



WELCOME
VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING WITH IN-PERSON OPTION

FM 1426 (N. Raul Longoria Rd.)
From Nolana Loop to I-2

CSJ: 1429-02-036

TxDOT - Pharr District
Hidalgo County in San Juan, TX

April 15, 2024

SCRIPT:

Hello, and welcome to the virtual public meeting with an in-person open house option for the FM 1426 project also known as N. Raul Longoria Road. My name is Kaylyn Atanacio, the Public Involvement Specialist with Entech Civil Engineers, and I will be presenting on behalf of the Texas Department of Transportation, or TxDOT.

This presentation is pre-recorded. During the virtual meeting, you may pause the presentation and navigate forward or backward using your video player.

We appreciate you taking the time to view the details of this project and welcome you to contact our project team if you have any questions.

We are also interested in your comments on the project. Instructions for how to submit your comments and contact information for questions and comments are noted at the end of this pre-recorded presentation.

The graphic features a dark background with the text "HELP #EndTheStreakTX" in white and yellow. Below it, the tagline "End the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways." is written in yellow. At the bottom left, it says "TxDOT.gov (Keyword: #EndTheStreakTX)". At the bottom right, there are icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, followed by the text "#EndTheStreakTX Toolkit" and a QR code. The top left corner of the graphic has the text "End the Streak" and a star icon. The bottom of the graphic has a dark blue bar with the text "FM 1426 (N. Raul Longoria Rd.), Hidalgo County" on the left, "April 15, 2024" in the center, and a small "2" on the right.

SCRIPT:

November 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on roadways in Texas. That means for over 24 years, 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.



The slide features a title 'Public Meeting Agenda' in blue text at the top left, with a logo of a star and swoosh at the top right. The agenda items are listed in a vertical sequence, each preceded by a dark blue arrow-shaped box containing a white number. The items are: 1 Public Meeting Purpose, 2 Project Limits, 3 Project Need and Purpose, 4 Project Description, 5 Environmental Studies, 6 Right-of-Way (ROW) Acquisition Process, 7 Next Steps in Project Development, and 8 How to Provide Comments. At the bottom, a dark blue footer bar contains the text 'FM 1426 (N. Raul Longoria Rd.), Hidalgo County' on the left, 'April 15, 2024' in the center, and a small white box with the number '3' on the right.

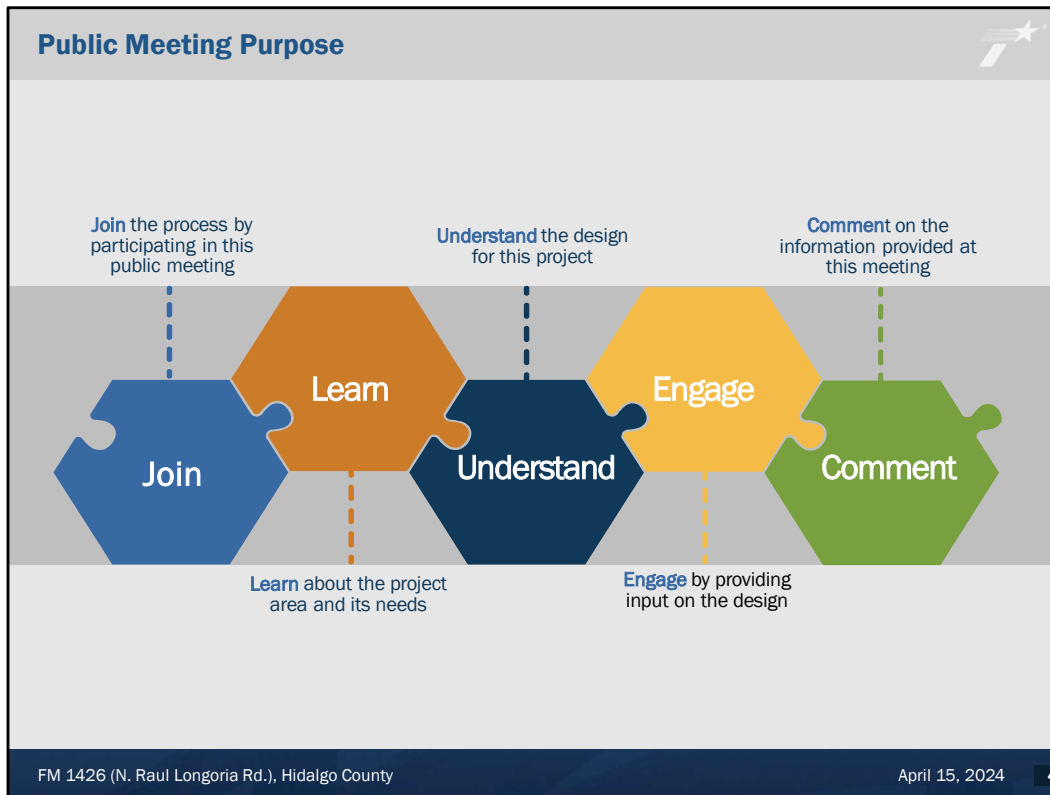
Public Meeting Agenda

- 1 Public Meeting Purpose
- 2 Project Limits
- 3 Project Need and Purpose
- 4 Project Description
- 5 Environmental Studies
- 6 Right-of-Way (ROW) Acquisition Process
- 7 Next Steps in Project Development
- 8 How to Provide Comments

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SCRIPT:

This virtual public meeting with an in-person open house option will include the following topics of discussion: the purpose of the public meeting; the project limits; the project need and purpose; a description of the proposed project; a description of the environmental studies being prepared; a description of the right-of-way acquisition process; the next steps in project development; and how to provide comments.



