



Aug. 25, 2020
Virtual Public Meeting

US 59 and US 77 Widening
Victoria County, Texas
CSJs: 0088-05-096, 2350-01-056

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. I would like to welcome you to the virtual public meeting for the proposed US 59 and US 77 from FM 236 to BU 77 in Victoria County widening project. This presentation has been pre-recorded and will be played as part of the live virtual public meeting. It will also be available online on the project meeting notice page at txdot.gov and keyword search "US 59 and US 77" for future reference.

Welcome 



Jeffery Vinklarek, P.E.
Director of Transportation Planning and Development
Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)
Yoakum District

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Thank you for joining us. My name is Jeffery Vinklarek and I serve as the Director of Transportation Planning and Development for the Yoakum 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 59 and US 77 Widening Project.

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 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 Yoakum 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 website.

Project Limits and Length

US 59 and US 77 Widening

Project Limits:

From FM 236 to BU 77

Victoria County, TX

5.12 miles in length



The proposed project limits extend along US 59 and US 77 from FM 236 to BU 77 in Victoria County for approximately 5.12 miles.

Project Need and Purpose

What are The Issues?
Project Needs

- Bottlenecks on US 59 and US 77
- Anticipated traffic growth
- High intersection crashes
- Freight Corridor and Hurricane Evacuation Route

What Are We Trying To Do?
Project Purpose

- Improve Mobility
- Enhance Safety

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The proposed project is needed to improve traffic flow and to eliminate bottlenecks on US 59 and US 77 caused by transitions in the number of through-traffic lanes. Currently US 77 in the project area transitions from four lanes divided with frontage roads at the intersection of FM 236 to a section that is two lanes undivided without frontage roads. The roadway then transitions back to four lanes divided as US 77 approaches FM 446. US 59 and US 77 (the roads run congruently for a portion of the project) transitions back to four lanes divided with frontage roads as the roadway approaches the BU 77 intersection. Several intersections within the project limits currently experience high intersection crash rates. This route is also designated as a freight corridor and hurricane evacuation route.

The purpose of the proposed project is to increase mobility by improving the roadway to match the four-lane divided sections to the north and south of the project limits. The project would also enhance safety along the project limits. TxDOT data indicates crash rates for two-lane, two-way roadways are substantially higher than divided roadways with four lanes or more.

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 proposed 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.

Proposed Improvements



- Upgrade to a controlled-access facility
- Construction of divided mainlanes that consist of four 12-foot-wide travel lanes, two in each direction and 10-foot-wide outside shoulders
- One-way frontage roads that consist of two 12-foot-wide travel lanes with a 4-foot inside shoulder and a 10-foot outside shoulder
- Construction of elevated bridge connections for US 59 Northbound and Southbound at BU 59
- A grade-separated interchange is proposed at US 77 and Old Goliad Road

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The proposed improvements to US 59 and US 77 include:

- Upgrade to a controlled-access facility
- Construction of divided mainlanes that consist of four 12-foot-wide travel lanes, two in each direction and 10-foot-wide outside shoulders
- One-way frontage roads that consist of two 12-foot-wide travel lanes with a 4-foot inside shoulder and a 10-foot outside shoulder
- Construction of elevated bridge connections for US 59 Northbound and Southbound at BU 59
- A grade-separated interchange is proposed at US 77 and Old Goliad Road

Proposed Improvements



- Depending on the alternative chosen, approximately 46 to 97 acres of proposed right of way would be required for the proposed project
- No sidewalks or easements are currently proposed
- No temporary or permanent easements are anticipated
- Three potential displacements are anticipated

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Considerations



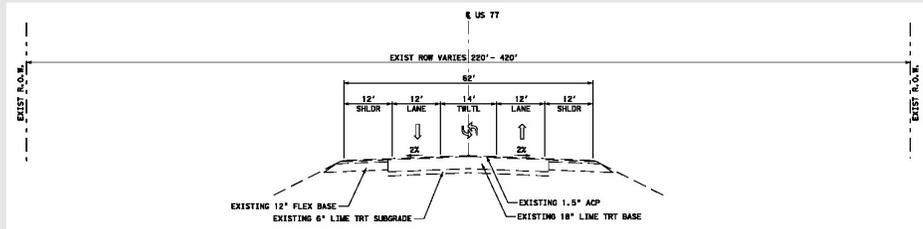
- **Enhancing safety and mobility**
- **Maintaining local access and minimize impacts**
- **Minimizing right-of-way impacts**
- **Increasing capacity for projected traffic volumes**

Important considerations for the proposed project include enhancing safety and mobility, maintaining local access and minimize impacts, minimizing right-of-way impacts, and increasing capacity for projected traffic volumes.

