



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PUBLIC HEARING
SH 72
FROM KARNES COUNTY LINE TO
0.25 MILE EAST OF FM 2980
CSJ NO. 0720-02-041

DeWitt County

January 10, 2019

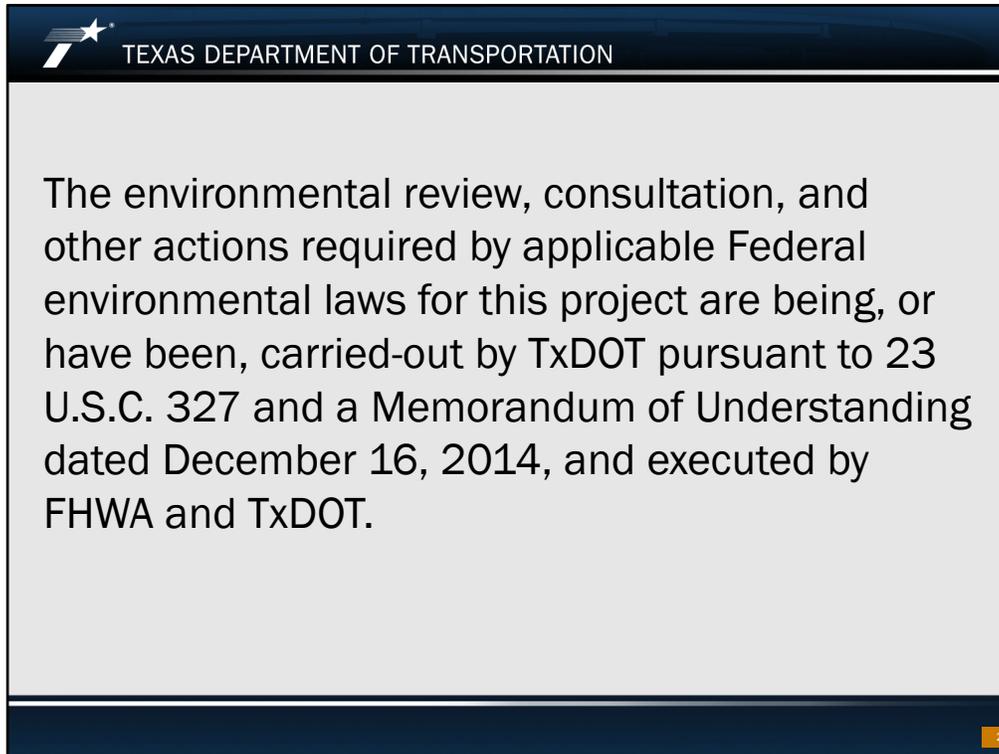
Jeff Vinklarek

Good evening. My name is Jeff Vinklarek and I am the Director of Transportation Planning and Development for the Texas Department of Transportation, TxDOT, Yoakum District. Before we begin tonight's presentation, please *silence* all cell phones and electronic devices.

Today is **Thursday, January 10, 2019**, and the time is 6:30 pm. On behalf of TxDOT, I would like to thank you for your interest and participation in this public hearing.