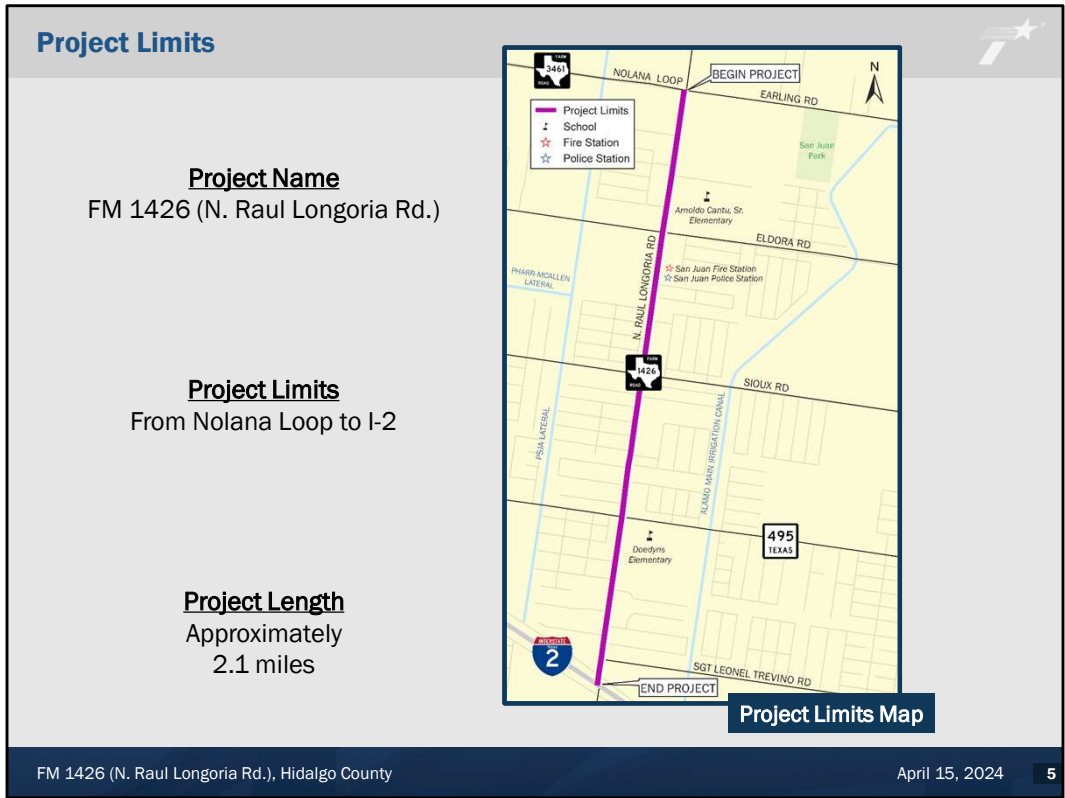
SCRIPT:

The purpose of this virtual public meeting with an in-person open house option is to encourage and maintain effective communication with the public and provide project-specific information as it relates to the FM 1426 (N. Raul Longoria Rd.) project in the City of San Juan, Texas in Hidalgo County. This presentation will provide information about the proposed preliminary design for the project.

At this meeting, TxDOT would like you to:

- Join the FM 1426 (N. Raul Longoria Rd.) project through your participation in this meeting
- Learn about the project area and its needs
- Understand the proposed design for this project
- Engage by providing input on the design, and
- Comment on the information provided at this meeting

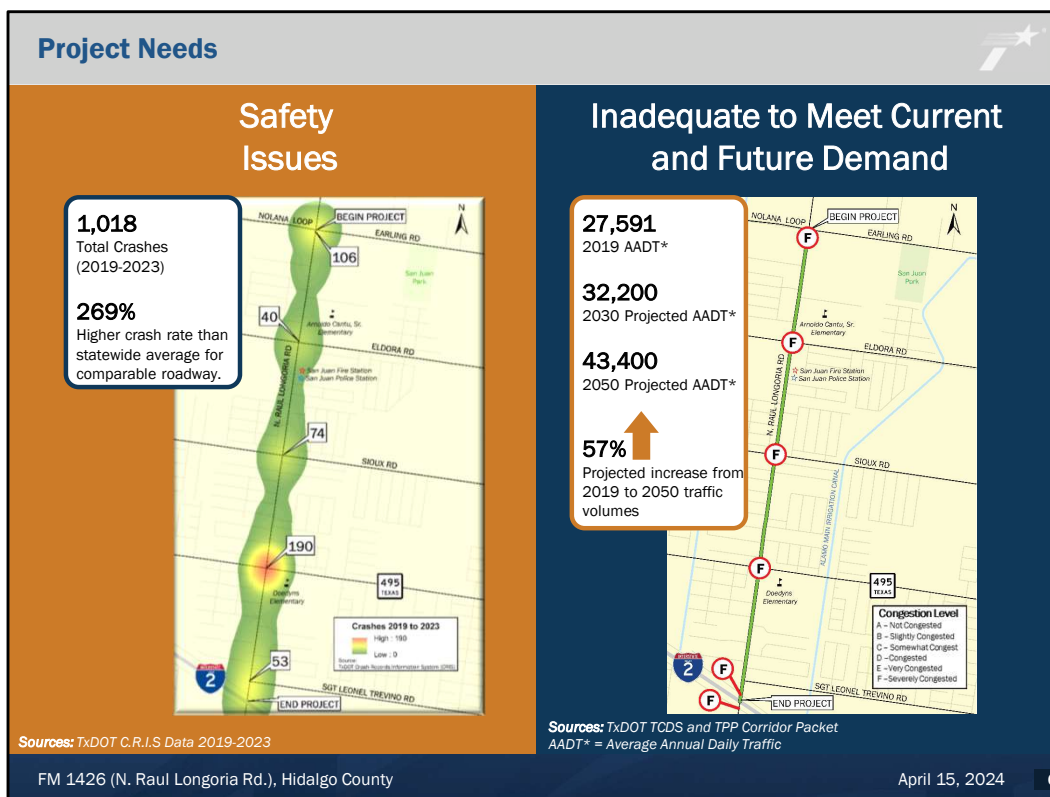
Your input and comments are an important part of this process, and we encourage you to provide comments on this project. As I mentioned earlier, your continued participation throughout the planning and development of the project is very important. You are encouraged to talk to your neighbors and refer them to TxDOT so they can also make comments and be included in this process.