US 77 Existing Conditions – North of FM 446



- US 77 North of FM 446 is an undivided section with two lanes, one in each direction and 10-foot-wide outside shoulders
- The existing right of way varies anywhere from 220 feet to over 1,200 feet wide along this corridor



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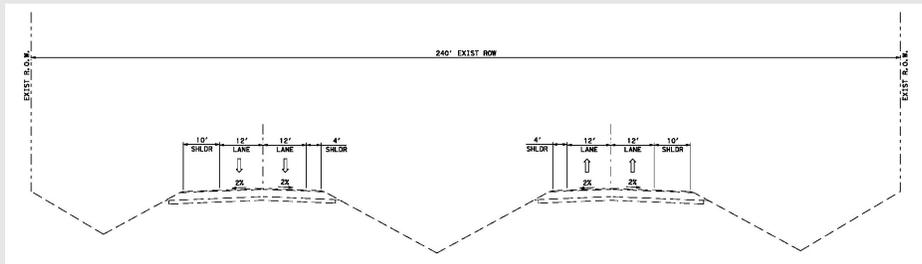
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US 77 North of FM 446 is an undivided section with two lanes, one in each direction and 10-foot-wide outside shoulders. The existing right of way varies anywhere from 220 feet to over 1,200 feet wide along this corridor.

US 77 Existing Conditions – South of FM 446



- US 77 South of FM 446 is divided with four 12-foot-wide travel lanes, two in each direction and 10-foot-wide outside shoulders
- An existing grade separation exists at US 59 and BU 59



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US 77 South of FM 446 is divided with four 12-foot-wide travel lanes, two in each direction and 10-foot-wide outside shoulders. An existing grade separation exists at US 59 and BU 59.

Alternatives Development



- **Developed a range of conceptual alternatives to meet the goals of the project**
- **Conceptual alternatives were evaluated to identify the most reasonable solutions for further refinement and study**
- **Environmental and engineering studies will be used by the corridor team to identify a recommended alternative for final design and construction**

TxDOT has developed a range of conceptual alternatives to meet the goals of the project. Conceptual alternatives were evaluated to identify the most reasonable solutions for further refinement and study. These include Alternative 1 and 2 and will be discussed in more detail later in the presentation. Environmental and engineering studies will be used by the project team to identify a recommended alternative for final design and construction.

Public Meeting Displays 

Full versions of the following Public Meeting Displays are available for download at www.txdot.gov.
Search “US 59 and US 77”

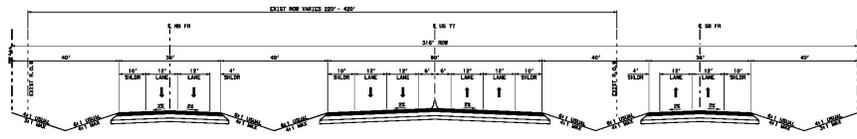
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Two alternatives are currently being evaluated. Downloadable versions of the presented Public Meeting Displays are available at www.txdot.gov, Search “US 59 and US 77”.

Alternative 1



- Widening to the east between FM 236 and BU 59
- Existing mainlanes converted to the southbound frontage road
- Between BU 59 and US 77, the existing road would be utilized as much as possible and the road would be widened to the inside



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Alternative 1 includes:

- Widening to the east between FM 236 and BU 59
- Existing mainlanes converted to the southbound frontage road
- Between BU 59 and US 77, the existing road would be utilized as much as possible and the road would be widened to the inside

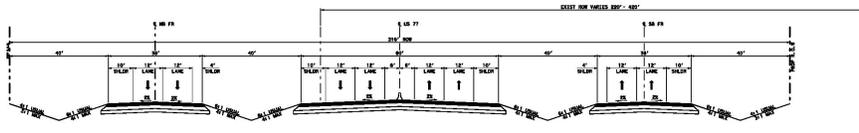


This animation shows you the schematic for Alternative 1 starting at FM 236 and heading to the south towards US 59. The orange shading represents the proposed frontage roads and the yellow shading represents the proposed ultimate mainlanes. Purple shading represents proposed bridge structures. As US 77 approaches US 59, the red shading represents direct connectors. More details are included in the downloadable version of this schematic.