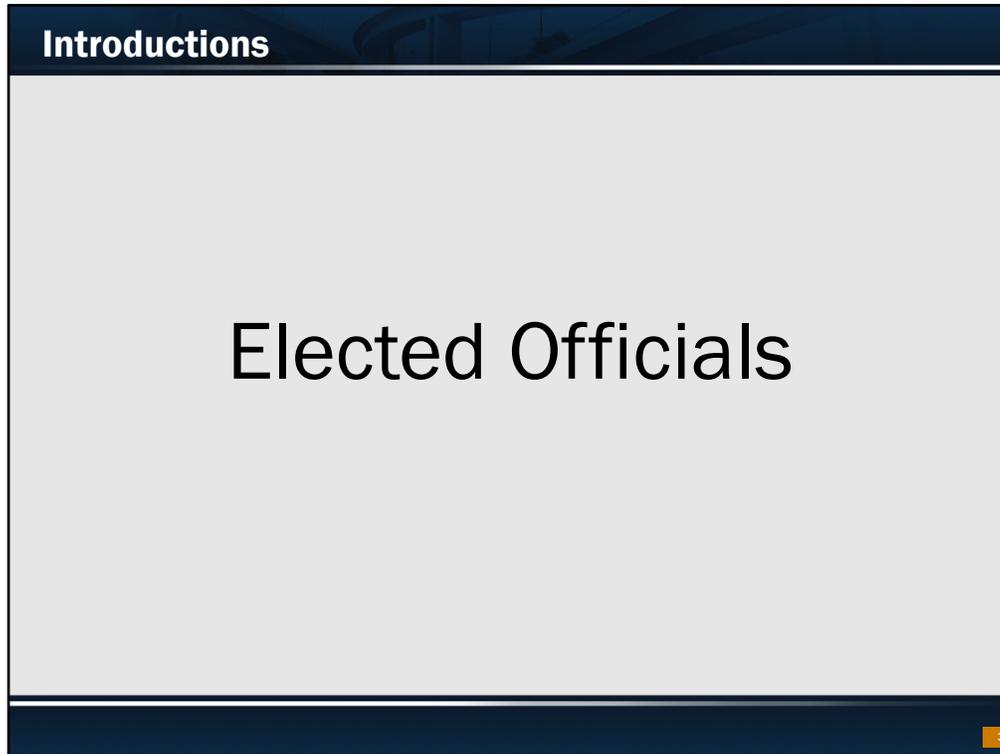
We would also like to thank the **Nordheim Shooting Club** for the use of this facility tonight.

As you entered, you were asked to register at the sign-in table. If you have not already done so, please register before you leave tonight so that we have a record of your participation at this public hearing.



Jeff Vinklarek

Prior to December 16, 2014, the Federal Highway Administration 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 FHWA for reviewing and approving certain assigned NEPA environmental documents. This review and approvals process applies to the proposed project being presented this evening.



Jeff Vinklarek

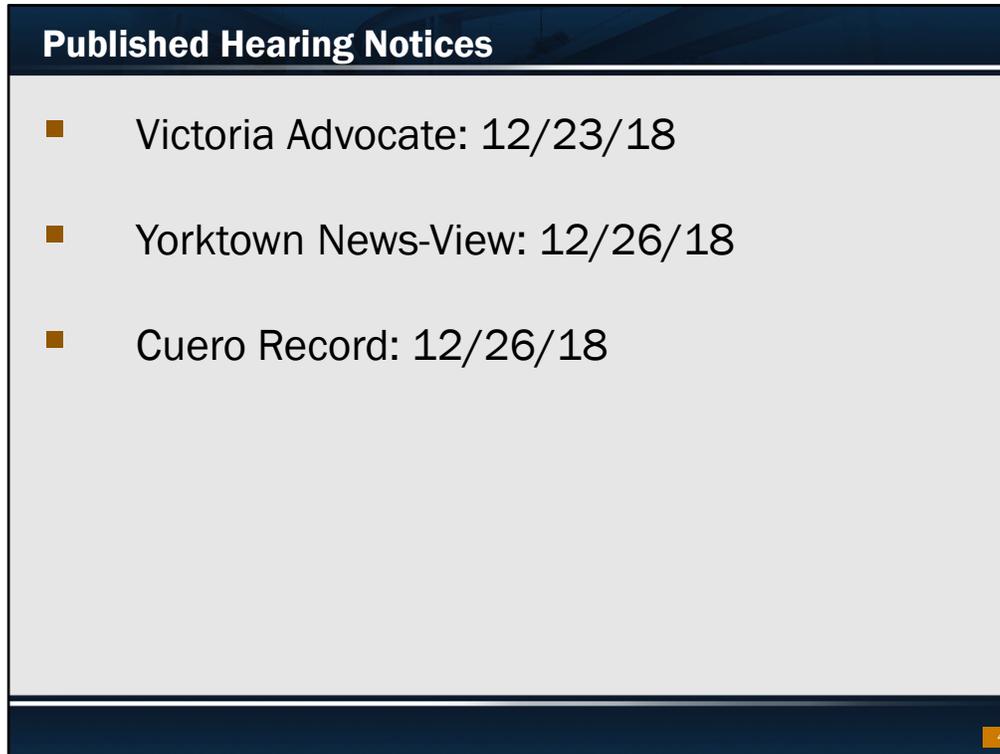
Before we begin the technical presentation, we would like to welcome and recognize the elected officials who are in attendance tonight.

