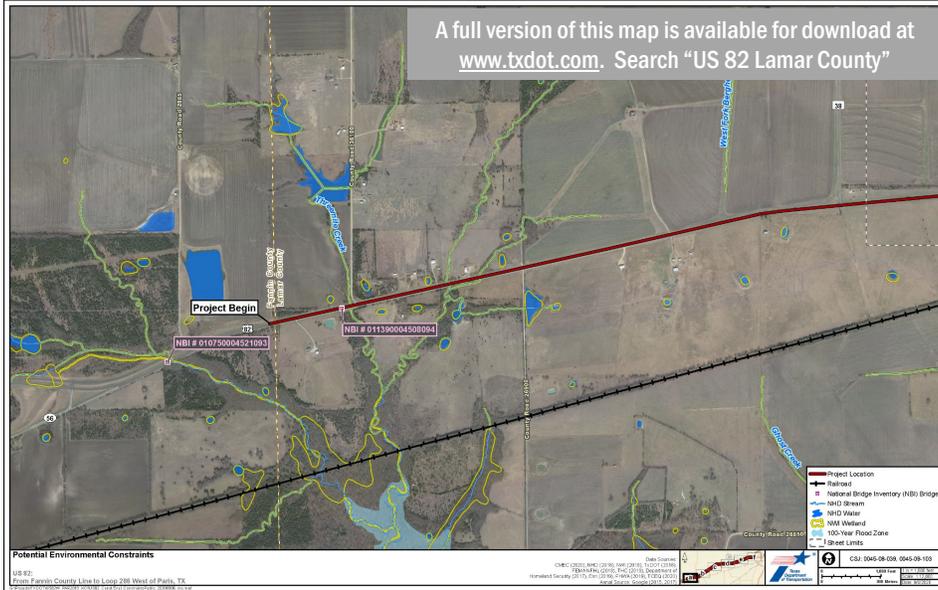


From Toco to Loop 286 West of Paris, the proposed typical section 2 includes two 12-foot-wide travel lanes in each direction, 10-foot-wide outside shoulders, and a 16-foot-wide two-way left turn lane. The design would accommodate 5-foot-wide future sidewalks along the right of way on both sides of US 82. Within the City of Paris limits, a 5-foot-wide sidewalk would be provided at the edge of the right of way on both sides.

Environmental Constraints Map



A full version of this map is available for download at www.txdot.com. Search "US 82 Lamar County"



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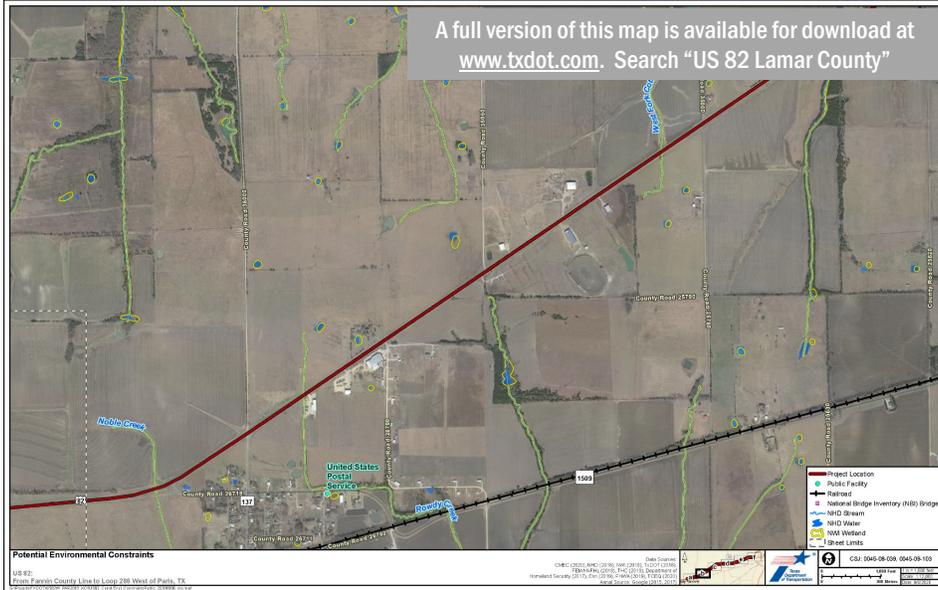
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The next set of slides will show the environmental constraints along the project corridor starting at the Fannin County Line traveling east toward the City of Paris.

