



## Virtual Construction Update Meeting: Pre-Recorded Presentation

**US 69 Corridor: Gateway to the Big Thicket  
Hardin and Tyler Counties, Texas**

US 69 from FM 1943 (near Warren) to FM 1003 (north of Kountze) in Hardin and Tyler Counties

Posted Online: Thursday, Oct. 25, 2022

Welcome to the TxDOT Beaumont District US 69 Corridor: Gateway to the Big Thicket Virtual Construction Update Meeting pre-recorded video presentation. TxDOT is proposing to widen and improve US 69 from FM 1943 (near Warren) to FM 1003 (north of Kountze) in Hardin and Tyler Counties.

Please note that you can click on the “pause” button anytime to allow more time to review the information.

## Safety Message



# #EndTheStreakTX

End the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways.

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Your safety is very important to TxDOT, and we can all do our part. Help TxDOT end the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways. 4,495 people lost their lives on Texas roadways in 2021. There's been a death every day on Texas roads for more than 21 years straight—that's over 70,000 people. And that's a streak we want to break.

Here's what you can do:

- Buckle up: Seat belts are your first line of defense.
- Drive the speed limit, or slower, depending on road or weather conditions.
- Never drive under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. Plan a sober ride home.
- When driving, put your phone away or set it to "Do Not Disturb".



## Agenda

- 1 Welcome
- 2 What is a Virtual Construction Update Meeting?
- 3 Existing US 69
- 4 Project Purpose, Summary, and Changes
- 5 Timeline
- 6 How to Submit Comments

On behalf of the TxDOT Beaumont District thank you for watching this Virtual Construction Update Meeting that was shared with the public starting on Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022.

We will cover the following areas:

- What is a Virtual Construction Update Meeting?
- A review of existing US 69
- An overview of the project purpose, summary of improvements, and changes since our last meeting
- A timeline
- How to make comments
- Adjournment – we'll conclude this video presentation



## What is a Virtual Construction Update Meeting?

- Provides a virtual opportunity to review the approved construction details, including timelines and information about project changes at your convenience
- As this is an approved construction project that is letting (construction bidding) in September of 2023, the district does not anticipate making any further project changes
- Please contact the Beaumont District with questions

### Call the Beaumont District with Questions:

- The public may call the district with questions by calling (409) 898-5745

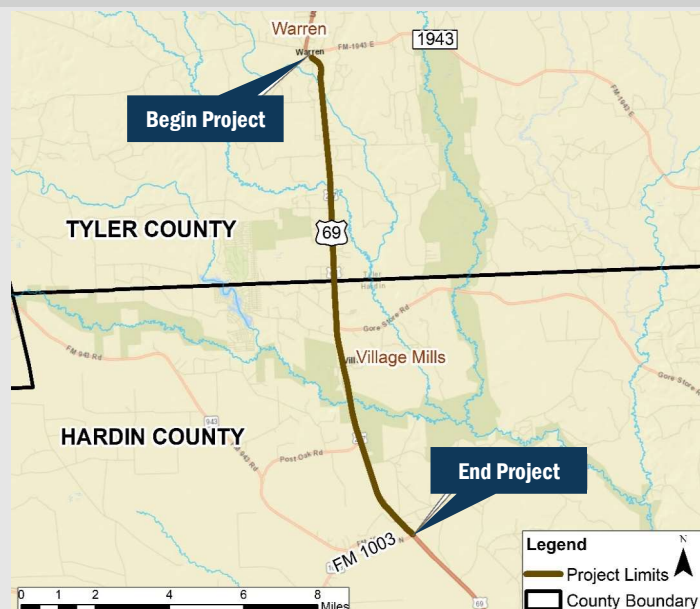
This Virtual Construction Update Meeting is being conducted to provide a virtual opportunity to review approved construction details for US 69, including timelines and information about changes to the project at a time and place that is convenient for you.

This is an approved construction project that will go out for construction bids from contractors in September 2023. This means that the district does not anticipate any further changes.

If you have questions about the project that are not answered by this presentation, please call the TxDOT Beaumont District at 409-898-5745.

## Existing US 69 Corridor

- US 69 from FM 1943 (near Warren) to FM 1003 (north of Kountze) in Hardin and Tyler Counties
- Primary evacuation route with evaculane on the US 69 northbound shoulder
- Existing 13-mile road is primarily a two-lane, undivided roadway with shoulders and no median
- Major freight corridor
- Big Thicket National Preserve Parkway



The project limits are located on US 69 from FM 1943 (near Warren) to FM 1003 (north of Kountze) in Hardin and Tyler Counties. The existing 13-mile road is primarily a two-lane, undivided roadway with shoulders and no median.