(Read the names from the sign-in sheets.)

If there are any other elected officials present tonight, please raise your hand to be recognized. Each of you will be given the opportunity to speak prior to the public comment period.

(Recognize each person.)

Thank you.

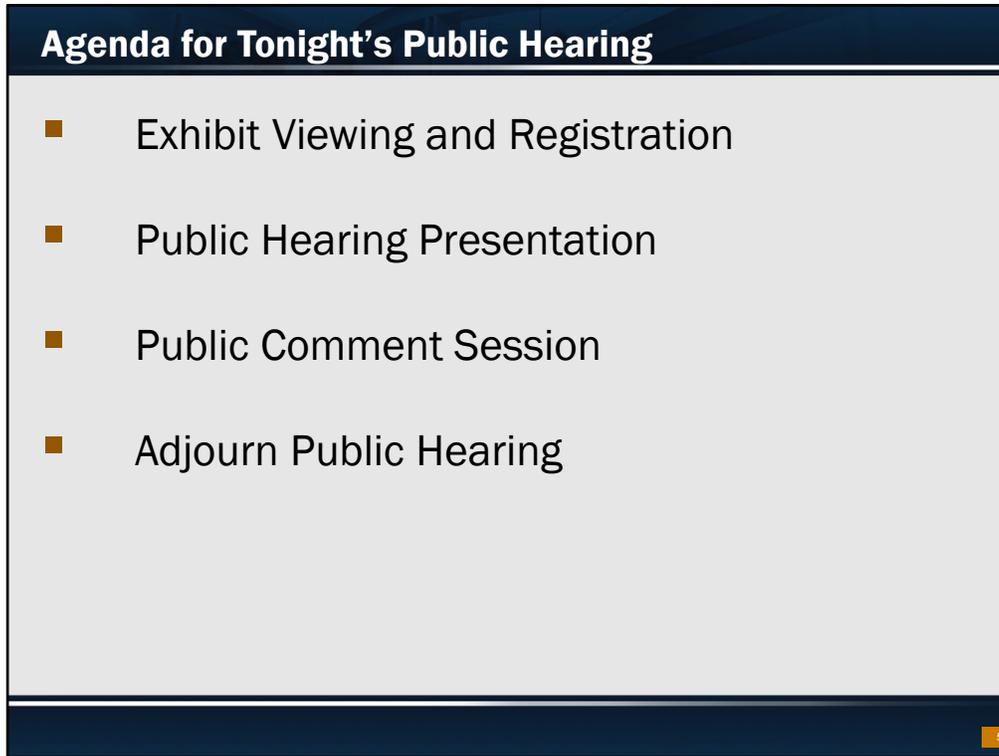
A presentation slide with a dark blue header and footer. The header contains the text "Published Hearing Notices" in white. The main body of the slide is light gray and contains a bulleted list of three items. The footer is dark blue and contains a small orange square with the number "4" in white.

Published Hearing Notices

- Victoria Advocate: 12/23/18
- Yorktown News-View: 12/26/18
- Cuero Record: 12/26/18

Jeff Vinklarek

The notices for this public hearing were advertised in the Victoria Advocate on December 23, 2018, and in the Yorktown News-View and the Cuero Record on December 26, 2018.

A presentation slide with a dark blue header and footer. The header contains the title "Agenda for Tonight's Public Hearing" in white text. The main body of the slide is light gray and contains a bulleted list of four items, each preceded by a small dark blue square. The footer is dark blue and contains a small orange square with the number "5" in white.

