



FM 1810 Widening & US 81/US 287 Interchange Project Virtual Public Meeting Video Script

Slide 1 - Welcome

Welcome to the Texas Department of Transportation's prerecorded virtual public involvement presentation. We appreciate your interest in the project and welcome each of you. Please note that you may pause this presentation at any point to allow more time to view the slides, and you may also pause the presentation and navigate forward or backward as needed. In this presentation, we will cover the public involvement purpose, project overview, environmental, and right of way considerations. This is followed by an explanation of how to provide comments for the proposed project and the adjournment.

Slide 2 - Welcome

My name is Ricardo Gonzalez, and I serve as the Director of Transportation, planning and development for the Fort Worth District of the Texas Department of Transportation, better known as TxDOT. Your input on the proposed improvements is valuable and will help benefit the community and shape the final project recommendations. The virtual public materials and project information can be found at www.txdot.gov by typing the project keyword in the search box in the upper right-hand corner. After the project information is presented, we would appreciate your feedback.

Slide 3 - End the Streak

November 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on roadways in Texas. That means for over two decades, at least one person has died every single day. We all have a part to play to change that. This message is that reminder - to End the Streak of deaths on Texas highways. We need drivers and passengers to act more responsibly and help us reach our goal of zero deaths by 2050. Texans can play a major role in ending fatal crashes with a few simple driving habits: wear seatbelts, drive the speed limit, put away the phone and other distractions, and never drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs. So please do your part and share this message with your friends and family.

Slide 4 - Public Meeting Displays

Public Meeting Displays can be viewed in person at the TxDOT Fort Worth District Office and the TxDOT Decatur Area Office from Thursday, February 22 through Friday, March 8. In-person viewing will be by appointment only. Please call (817) 370-3570 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, to make an appointment and receive more detailed instructions.

Full versions of the Public Meeting Displays are also available for download at www.txdot.gov. Search "FM 1810 & US 81/US 287 Project" when looking for the Public Meeting Displays on our website.

Slide 5 - Agenda

Today's presentation will cover the purpose of this public meeting, project overview, project purpose and need, proposed improvements, environmental considerations, right of way information, estimated schedule, and how to provide comments.

Slide 6 - Public Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this meeting is to present a project update, inform the public of project design, and offer the public an opportunity to provide input.

Slide 7 – Project Overview

In this meeting, we will focus on the segments of FM 1810 from west of CR 1170 to CR 1160, US 81, or US 287, from CR 2195 to north of US 380, and BUS 81D from CR 1160 to north of CR 2090 in Decatur in Wise County, Texas.

Slide 8 – Project Purpose and Need

This project aims to improve mobility and enhance safety by reducing conflicts and accommodating the predicted growth in traffic on US 81.

On this segment of FM 1810, trucks account for around 58% of all traffic. Traffic volumes on this segment of FM 1810 are expected to increase by 40% from 2025 to 2045, resulting in around 3,100 vehicles each day.

Traffic volumes on this segment of US 81, or US 287, are expected to increase by 34% from 2025 to 2045. Truck traffic currently accounts for around 41% of all traffic using this roadway.

Slide 9 – Existing FM 1810

FM 1810 currently follows E Old Chico Road and crosses US 81, or US 287, just north of the US 81/US 380 interchange. The roadway is one lane in each direction with shoulders.

Slide 10 - Proposed Improvements – FM 1810

Improvements to FM 1810 include constructing two lanes in each direction on a new alignment from west of CR 1170 to CR 1160. The new roadway would have 12-foot lanes with shoulders separated by a center turn lane. The project would also add a sidewalk and a shared-use path for pedestrians and bicyclists.

This project also includes constructing a new interchange for FM 1810 at US 81, or US 287, with overpass bridges. Overpass bridges allow vehicles on FM 1810 to pass over the roadway, enhancing safety and the overall efficiency of the roadway while reducing congestion and the potential for crashes.

Slide 11 – Existing BUS 81D

BUS 81D currently connects directly to US 287/US 81 near CR 2090 and is one lane in each direction.

Slide 12 – Proposed Improvements - BUS 81D

The proposed realignment of BUS 81D would extend the existing two-lane roadway near CR 2090 to connect to the proposed FM 1810 alignment near CR 1160. This project would also construct shared-use paths for pedestrians and bicyclists along the new BUS 81D.

Slide 13 – Existing US 81/ US 287

US 81, or US 287, currently has two 12-foot wide lanes in each direction, 4-foot inside shoulders, 10-foot outside shoulders, and is separated by a 25-foot wide grassy center median.

Slide 14 – Proposed Improvements –US 81/ US 287

Proposed improvements to US 81, or US 287, include constructing two-lane, one-way frontage roads on both sides of the US 81/US 287 mainlanes with entrance and exit ramp connections and providing continuous shared-use paths for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Slide 15 - Environmental Process

As this project is developed, TxDOT is evaluating potential impacts to the environment and preparing environmental documents in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. Those evaluations include the study of property impacts and easements, community impacts and environmental justice, biological resources, such as vegetation and threatened and endangered species and habitats, construction impacts, water resources and drainage, cultural resources, hazardous materials, traffic noise, and air quality.

As part of the environmental process, TxDOT will coordinate with several environmental agencies on the state and federal levels to ensure the project design meets all applicable regulations. These agencies include the Texas Historical Society, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the United States Forest Service.

Details of environmental constraints within the project area are included on the Environmental Constraints Map shown on this page and linked on the public meeting webpage.

Slide 16 – Right of Way

The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act of 1970 is a law that was designed to ensure that anyone who owned property needed for a public purpose would be treated fairly. The law establishes guidelines for the acquisition of property and the relocation of displaced individuals and businesses.

It is the policy of the TxDOT that individuals impacted by transportation systems expansion shall not be denied benefits excluded from participation or otherwise be subjected to discrimination based on the grounds of race, color, sex, age, handicaps or national origin.

Slide 17 – Right of Way

Each impacted property owner is offered “just compensation” for the property needed for the project. To arrive at this value, independent appraisers are hired to prepare detailed appraisals and establish value.

A written offer to the property owners is made based on the value determined in the appraisals.

Property owners are given a minimum of 30 days to consider the offer.

For more information, Right-of-Way Brochures are available on the TxDOT Website.

Slide 18 – Estimated Schedule

Following this public meeting, TxDOT will prepare public meeting documentation and will use public input in conjunction with design and environmental considerations to further refine design plans.

TxDOT is tentatively scheduled to hold a public hearing in fall 2024 to present updated design plans and receive input from the public.

Prior to construction, TxDOT would finalize the design plans and complete right-of-way acquisition and utility adjustments.

The project is estimated to be ready for construction in 2029, pending available funding. The project is estimated to cost around 98 million dollars.

Slide 19 – Share Your Input

Following the public meeting, TxDOT will proceed with the preparation of the public meeting documentation. Your comments will be addressed in this document and given full consideration in the preparation of the final recommendation and design for this project. To provide comments you may email a comment to tamanna.ali@txdot.gov or fill out a comment card in person or mail to the Texas Department of Transportation at the address information provided.

While comments are always welcome, they must be received or postmarked by Friday, March 8, 2024, to be included in the official meeting documentation.

The public may call project staff at (817) 370-3570 during regular office hours or email project staff at any time in the project development process.

Slide 20 – Thank you

Thank you for your interest in the FM 1810 Widening & US 81/US 287 Interchange Project. We appreciate your participation.