Environmental Constraints Map



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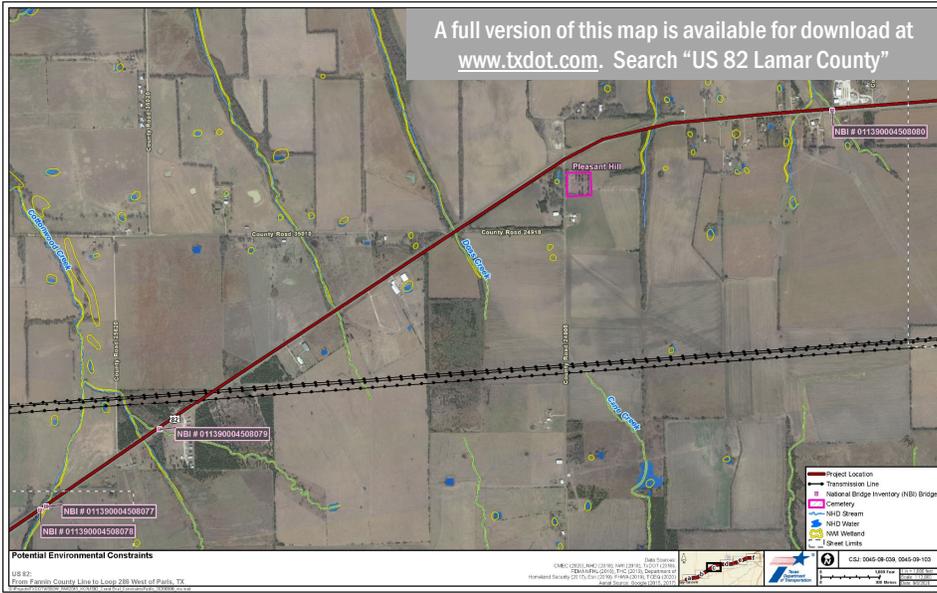
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Environmental constraints typically include community facilities, hazardous materials sites, historic markers and bridges, parkland, streams, wetlands, and floodplains.

Environmental Constraints Map



A full version of this map is available for download at www.txdot.com. Search "US 82 Lamar County"



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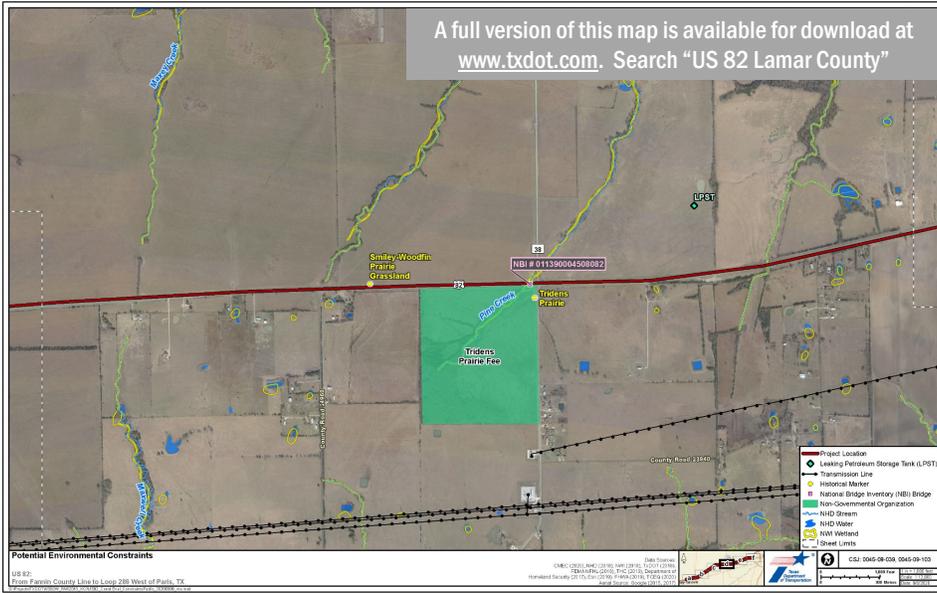
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Environmental constraints were gathered from readily available data sources to evaluate potential constraints along the project corridor.