Agenda for Tonight's Public Hearing

- Exhibit Viewing and Registration
- Public Hearing Presentation
- Public Comment Session
- Adjourn Public Hearing

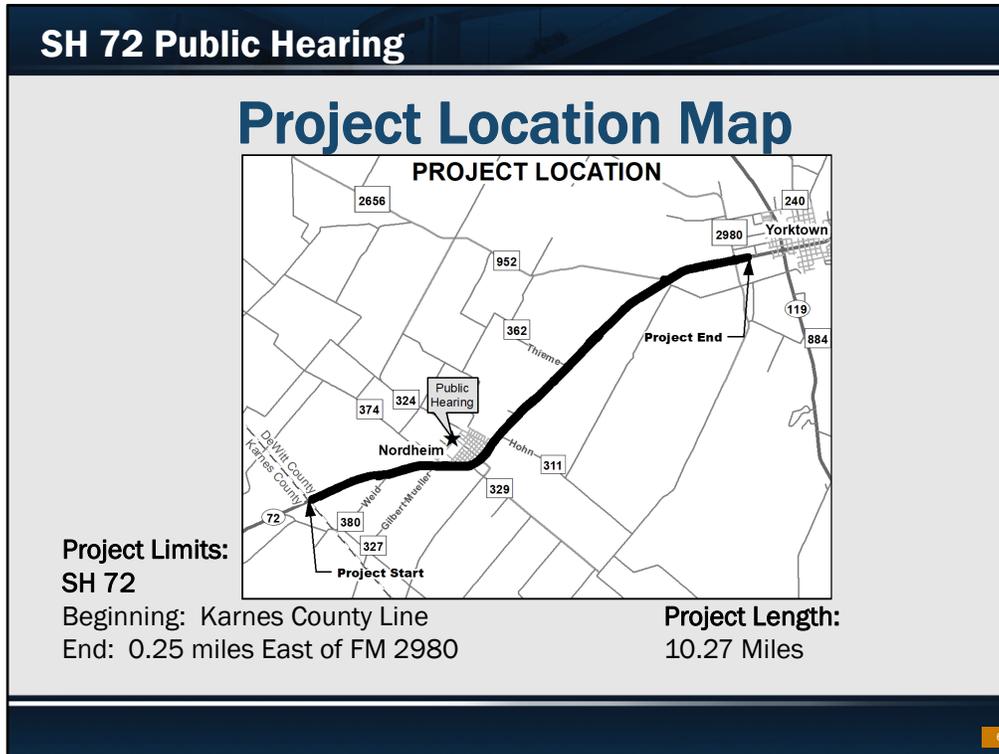
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Jeff Vinklarek

The purpose of this public hearing is to present the proposed improvements to SH 72 and to receive your comments on the proposed project.

The verbal public comment session will begin following the presentation. We will not answer questions during the presentation or public comment session, but we will be available to answer your questions following the comment session. This official public hearing will adjourn after all verbal comments have been heard.

Now I would like to introduce Mr. Ryan Josefovsky, Project Engineer with PGAL, who will discuss the engineering for the proposed improvements to SH 72.



Ryan Josefovsky

Thank you, Jeff.

The proposed project limits along SH 72 are from the DeWitt/Karnes County Line to 0.25 miles east of FM 2980 in DeWitt County – a distance of approximately 10.27 miles.

Project Need and Purpose

Project Need

- Improve safety
- Increase mobility in the area
- Provide added capacity for projected traffic