US 69 is a primary evacuation route in East Texas with an evaculane on the US 69 northbound shoulder and a major freight corridor connecting I-10 and the future expansion and improvement of I-14 with the Port of Beaumont.

US 69 is designated by the Texas Transportation Code as the Big Thicket National Preserve Parkway between Beaumont and Lufkin.



## Project Purpose

The purpose of the construction project is to:

- Provide safer travel through the area
- Improve emergency evacuation routes
- Relieve traffic congestion caused by a growing population



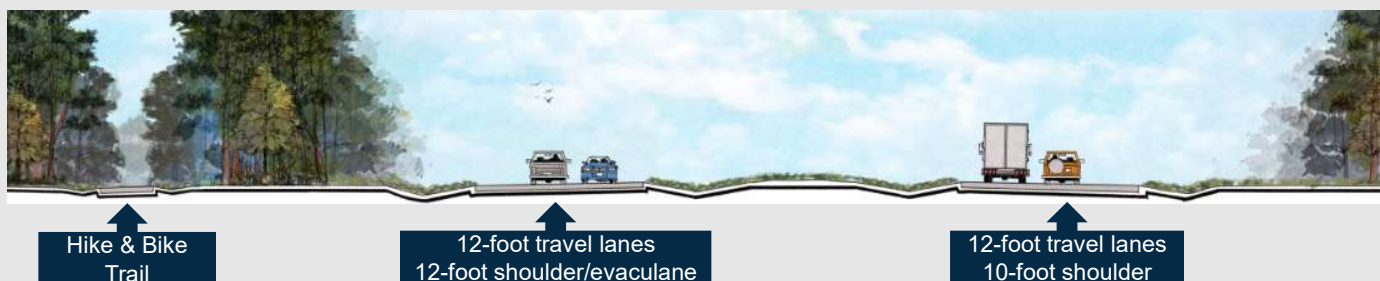
This construction project will help the region in a variety of ways including:

- Providing safer travel through the area,
- Improving emergency evacuation routes, and
- Relieving traffic congestion caused by a growing population.



## Project Summary

- Widen and improve US 69 to a four-lane, divided roadway with shoulders, an evacuation lane on the northbound lanes and a median
- Design the roadway to add two 12-foot travel lanes in each direction
- Design the roadway to include four-foot inside shoulders, a 10-foot outside shoulder on the southbound lanes and a 12-foot outside shoulder on the northbound lanes that serves as a hurricane evacuation lane



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Now, let's take a look at what will be constructed. This construction project will:

- Widen and improve US 69 to a four-lane, divided roadway with shoulders, an evacuation lane on the northbound lanes and a median
- Design the roadway to add two 12-foot travel lanes in each direction
- Design the roadway to include four-foot inside shoulders, a 10-foot outside shoulder on the southbound lanes and a 12-foot outside shoulder on the northbound lanes that can also serve as a hurricane evacuation lane



## Summary of Key Project Changes

Since the Final Environmental Assessment was issued, project changes include:

- TxDOT will enhance landscaping and adding signage at Village Creek, instead of building an aesthetic feature next to the bridge
- TxDOT will provide a standard trail bridge instead of an arched trail bridge
- TxDOT will provide nine monuments at key locations to communicate the significance of the US 69 corridor; quantity and size of monuments have been reduced



**Enhancing landscaping and adding signage at Village Creek**



**Reducing size and quantity of monuments**



**Providing a standard trail bridge**

Since the Final Environmental Assessment was issued, TxDOT has refined the project to adjust for rising material and labor costs. Project changes include providing:

- Enhancements to landscaping and signage at Village Creek, instead of building an aesthetic feature next to the bridge.
- A standard trail bridge instead of an arched trail bridge
- Nine monuments at key locations to communicate the significance of the US 69 corridor – the quantity and size of monuments was reduced, again to account for the increase in material and labor costs associated with construction and maintenance.

The approved construction project will still provide a safer, more reliable corridor for the region and will be constructed within the budget allocated for the project.