SCRIPT:

TxDOT is proposing to add a travel lane, construct a raised median, and provide a shared use path in each direction for the section between Nolana Loop and I-2 along FM 1426 (N. Raul Longoria Rd.) which is approximately 2.1 miles in length in the City of San Juan, Texas in Hidalgo County.


The map shown on your screen shows the proposed project limits as the purple line.






SCRIPT:

The proposed project is needed because FM 1426 (N. Raul Longoria Rd.):

- a) has a high crash rate that is 269% higher than the statewide average for a comparable roadway, resulting in safety concerns.
- b) is inadequate to meet current and future traffic demands. The existing roadway is severely congested and is only projected to get worse with an anticipated 57% increase in traffic volumes from 2019 to 2050.

Project Purpose 


  	<p>Improve Safety <i>(Reduce the number of crashes)</i></p> <p>Enhance Mobility <i>(Accommodate multiple means of transportation)</i></p> <p>Reduce Congestion <i>(Improve traffic flow)</i></p>
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SCRIPT:

The purpose of the proposed FM 1426 (N. Raul Longoria Rd.) project is to improve safety, enhance mobility, and reduce congestion.


Estimated Project Cost and Schedule



Anticipated Ready-to-Let Date (Construction)
January 2027



Estimated Construction Completion
2.5 years



Estimated Total Construction Cost
\$40 Million

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SCRIPT:

There are several steps in developing this project before construction begins. The project engineers have collected and analyzed existing and future data and developed the preliminary design plans which are available for viewing on the public meeting webpage.

We are collecting feedback from the community and will use that feedback in conjunction with additional technical evaluations to refine the plans. The project will be evaluated for environmental impacts and compliance and will receive environmental approval.

The engineers will then develop final plans to be used for construction bidding and TxDOT will put the project out for construction bids in January 2027. We anticipate construction to be completed within 2.5 years. The current cost estimate for total construction is \$40 million dollars.

How do Raised Medians Improve Safety?

Raised medians help reduce the number of conflict points at an intersection

Two-way Left Turn Lane (TWTL)

11 Conflict Points

- 5 Crossing
- 3 Merging
- 3 Diverging

VS.

Raised Median

2 Conflict Points

- 0 Crossing
- 1 Merging
- 1 Diverging

Safety Improvements

- Reduce Turning Conflicts
- Reduce Crashes
- Allow for Protected Left Turns

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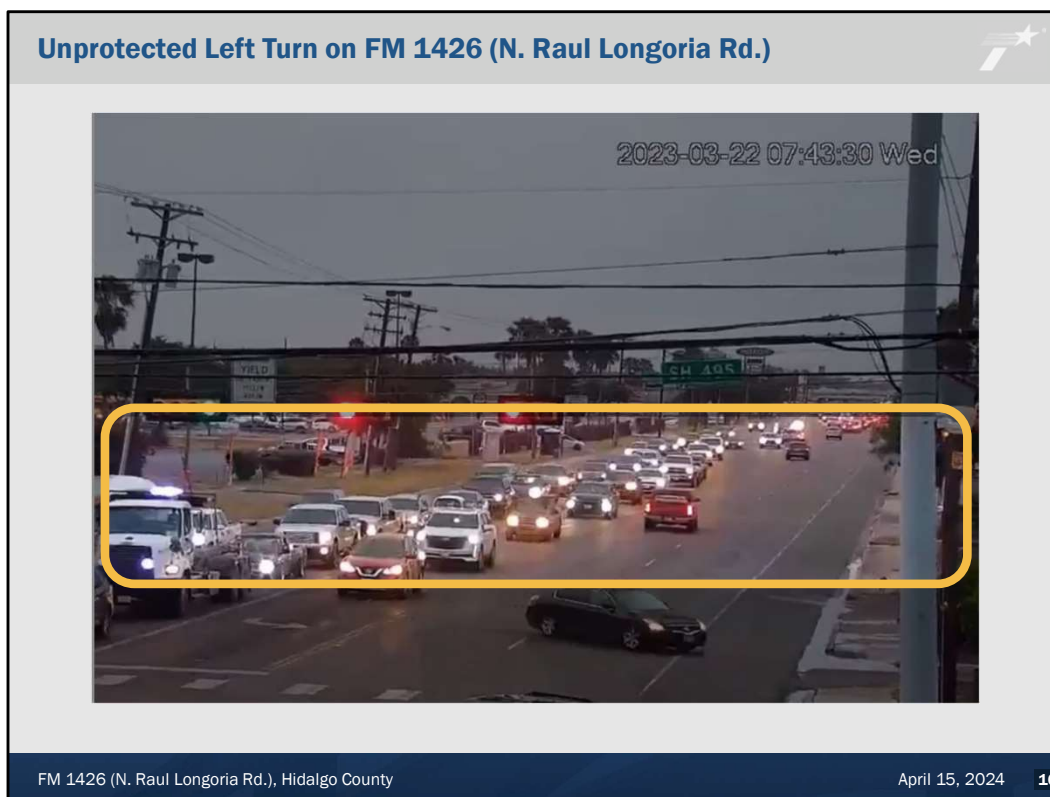
SCRIPT:

So how do medians help improve safety? Medians reduce turning conflict points.