Project Purpose

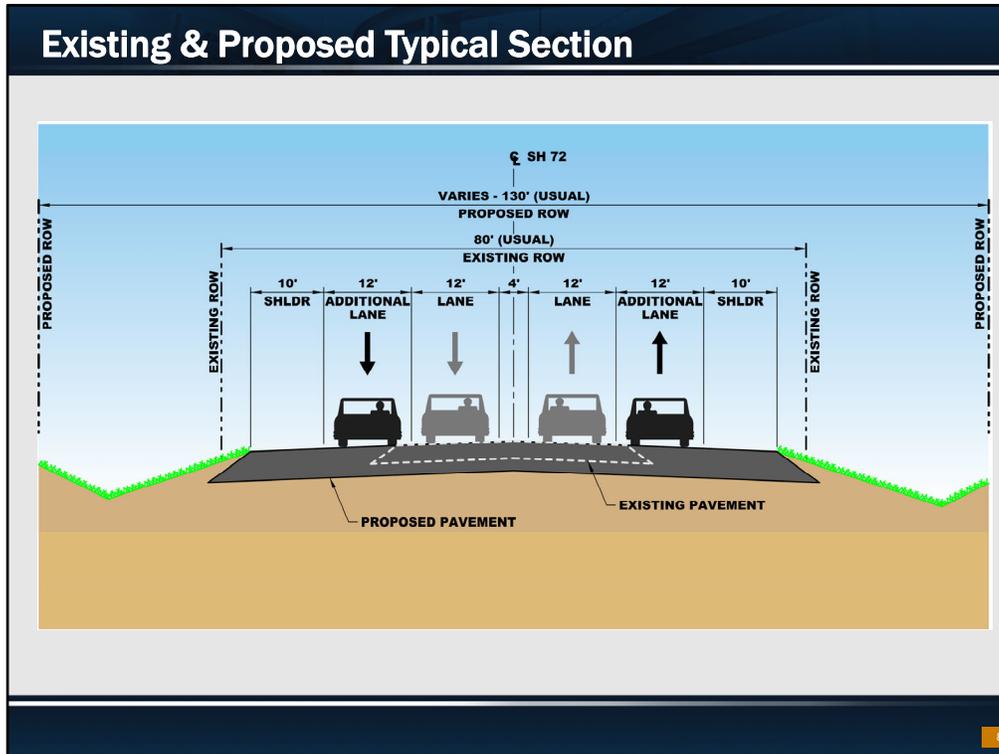
The purpose of the proposed project is to improve mobility, add capacity, and enhance safety for existing and future residences and businesses in the project vicinity by widening the roadway from two lanes to four lanes, installing a flush median to separate traffic traveling in opposite directions, and smoothing curves.

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Ryan Josefovsky

The project is needed because SH 72 within the project limits, is inadequate to meet current and future traffic demand, resulting in congestion and reduced mobility.

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve mobility, add capacity, and enhance safety for existing and future residences and businesses in the project vicinity by widening the roadway from two lanes to four lanes, installing a flush median to separate traffic traveling in opposite directions, and smoothing curves.



Ryan Josefovsky

The existing roadway within the project limits consists of two 12-foot-wide travel lanes (one in each direction), 4-foot-wide outside shoulders, and vegetated ditches or swales.

The existing right of way is approximately 80 feet wide.

The proposed right of way is approximately 130 feet wide and requires an additional 98.24 acres.

Proposed Improvements

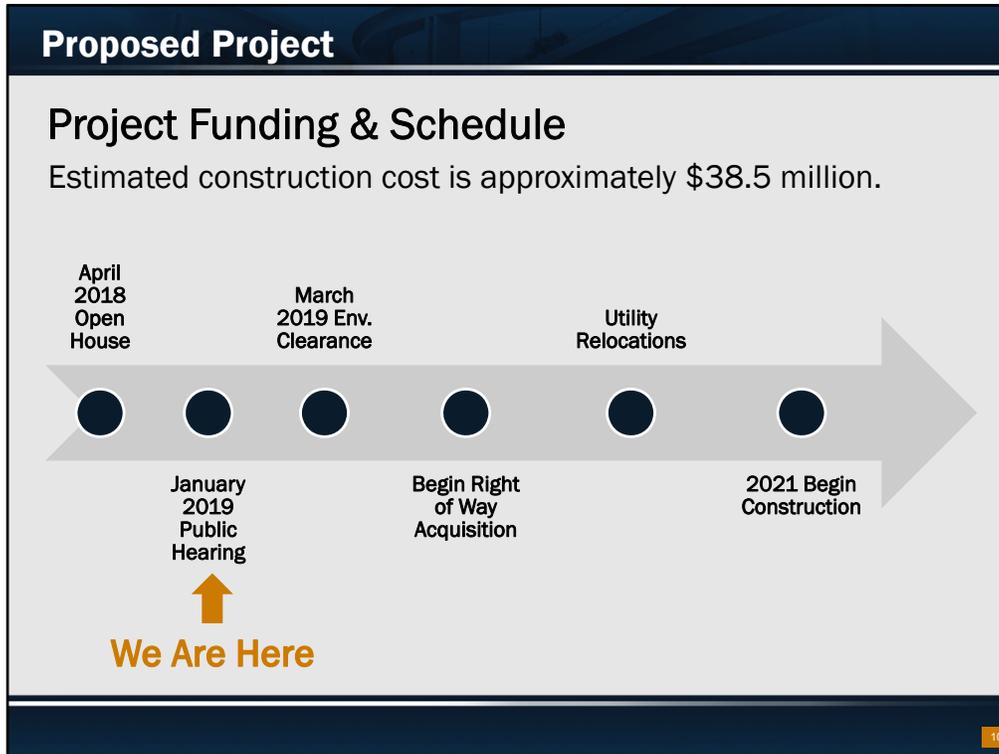
- Reconstruct SH 72 from 2 lanes to 4 lanes
- Add a 4 foot flush median between oncoming lanes
- Add left turn lanes at FM 2980, FM 952 (Old Nordheim Rd), and FM 239 (Broadway)
- Add 10 foot shoulders
- Improve safety of curves
- Additional right of way (ROW) will be required