Alternative 2



- Widening to the west between FM 236 and BU 59
- Existing mainlanes converted to the northbound frontage road
- Between BU 59 and US 77, the roadway would be straightened out to improve safety



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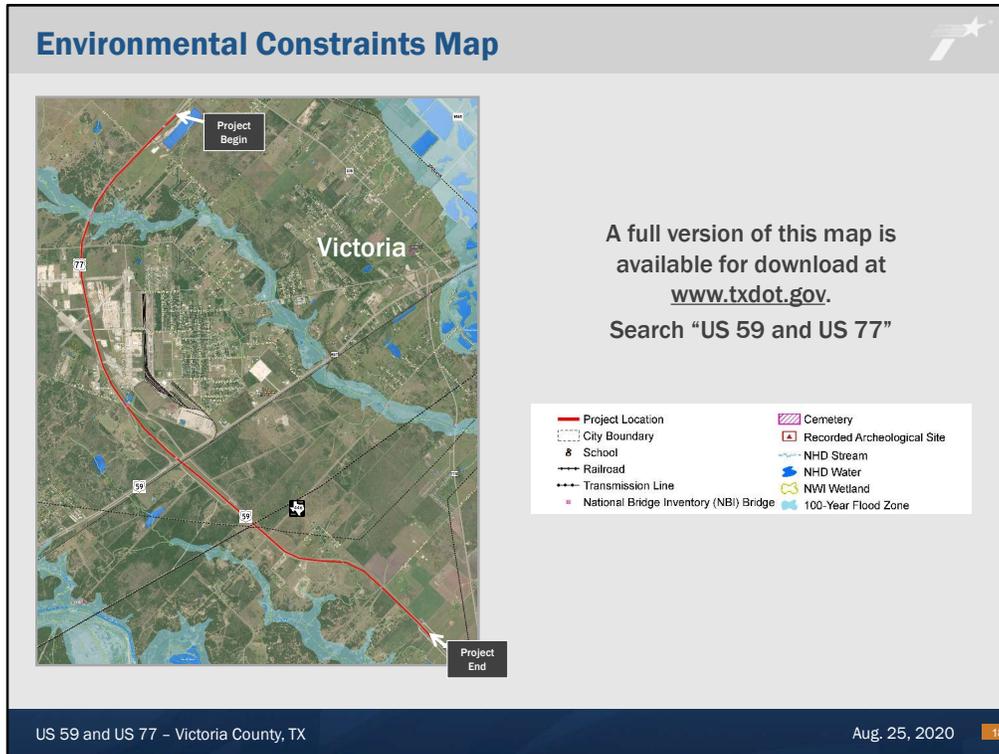
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Alternative 2 includes:

- Widening to the west between FM 236 and BU 59
- Existing mainlanes converted to the northbound frontage road
- Between BU 59 and US 77, the roadway would be straightened out to improve safety



This animation shows you the schematic for Alternative 2 starting at FM 236 and heading to the south towards US 59. The orange shading represents the proposed frontage roads and the yellow shading represents the proposed ultimate mainlanes. Purple shading represents proposed bridge structures. As US 77 approaches US 59, the red shading represents direct connectors. More details are included in the downloadable version of this schematic.



Potential environmental constraints have been identified along the project corridor. Detailed environmental field studies and technical reports will be completed for the proposed project in order to obtain environmental clearance prior to construction. A downloadable copy of the Environmental Constraints Map is available at www.txdot.gov, Search "US 59 and US 77".