Two examples of an intersection configuration are shown on the screen, the one on the left of the screen is the existing two-way left turn lane configuration on FM 1426 (N. Raul Longoria Rd.), the one on the right of the screen is the proposed raised median configuration for the roadway. Comparing the one shown on the left to the right, shows that constructing raised medians will reduce the number of turning conflict points from 11 with the existing two-way left-turn lane, to just 2 by implementing the proposed raised medians.

Cars turning left across traffic are at risk of collisions with through traffic in both directions. Medians also reduce crashes caused by head-on traffic and crossing traffic. The median creates a barrier for opposing directions of traffic and allows for a safer way to cross the road. Medians allow for protected left turns and help traffic flow by removing traffic from the through lanes. Longer protected left turn lanes will give cars waiting time to turn to a dedicated space, keeping those vehicles from stopping through traffic.

The following videos show the safety concerns on the existing two-way left turn lane by showing examples of near miss crashes on FM 1426 (N. Raul Longoria Rd.).



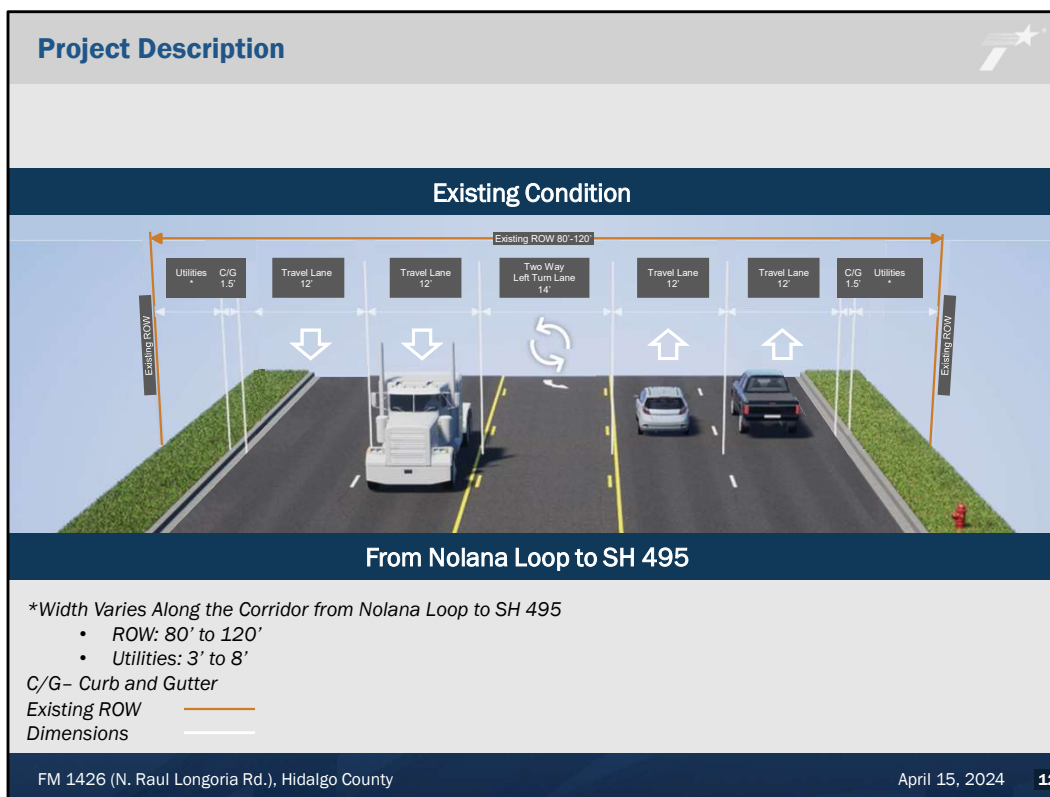
SCRIPT:

This video shows an example of an unprotected left turn and potential head on collisions on FM 1426 (N. Raul Longoria Rd.). Note, first, the red truck is using one of the travel lanes in lieu of the turn lane to turn left due to the long queue of traffic at the intersection. Secondly, the red truck attempts to cross multiple congested traffic lanes nearly missing multiple head on collisions. If there had been a median in place, the red truck would have had a dedicated space to wait safely to make a left turn in an area away from the traffic trying to turn left at the SH 495 intersection.



SCRIPT:

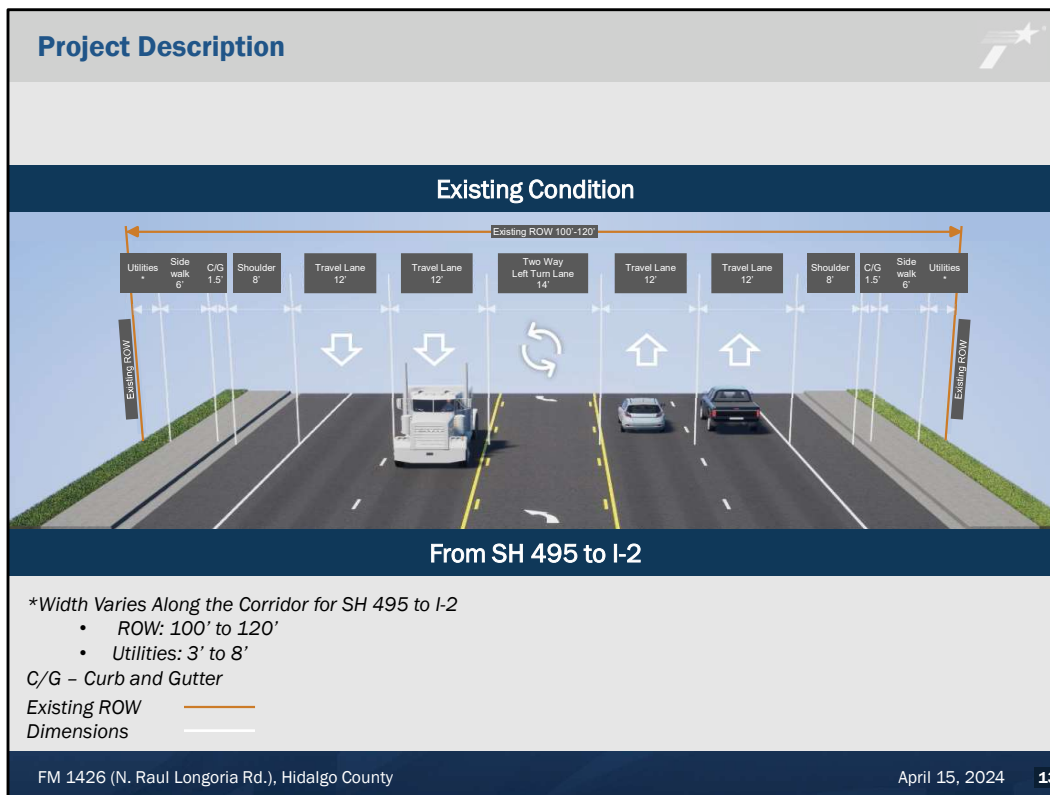
This video shows an example of multiple potential head-on collisions on FM 1426 (N. Raul Longoria Rd.). Note that multiple cars are coming out of driveways on both sides of the road trying to turn across the roadway at the same time, nearly missing multiple head-on collisions. If there had been a median in place, there would have been a barrier preventing the cars from turning straight across the roadway.



SCRIPT:

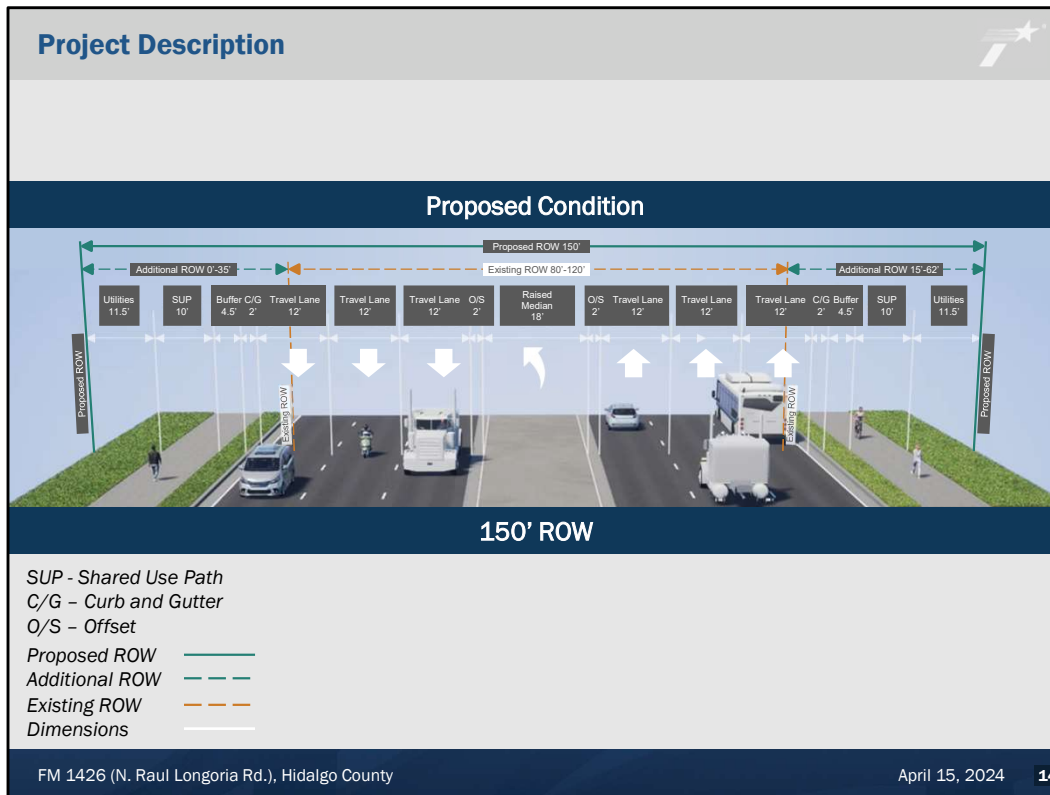
The typical existing configuration for FM 1426 (N. Raul Longoria Rd.) consists of two 12-foot-wide travel lanes in each direction. Directions of travel are separated by a 14-foot two-way left turn lane.

The existing right of way (ROW) width varies from 80 to 120 feet from Nolana Loop to SH 495 and does not have sidewalks or shoulders in either direction.



SCRIPT:


From SH 495 to I-2, the existing right of way (ROW) width varies from 100 to 120 feet with 6' sidewalks and 8' shoulders in each direction.



SCRIPT:

The proposed project would widen the roadway to a six-lane divided highway with three 12-foot-wide travel lanes in each direction. The proposed median is a maximum of 18 feet wide, narrowing down to 6 feet wide where 12-foot left turn lanes are proposed. Ten-foot-wide shared use paths are proposed in each direction.

The proposed right of way (ROW) width is 150 feet throughout the length of the project.

Memorandum of Understanding 

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Assignment to 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.