Ryan Josefovsky

The proposed improvements to SH 72 include the reconstruction and widening of the existing roadway from two lanes to four lanes. This includes an additional 12 foot wide lane in each direction, 10 foot wide outside shoulders, and a 4 foot wide flush median between the opposing traffic lanes. Left turn lanes are also proposed along SH 72 at the intersections at FM 2980, FM 952, and the Broadway/FM 239 intersection in Nordheim.

West of Nordheim, the proposed SH 72 alignment has been shifted to the south to avoid the extensive utility conflicts along the existing highway.

No sidewalks or easements are currently proposed.



Ryan Josefovsky

The proposed project is anticipated to cost approximately \$38.5 million. Environmental clearance is anticipated in March of 2019 followed by right of way acquisition and utility relocations. Construction is expected to begin in 2021 and would take approximately 2-3 years to complete.

This completes the engineering and design portion of the presentation. I would now like to introduce Ms. Susan Patterson, Environmental Project Manager with Cox McLain Environmental Consulting, who will present the findings of the environmental studies.

NEPA Environmental Assessment

- Project description
- Study area map
- Identifying affected parcels
- Summary of impacts
- Commitments and other measures to minimize or eliminate impacts
- Appropriate technical reports and mapping

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Susan Patterson

Thank you, Ryan. An Environmental Assessment (or EA) and all related Technical Reports were prepared and approved for the proposed project and are available tonight for your review.

The EA includes a proposed project description, a summary of impacts, commitments and other measures to minimize or eliminate impacts, and appropriate Technical Reports and mapping.

| Environmental Considerations | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| ■ Land Use | ■ Threatened and Endangered Species |
| ■ Geology, Farmlands, and Soils | ■ Archeological Resources |
| ■ Social and Economic | ■ Historical Non-Archeological Properties |
| ■ Pedestrian and Bicycle | ■ Section 4(f)/6(f) Properties |
| ■ Air Quality | ■ Hazardous Materials |
| ■ Noise | ■ Indirect and Cumulative Effects |
| ■ Water Quality | |
| ■ Vegetation and Wildlife | |
| ■ Floodplains | |
| ■ Wetlands | |

Susan Patterson

As part of the EA process, natural, cultural and social resources were evaluated for potential impacts as a result of the proposed project. Listed on the slide are the environmental resource areas that were evaluated in the EA and are available for review. I will provide a summary of some of the impacted resources highlighted in blue on the slide.

Land Use: Approximately 98.24 acres of right of way would be required for the proposed improvements. Two residential displacements and four "other" potential displacements have been identified..

Vegetation and Wildlife: Approximately 171.42 acres of impacts to vegetation are anticipated. The project area does not include rare or remnant vegetation, unusual vegetation features, or special habitat features. Efforts to minimize impacts to vegetation and wildlife habitat would be implemented.

Floodplains: The project would cross the 100-year floodplain; however, the project would not increase the base flood elevation.

Wetlands: The proposed project would impact waters of the U.S. and would be authorized through a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 14 without Pre-Construction Notification.

Section 4(f)/6(f) Properties: The proposed project would require approximately 4 acres of land from within the provisional National Register of Historic Places boundary of the Eckhardt Ranch District. This district is recommended to be considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register. The proposed project impacts to this district would not have an adverse effect on the characteristics that make this property eligible.