Environmental Constraints Map



A full version of this map is available for download at www.txdot.com. Search "US 82 Lamar County"

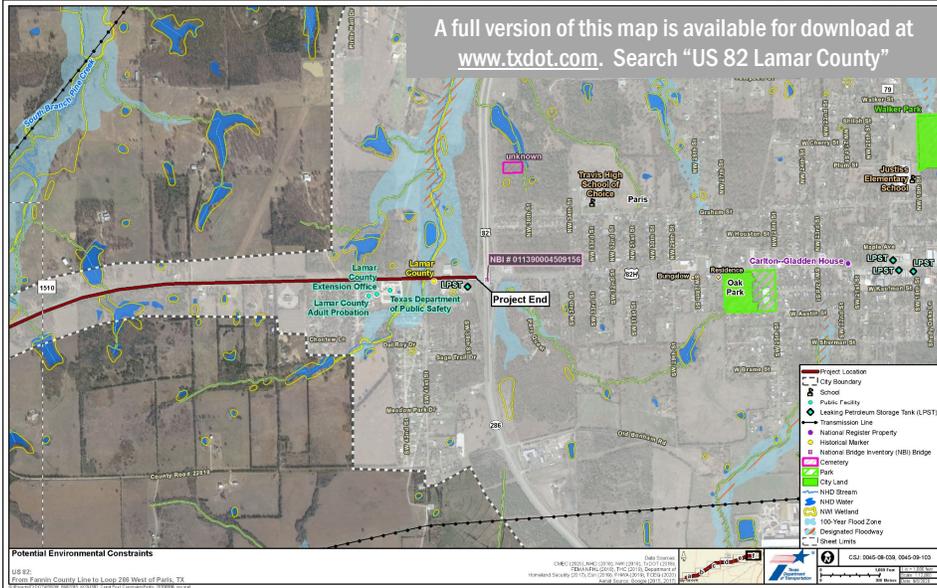


This is a visual representation of the potential environmental constraints anticipated for the proposed project and is available for viewing and download on the project webpage.

Environmental Constraints Map



A full version of this map is available for download at www.txdot.com. Search "US 82 Lamar County"



Public Meeting Information and Downloads

Public Meeting information available for download at www.txdot.gov
 Keyword search “US 82 Lamar County”

FACT SHEET
US 82
 From Fannin County Line to Loop 286 West of Paris, Texas



PROJECT LENGTH: 16 miles

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS
 The proposed improvements to US 82 include the following:

- Widen US 82 from a two-lane highway to a four-lane divided highway for a distance of approximately 16 miles
- Design roadway with two 12-foot-wide travel lanes in each direction, a 20-foot-wide outside shoulder, and a 10-foot-wide depressed median or a 16-foot-wide two-way left-turn lane
- Provide a five-foot-wide sidewalk, which would be provided at the edge of the right-of-way on both sides within the City of Paris limits

PROJECT PURPOSE
 The purpose of this proposed project is to improve safety, mobility and regional connectivity, manage congestion and upgrade to current design standards.

CONTACT INFORMATION
 Texas Department of Transportation
 Attention: Duane Good
 1360 N. Main St.
 Paris, TX 75460

PROJECT TIMELINE

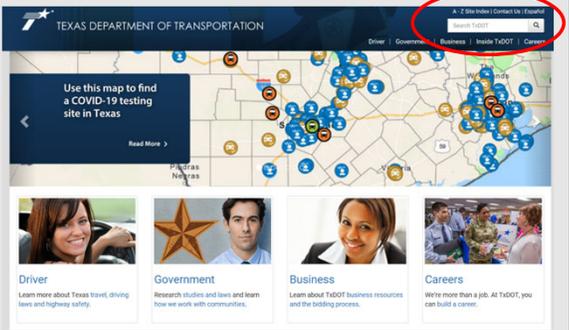
WE ARE HERE

Public Meeting #1 (April 28, 2020)
 Public Meeting #2 (February 2021)
 Environmental Clearance (February 2021)
 High Construction (November 2021)

CONTACT INFORMATION
 Texas Department of Transportation
 Attention: Duane Good
 1360 N. Main St.
 Paris, TX 75460

For more information, visit www.txdot.gov, Keyword Search “US 82 Lamar County”

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 entered Dec. 9, 2015, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Use this map to find a COVID-19 testing site in Texas

Driver Government Business Careers

Learn more about Texas travel, driving laws and highway safety.