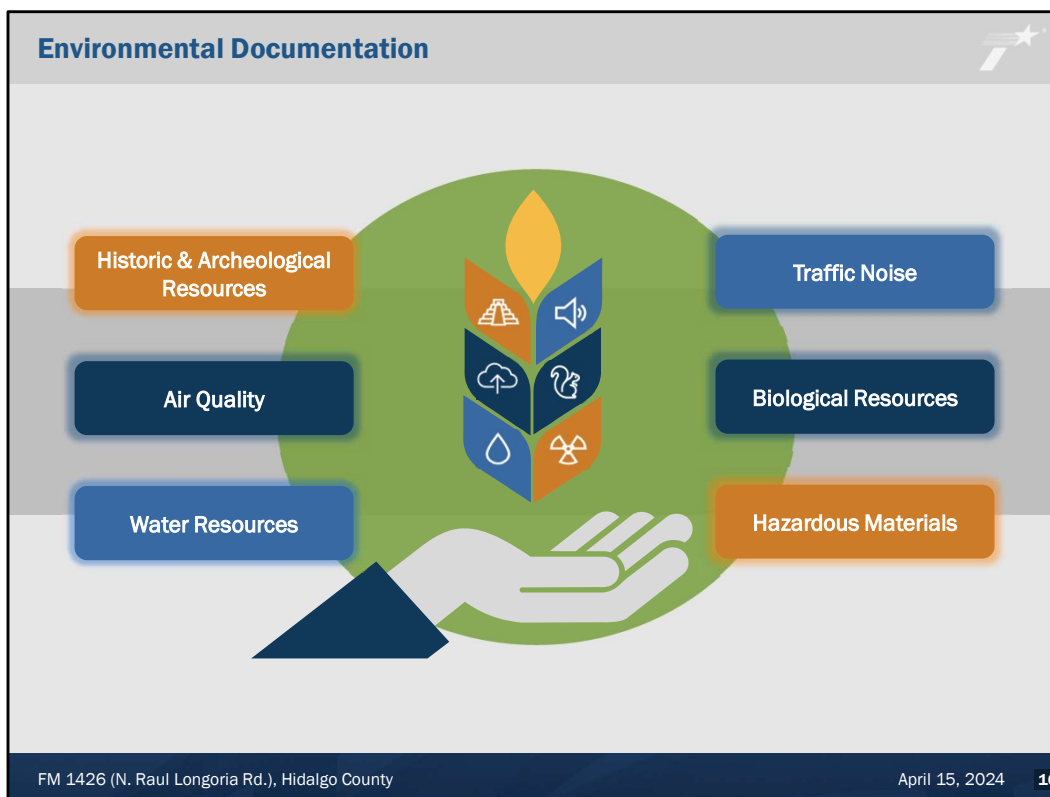
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SCRIPT:

The proposed project is anticipated to be programmed with both federal and state funds. Because of this, TxDOT is required to assess the potential environmental effects of the proposed project in accordance with federal standards.

The process that is followed is called the National Environmental Policy Act process, otherwise known as NEPA. The NEPA process provides analyses of the potential impacts to the natural and manmade environment and helps the decision maker to make an informed decision on whether to proceed with the project.

On December 9, 2019, TxDOT received a signed Memorandum of Understanding from the Federal Highway Administration that permits TxDOT to assume responsibility from the Federal Highway Administration for reviewing and approving certain assigned NEPA projects. This review and approval process applies to this project.

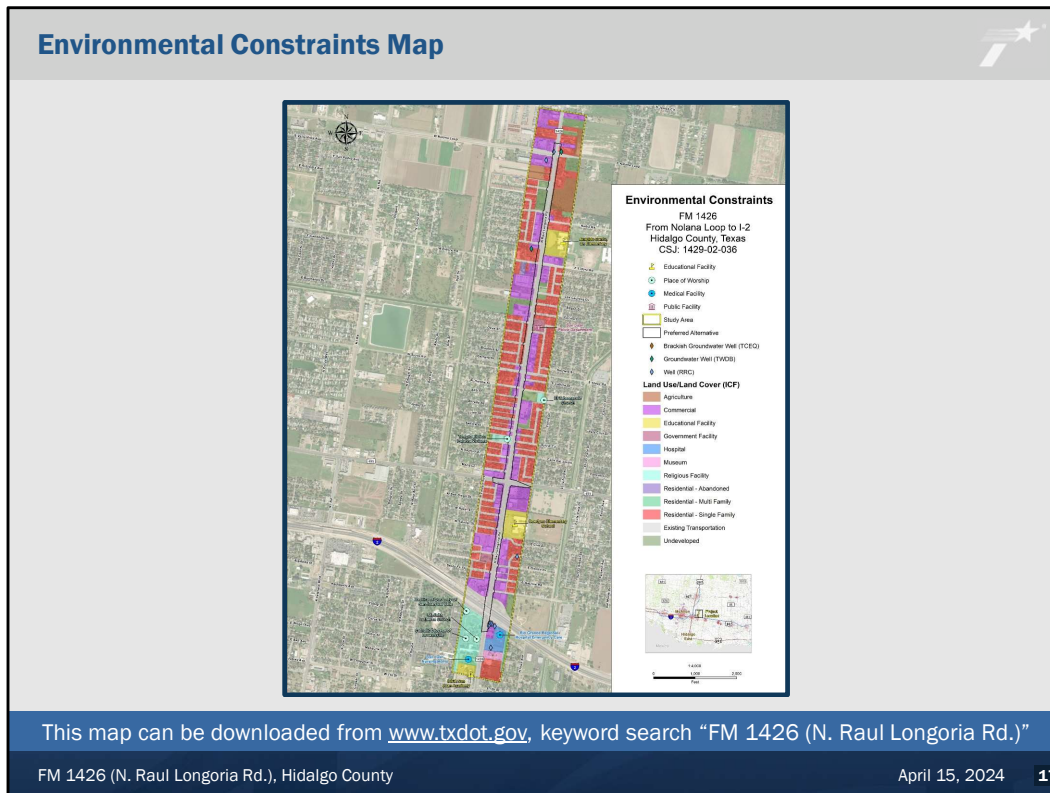


SCRIPT:

Since the proposed project would utilize federal and state funds, it is required to adhere to NEPA. NEPA requires analysis of potential impacts to the human and natural environment as a result of the proposed project.