Stakeholder Coordination

- Texas Historical Commission
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- General Public
- Adjacent Property Owners

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Susan Patterson

Throughout the environmental process, TxDOT has coordinated, or will coordinate, with many resource agencies, elected officials, and local stakeholders, including all of the entities listed on this slide.

(Pause to allow audience to read the slide)

Next Steps/Schedule

- Review public feedback
- Obtain environmental clearance
- Prepare engineering plans

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Susan Patterson

In the next steps of the environmental process, all comments received tonight, as well as written comments received during the comment period, will be included in the official public hearing record and will be addressed in the next phase of the environmental process.

The EA and all approved technical reports are available for public review after this public hearing at the TxDOT Yoakum District office located at 403 Huck Street in Yoakum, Texas. In addition, should you wish to obtain a copy for your personal use, paper copies may be purchased for the cost of reproduction.

I would like to hand the hearing back over to Jeff.

Public Hearing Comments

All comments must be submitted by January 25, 2019.

Submit Comments **TONIGHT** by
Verbal Comments: Complete a speaker card to speak during the public hearing
Written Comments: Place in the comment box

Submit Comments by **MAIL** to:
TxDOT Yoakum District Office
403 Huck St
Yoakum, TX 77995

Submit Comments **ELECTRONICALLY** by:
EMAIL at Jeffery.Vinklarek@txdot.gov.

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Jeff Vinklarek

Thank you. At this time, we will move to the public comment portion of the hearing.

There are several ways to comment on the proposed project. You may present your comments here tonight for the court reporter. If you would like to speak for the public record, and have not filled out a speaker card, please raise your hand now. {pause for audience to think} Speakers will be called in the order in which they sign up.

You may also submit your comments in writing. We have provided comment boxes if you choose to leave your completed comment form tonight. Your comment forms may also be mailed or sent electronically to the email address shown here and listed in your handout.

All comments must be submitted or postmarked by January 25, 2019.

Both written and verbal comments will be considered equally. If you submit your comments in writing, it is not necessary to repeat your comments verbally.

[NOTE: Staff are in the audience, please raise hands/cards].



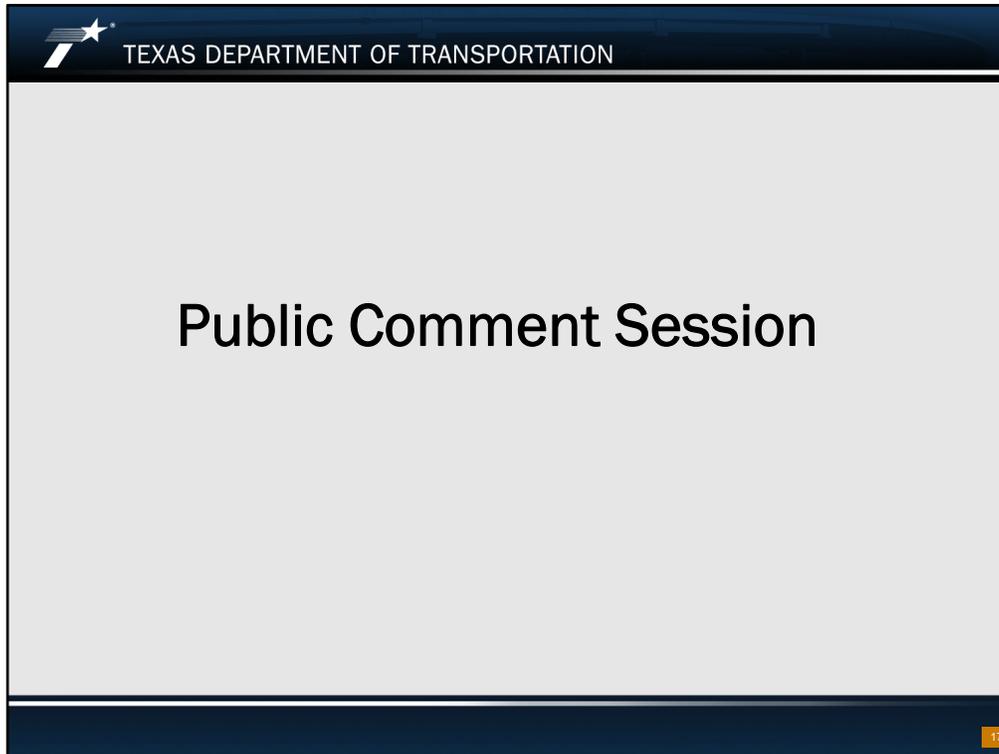
Jeff Vinklarek

I would like to begin the public comment session by introducing our elected officials who wish to comment.