## Summary of Key Project Changes, Continued

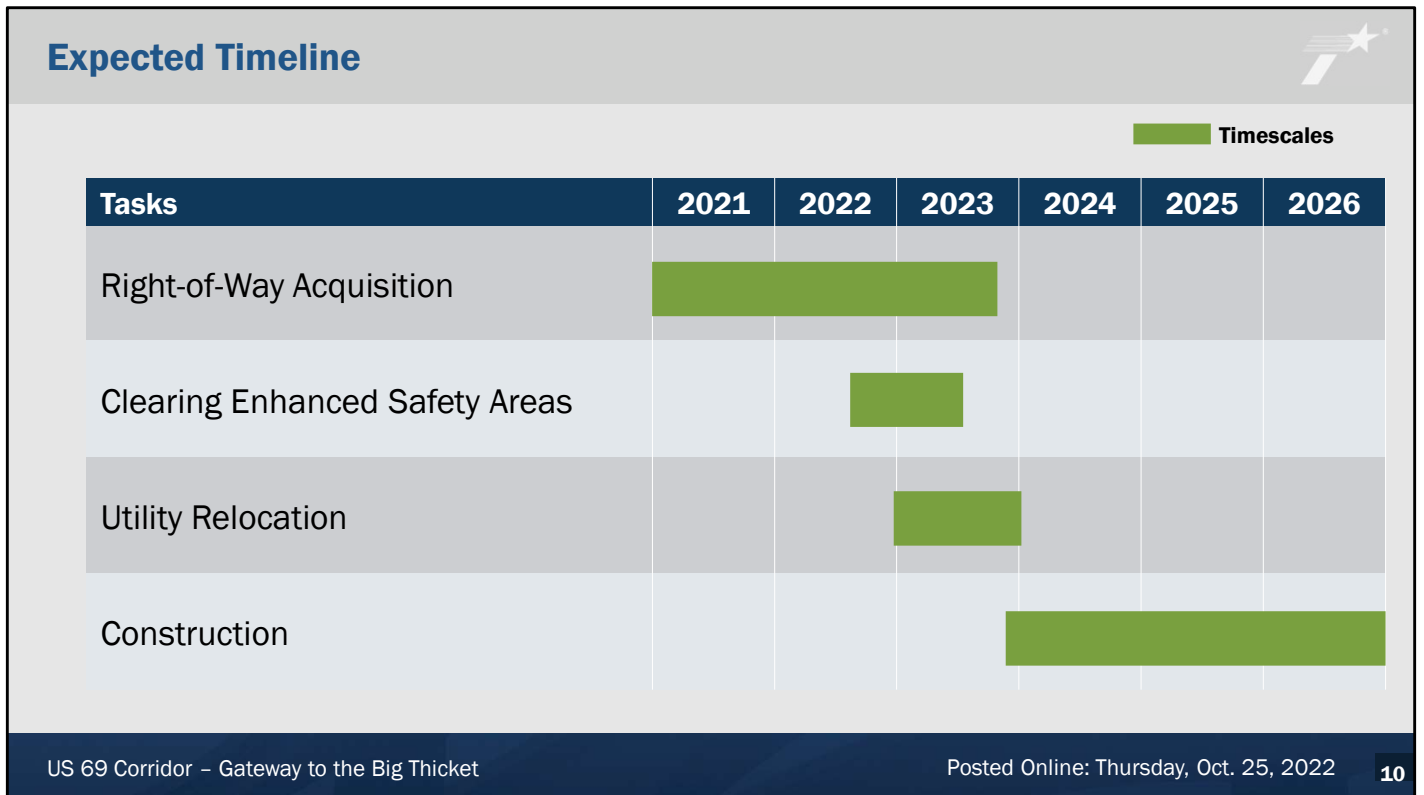


Right of way that will be cleared

- In keeping with the new TxDOT Design Manual to clear obstacles in the right of way, such as landscaping, TxDOT will clear the median and portions of the right of way removing trees and shrubbery

Additionally, TxDOT will begin clearing trees from the median and portions of the right of way, according to new safety guidelines in the TxDOT Design Manual which require clearing obstacles from the right of way.

This clearance makes it less likely that a vehicle swerves or leaves the pavement and hits an obstruction such as a tree. Given the speed limit on US 69, any vehicle-tree crashes would increase the severity of the crash.



TxDOT is currently in the process of acquiring the right of way needed to construct the project. As right of way is acquired, TxDOT will start to clear the enhanced safety areas of trees, shrubs, and debris.

TxDOT will also work with utilities to relocate any infrastructure that needs to be moved to make way for the road’s expansion.

Construction will start in late 2023 and will last approximately 3 years.

## TxDOT's Commitment to Residents and Business Owners



Driveway access will be maintained at all times.

Construction crews will coordinate with property owners to help minimize disruptions

Driveway access to homes and businesses will be maintained at all times

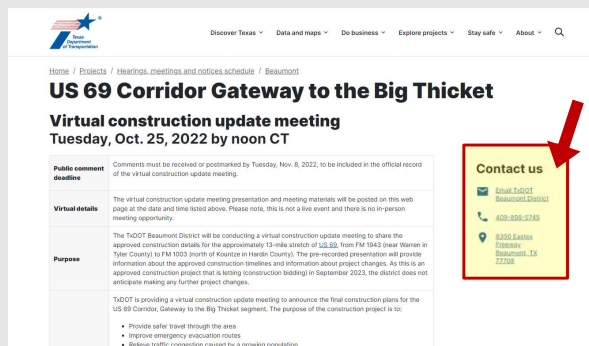
While construction can be inconvenient while it is underway, the benefits will make US 69 a better roadway for the community.