Research studies and laws and learn how we work with communities.

Learn about TxDOT business resources and the bidding process.

Write more than a job. At TxDOT, you can build a career.

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The Virtual Public Meeting presentation and additional project information is available for viewing and download at www.txdot.gov. To visit the project webpage, type in “US 82 Lamar County” in the keyword search at the top right of the TxDOT homepage.



This is a graphic of TxDOT’s right of way process. We are currently in the second step of the process identified as “Public meetings and public hearings”. Information is available on the TxDOT Website outlining property owners’ rights, the ROW process, and the help provided by the department in relocating tenants and property owners.

These can be found on the project webpage or additionally at: <http://www.txdot.gov/government/processes-procedures/row.html>

If you have any questions during the right of way process you can contact the TxDOT project manager, Duane Good, whose contact information is provided on the next slide.

Share Your Input

Submit **e-mail**, **phone**, or **mail-in** comments by:

- **Emailing:** Duane.Good@txdot.gov
- **Calling:** (903) 737-9282
- **Filling out a comment card and mail to:**
Texas Department of Transportation
ATTN: Duane Good
1365 N. Main St.
Paris, TX 75460



While comments are always welcome, they must be received on or before Wednesday, **September 9, 2020 to be included in the official meeting documentation.**

The public may call project staff at (903) 737-9282 during regular office hours or email project staff at any time in the project development process.

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TxDOT is committed to continuing our efforts to gain public feedback about this project. We understand this virtual public meeting format is a bit different, so let's take a few minutes and explain the comment process – which is the most important part of this video.

Given our current COVID-19 situation, the Paris District is asking the public to provide their comments in the following ways:

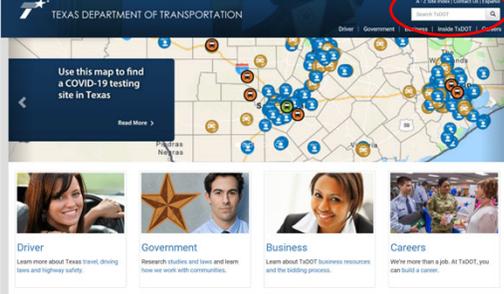
- **Emailing:** Duane.Good@txdot.gov
- **Calling:** (903) 737-9282
- **Filling out a comment card, available for download at www.txdot.gov, to mail to:**

Texas Department of Transportation
 ATTN: Duane Good
 1365 N. Main St.
 Paris, TX 75460

Share Your Input

Submit **online** comments by:

- Visiting the website www.txdot.gov. Then type “US 82 Lamar County” in the keyword search box
- Then click the “Submit Your Comment” link on the project webpage



The screenshot shows the Texas Department of Transportation website. At the top right, there is a search bar with the text "A-Z Site Index | Contact Us | Feedback" above it. A red arrow points from the text "keyword search box" in the instructions to this search bar. Below the search bar is a map of Texas with several blue circular markers indicating COVID-19 testing sites. Below the map are four featured sections: "Driver", "Government", "Business", and "Careers", each with a small image and a brief description.

While comments are always welcome, they must be received on or before Wednesday, **September 9, 2020** to be included in the official meeting documentation.

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Additionally, you may submit your comments online by visiting the website www.txdot.gov. Search “US 82 Lamar County”. Then click on the “Submit Your Comment” button.

The public comment period closes on September 9, 2020 which is 15 days from this virtual public meeting. Please ensure your comment is received or postmarked by this date. The public may call project staff at (903) 737-9282 during regular office hours or email project staff at any time in the project development process.

Thank you for attending the US 82 Improvement Project Virtual Public Meeting.