As part of the environmental process, technical analyses will be completed to document the potential environmental impacts of the project. The resource categories studied may include but are not limited to:

- Cultural resources, including historic and archeological resources;
- Air quality;
- Water resources, including waters of the U.S. and wetlands;
- Biological resources, including threatened and endangered species and their habitats;
- Traffic noise;
- Hazardous materials;
- Community resources, including Environmental Justice populations;
- Resources protected under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act and Chapter 26 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code; and
- Indirect and Cumulative impacts.



SCRIPT:

The project Environmental Constraints Map is used to help planners and engineers determine the least impactful method to fulfill the purpose of the project. The full map can be viewed on the public meeting website.

Environmental Constraints Matrix

Alternative	Proposed ROW (ft)	Total Proposed ROW (Acres)	Total Number of Parcels Potentially Impacted	Total Number of Potential Displacements	Potential Residential Displacements	Potential Non-Residential Displacements	Breakdown of Potential Non-Residential Displacements		
							Commercial Businesses	EMS	Schools
1 East	150	14.88	89	37	15	22	20	2	0
2 West	150	14.95	132	47	23	24	24	0	0
3 Center	150	15.37	172	41	22	19	17	2	0
4 Preferred	150	14.74	152	44	27	17	17	0	0

Alternative Descriptions

Nolana Loop
West FM 1426 N. Raul Longoria Rd. East
I-2

East Alternative – Redesigning the roadway to widen to the east side of the existing roadway.

West Alternative – Redesigning the roadway to widen to the west side of the existing roadway.

Center Alternative – Redesigning the roadway to widen equally to the east and west side of the existing roadway.

Preferred Alternative – Redesigning the roadway to widen based on the best fit of the east, west, and center alternatives to minimize impacts and the need for environmental mitigation.

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SCRIPT:

Practicable efforts have been made in the design process to avoid impacts to both human and natural environments. When impacts are unavoidable, steps will be taken to first minimize impacts and then to mitigate for impacts. The preferred alternative also known as the best fit alternative was determined to be the best fit of the east, west, and center alternatives, as shown on the table on the screen. TxDOT will follow the NEPA process which will help to shape and refine the proposed preferred alternative to further minimize and mitigate impacts.

Right of Way (ROW) Needed

Right of Way (ROW) is the total land width required for road construction and for its future developments. ROW is property owned by the city, county, or state to accommodate the roadway, drainage, utilities, etc.

Existing Condition
80' to 120'


Proposed Condition
150' ROW

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SCRIPT:

To improve FM 1426 (N. Raul Longoria Rd.), TxDOT will need to acquire additional right of way throughout the corridor.

Right of Way (ROW) is the total land width required for road construction and for its future developments. ROW is property owned by the city, county, or state to accommodate the roadway, drainage, and utilities.

ROW Acquisition Process 

- **Potential ROW Impacts***
 - Approximately 15 acres of new ROW would be needed for the proposed project
 - Potentially displace 27 residential and 17 non-residential properties
- **ROW Guidance and Resources**
 - Follow federal state laws and policies
 - The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policy Act of 1970 (Uniform Act)
 - Right of Way Brochures are available on the TxDOT Website:
<http://txdot.gov/inside-txdot/forms-publications/publications/landowner-rights.html>
 - Information about the benefits, services and Right-of-Way Acquisition schedule can be obtained by calling Ramon Jimenez at the TxDOT District Office at (956) 702-6287

* Subject to change

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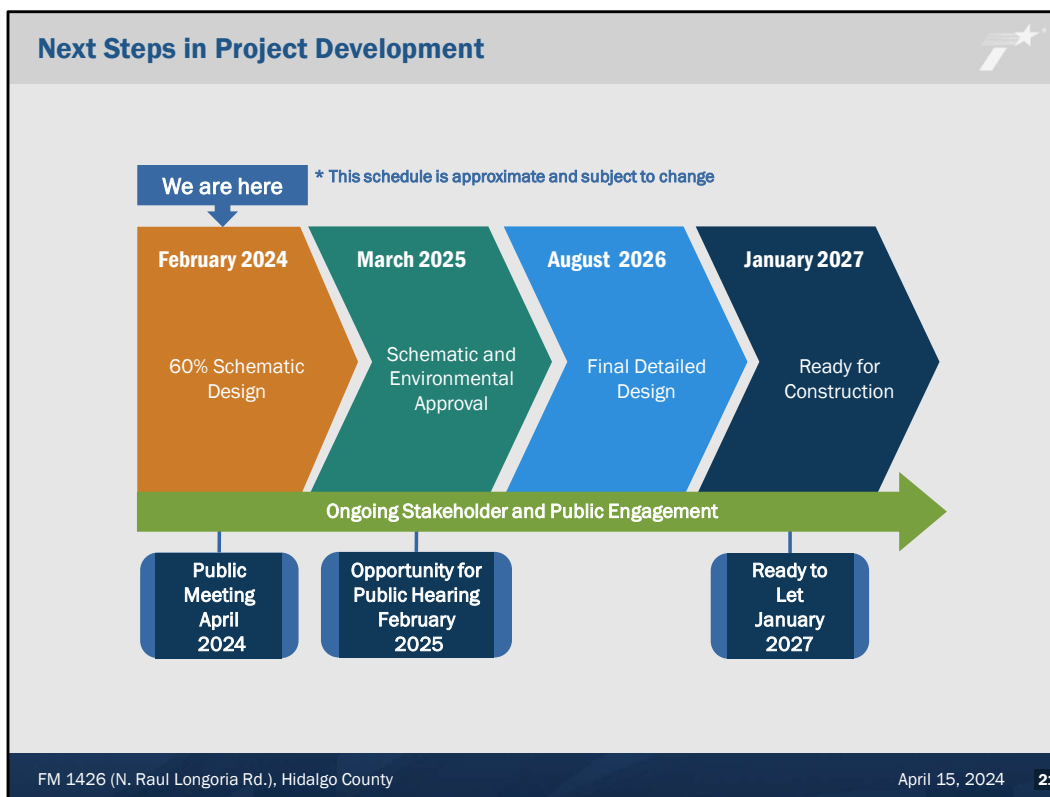
SCRIPT:

Approximately 15 acres of new ROW would be required for the proposed improvements. The proposed project would potentially displace 27 residential and 17 non-residential properties.