Please note construction crews will coordinate with property owners prior to working on driveways. Our goal is to minimize disruptions and work around people's schedules as much as possible.

Stay informed: [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov)



Email the project team by visiting [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) and searching: US 69 Corridor - Gateway to the Big Thicket



**Project Web Page Information:**

- Summarizes the project history, including public involvement efforts
- Links to previous public meetings, hearing and notifications
- Additional materials:
  - Maps
  - Newsletters
  - Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) Workshop Materials



Scan with your mobile or tablet to be directed to the project webpage.

We encourage the public to stay informed about the project in the following ways:

First, sign up to receive email updates. Visit [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) and in the upper-right hand corner, enter: US 69 Corridor – Gateway to the Big Thicket in the search box. Click on the project page, and then click on the upper-right hand button called: Subscribe to Updates. When there is a project update, an email will be sent to you.

We also invite you to view the various project materials on the TxDOT website like the detailed schematics where you can see the design features up close. The design schematic and environmental documentation for the project may be viewed online at [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) by searching “US 69 Corridor – Gateway to the Big Thicket.” The information presented on this website is the same information being presented in this video.

## Quick Contacts – Engage TxDOT Online



- Contact the TxDOT Beaumont District office with any questions about the project at anytime during the project development process, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

(409) 898-5745

- Email [bmtprojects@txdot.gov](mailto:bmtprojects@txdot.gov)
- Follow us: Twitter - Beaumont: <https://twitter.com/TxDOTBeaumont>
- Like us: TxDOT Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TxDOT/>



Secondly, don't hesitate to contact the TxDOT Beaumont District office with any questions.

You can contact the TxDOT Beaumont District by calling (409) 898-5745, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. or email [bmtprojects@txdot.gov](mailto:bmtprojects@txdot.gov) with any questions or comments at anytime during the project development process. And don't forget to follow us on Twitter for ongoing road closures and construction updates on the Beaumont District Twitter page. You can also keep up with TxDOT news on our Facebook page.

## How to Submit Comments

1) **Email:**  
[bmtprojects@txdot.gov](mailto:bmtprojects@txdot.gov)

2) **Mail:**  
 TxDOT Beaumont District  
 TxDOT Project Manager  
 8350 Eastex Freeway  
 Beaumont, TX 77708

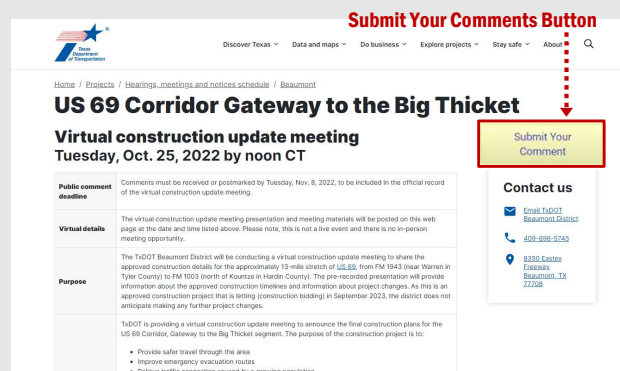
3) **Submit Online:**

- Visit [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov)
- In the “Search TxDOT” box in the upper-right hand corner, enter: US 69 Corridor – Gateway to the Big Thicket
- Then click



4) **Leave a voicemail:**  
 409-209-2240

**Questions or comments must be received or postmarked by Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022.**



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Questions or comments must be received or postmarked by Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022. You can submit written comments in the following ways:

1. Email your comments to: [bmtprojects@txdot.gov](mailto:bmtprojects@txdot.gov)
2. Mail your comments to:  
 TxDOT Beaumont District  
 TxDOT Project Manager  
 8350 Eastex Freeway,  
 Beaumont, Texas 77708
3. Submit your comments online:
  - Visit [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov)
  - In the “Search TxDOT” box in the upper-right hand corner, enter: US 69 Corridor – Gateway to the Big Thicket
  - Click on the “Submit Your Comments” button at the top right of the page or click on the email link at the bottom of the page.
4. You can also leave a voicemail with your questions or comments by calling **409-209-2240**

Most importantly, please be sure to submit your written comments no later than Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022. The responses to your comments submitted during the comment period will be included in the Virtual Construction Update Meeting summary report. This report will be posted to the TxDOT website within the next few months.



Thank you

Thank you for watching!

**Please submit your questions or comments by  
Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022.**



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Thank you for watching! Don't forget to submit your comments by **Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022**, and to view the project information available online.

Thank you again and please, stay safe.

This concludes our video presentation, and this Virtual Construction Update Meeting is adjourned.