Construction Phasing and Funding

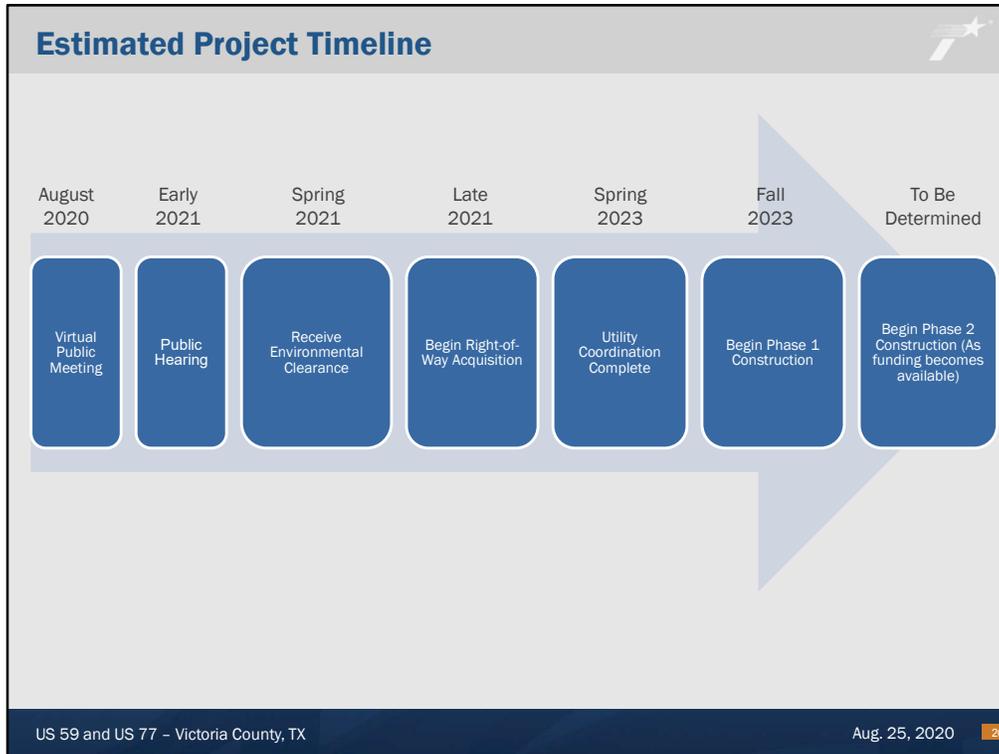


- **Phase 1: Construct 4-lane divided roadway (future frontage roads)**
 - Phase 1 is currently funded (\$35 million)

- **Phase 2: Construct mainlanes for a controlled-access facility**
 - Phase 2 is not currently funded

The project would be constructed in two phases. Phase 1 includes constructing a 4-lane divided roadway which would be the future frontage roads. Phase 1 is currently funded with approximately \$35 million.

Phase 2 would include construction of the mainlanes for a controlled-access facility. Phase 2 is not currently funded and construction is not anticipated to begin until funding becomes available.



The anticipated project schedule following today's August 25, 2020 Virtual Public Meeting includes a Public Hearing in early 2021 and Environmental Clearance in the Spring of 2021. Right-of-Way acquisition is anticipated to start in Late 2021 and utility coordination complete by Spring 2023. Construction is estimated to begin in Fall 2023 for Phase 1 and Phase 2 would begin construction when construction funding becomes available.

Environmental Process



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 FHWA and 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 FHWA and TxDOT.

Share Your Input 

Submit comments by:

- Emailing: Jeffery.Vinklarek@txdot.gov
- Filling out a comment card to mail to:
Texas Department of Transportation
ATTN: Jeffery Vinklarek, P.E.
403 Huck St., Yoakum, TX 77995
- Online by visiting the website www.txdot.gov. Search “US 59 and US 77”.

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

The public may call project staff at (361) 293-4363 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 Yoakum District is asking the public to provide their comments in the following ways:

- Emailing: Jeffery.Vinklarek@txdot.gov
- Filling out a comment card to mail to:
Texas Department of Transportation
ATTN: Jeffery Vinklarek, P.E.
403 Huck St, Yoakum, TX 77995
- Online by visiting the website www.txdot.gov. Search “US 59 and US 77”. Then click on the “Submit Your Comment” button.

The public comment period closes on Sept. 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 (361) 293-4363 during regular office hours or email project staff at any time in the project development process.

Thank you!

Please don't forget to submit comments by
Sept. 9, 2020

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Thank you for attending the US 59 and US 77 Virtual Public Meeting.