The Right-of-Way Acquisition Process will follow federal and state laws and policies. The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisitions Policy Act of 1970, known as the Uniform Act, is the federal law that is followed for appraisals, negotiations, and relocation of families and/or businesses. Hard copies of the Right of Way Brochures and Property Owner’s Bill of Rights will be available at the Right of Way table at the In-Person Open House public meeting and are also available at www.txdot.gov.

TxDOT is the agency responsible for acquiring the additional right of way from the individual property owners for the project. TxDOT will ensure that the Local Public Agency acquires all real property in accordance with the provisions of Title III of the Uniform Act and its associated federal regulations (49 CFR Part 24). All negotiations for right of way conducted are subject to this law and these regulations. Relocation booklets, which provide a general overview of the Relocation Assistance Program and outlines the services offered and any payments for which displaced individuals, families, businesses, and non-profit organizations may be eligible to receive are available for download on the TxDOT website address listed.

Information about the benefits, services and Right-of-Way Acquisition schedule can be obtained by calling Ramon Jimenez at the TxDOT District Office at (956) 702-6287.



SCRIPT:

Now that we have reviewed the project, I would like to highlight the estimated timeline for project completion.

Look for the blue “We are here” arrow at the top left of your screen. After the comment period closes for this public meeting on May 1, 2024, the Project Team will evaluate the comments throughout the month of May. Based on the comments received and further design, the final schematic will be completed early next year. Once the schematic design has been finalized, the project will obtain environmental approval in March 2025. Once the project receives environmental approval it will move into the final design in 2026 and ultimately construction by January 2027.

How to Submit Your Comments

Comments are welcomed and must be received on or before **Wednesday, May 1, 2024**, to be included in the official public meeting documentation.

Comments may be submitted in the following ways:

- Comment Form**
Download and complete the printable comment form on the website and send to TxDOT
- Email**
Email to: Jorge.Espinoza@txdot.gov and include CSJ-1429-02-036 in the subject line.
- Mail**
TxDOT Pharr District Office
Attn: Jorge Espinoza
600 W. Interstate 2
Pharr, TX 78577
- Online Comment Form**
Follow or click the link below or scan the QR Code on the right:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8NNMFJ>
- In-Person**
Submit your Comment Form in the comment box at the in-person public meeting

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SCRIPT:

TxDOT encourages you to review the materials regarding this project and provide feedback. Written comments from the public regarding the proposed project are requested and may be submitted via email to Jorge.Espinoza@txdot.gov, or via mail by downloading and filling out a comment form available on the public meeting website and sending to the TxDOT Pharr District Office to the attention of Jorge Espinoza at 600 W. Interstate 2, Pharr, Texas 78577.

In addition, there is an option to fill out an online comment form through the public meeting website under the how to make a comment section, following the link shown on the screen, or scanning the QR code to the right. All comments must be received on or before Wednesday, May 1, 2024. Responses to comments received by the end of the comment period will be available online as part of the public meeting documentation at www.txdot.gov, keyword search: "FM 1426 (N. Raul Longoria Rd.)" once they have been prepared.

Project Information and Contacts

- To access the virtual public meeting, go to www.txdot.gov enter keyword search “FM 1426 (N. Raul Longoria Rd.)” or scan the QR code on the right.
- For project specific information contact the TxDOT Project Manager anytime during project development
Isaac Garza
Phone: (956) 702-6248
Email: Isaac.Garza@txdot.gov



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SCRIPT:

All information regarding the project can be found on the public meeting webpage that can be accessed by going to www.txdot.gov enter keyword search “FM 1426 (N. Raul Longoria Rd.)” or scan the QR code on the right.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

For further questions regarding project specific information contact the TxDOT Project Manager, Isaac Garza, at the TxDOT Pharr District office by phone at (956) 702-6248 or email at Isaac.Garza@txdot.gov with any project questions or comments at any time during the project process.

Conclusion of the Public Meeting

Thank you!

On behalf of the Texas Department of Transportation, we sincerely thank you for your participation in this public meeting for the FM 1426 (N. Raul Longoria Rd.) project.

We would also like to thank the Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Multi-Purpose Center for allowing us to use their facility for the in-person meeting on April 16, 2024.

Please remember to submit your comments by
Wednesday, May 1, 2024.

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SCRIPT:

The information shared in this virtual meeting will continue to be available on our meeting webpage. We are interested in hearing any feedback you might have on the information presented and the proposed project plans. Submit your comments by mail, email, online, or in-person. Your input will be evaluated in conjunction with the technical evaluations as we move forward with design. Responses to comments received by May 1, 2024, will be published and responded to within the public meeting documentation on the meeting webpage.

On behalf of the Texas Department of Transportation, we sincerely thank you for your participation in this public meeting for the FM 1426 (N. Raul Longoria Rd.) project. We would also like to thank Hidalgo County, Precinct 2 for allowing us to use the Multi-Purpose Center for the in-person public meeting on April 16, 2024.

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to hearing from you.