First we will hear from _____ with _____.

[A list will be provided to you.]

Thank you Mr./Ms. _____. Next we will hear from _____ with _____.



Jeff Vinklarek

Now, I would like to provide an opportunity for those who have registered to speak on the proposed project.

You will have 3 minutes to make your comments. When I announce your name, please come to the microphone and clearly state your name and whom you may represent.

A timer, located on the screen, will indicate the beginning of your three minutes. After three minutes, you will be asked to be seated so the next speaker can make his or her comments. If you have additional comments, please complete the written comment form provided to you.

And now I will call the speakers listed on the speaker registration cards in the order they signed up. First we will hear from _____, followed by _____.

[Speaker gives comments]

Thank you. Next we will have _____, followed by _____.



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

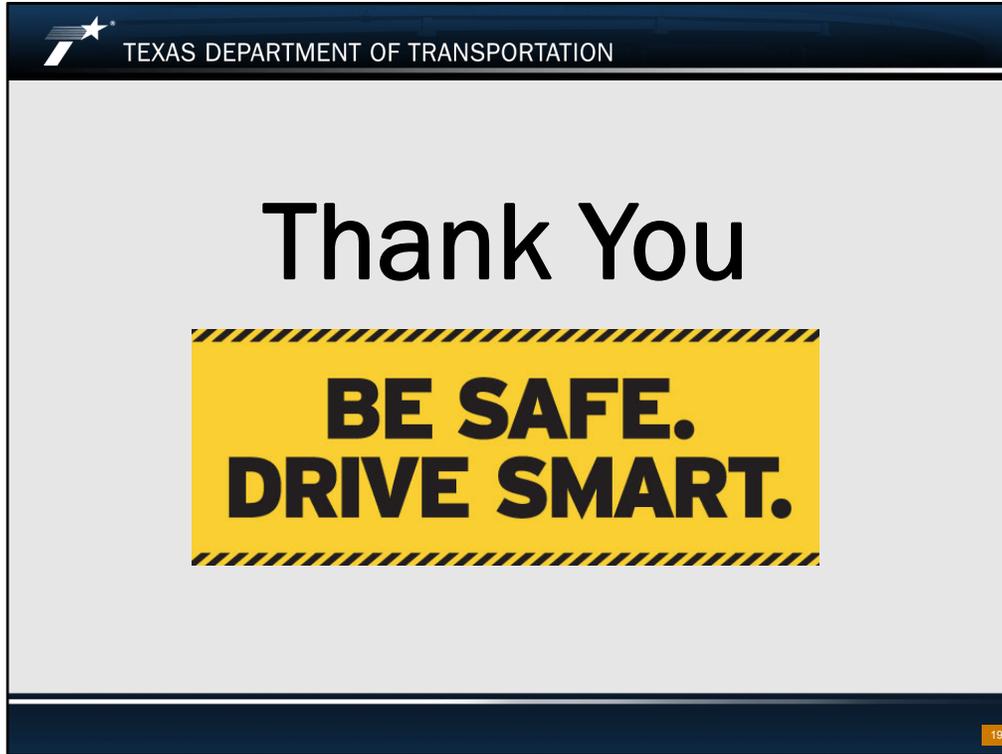
Verbal Comments

- Submit Speaker Registration Card
- Limited 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



Jeff Vinklarek

Internal - Please note: Animation does not show on PDF review version. Animation will appear on electronic version if you click the star by the slide.



Jeff Vinklarek

I would like to thank you for all your comments. We would also like to thank the Nordheim Shooting Club again for the use of their facility tonight. We will now close the hearing. It is exactly _____ pm and the hearing is adjourned. Please drive safe!