



SH 4 (Boca Chica Blvd.) Raised Median Project Virtual Public Meeting Script

SLIDE 1 – Welcome Slide



Welcome to the virtual public meeting for the proposed SH 4 raised median project. My name is Octavio Saenz and I am the Public Information Officer for the Texas Department of Transportation (or TxDOT) Pharr District. I would like to welcome and thank you for taking the time to view this virtual presentation for the proposed improvement of SH 4 or Boca Chica Boulevard from SH 48 to FM 313 or Minnesota Avenue.

Please note, you can pause this presentation at any point to allow more time to view the slides.



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SLIDE 2 – Virtual Public Meeting Purpose

Virtual Public Meeting in Response to Public Health

Given the COVID-19 outbreak TxDOT changed the in-person public meeting to a virtual format. In addition, TxDOT is providing an in-person option for those who wish to review materials in-person.

The virtual public meeting on the TxDOT website provided the same information as the in-person meeting:

- Project information including the need and purpose for the project
- Estimated timeline
- Process for submitting comments

What you should know about COVID-19 to protect yourself and others

Know about COVID-19

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an illness caused by a virus that can spread from person to person.
- The virus that causes COVID-19 is a new coronavirus that has spread throughout the world.
- COVID-19 symptoms can range from mild to severe respiratory illness.

Know how COVID-19 is spread

- You can become infected by coming into close contact with someone who has COVID-19. COVID-19 can primarily spread through respiratory droplets that are coughed or sneezed into the air.
- You may also be able to get it by touching a surface or object that someone with COVID-19 has touched. Then you touch your mouth, nose, or eyes.

Prevent yourself and others from COVID-19

- There is a common way to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The best way to prevent yourself and others from getting COVID-19 is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Stay home as much as possible and avoid other people with illness.
- Avoid close contact with people who have respiratory symptoms.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Practice social distancing

- To prevent and control the spread of COVID-19, you should avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- If you must go to a public place, avoid close contact with people who are sick. Do this when you start to feel sick.
- Avoid sharing food, drinks, and other items with others.
- Avoid being in public settings or crowded places.

Prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick

- Stay home if you are sick.
- Avoid going to work, school, or public places.
- Avoid public transportation.
- Avoid close contact with other people and avoid your home.
- There is no specific treatment for COVID-19. If you are sick, avoid close contact with other people.
- Avoid sharing food, drinks, and other items with others.
- Avoid being in public settings or crowded places.

Reduce your risk for COVID-19

- Stay home as much as possible and avoid other people with illness.
- Avoid close contact with people who have respiratory symptoms.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

cdc.gov/coronavirus

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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, if desired. TxDOT is also providing an in-person option for individuals who would like to participate in-person instead of online. This presentation will cover the same information that will be shared at the in-person public meeting.

This virtual public meeting is being held to receive and consider comments from the public regarding the SH 4 raised median project from SH 48 to FM 313.



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The meeting will provide:

- An overview of the proposed project
- The project's need and purpose
- The estimated project timeline, and
- An opportunity for the public to comment and provide input on the proposed improvements



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SLIDE 3 – Memorandum of Understanding

Memorandum of Understanding

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Assignment to the Texas Department of Transportation

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.

La revisión ambiental, consultas y otras acciones requeridas por las leyes ambientales federales aplicables para este proyecto, están siendo o han sido realizadas por TxDOT de conformidad con la Reglamentación 23, Sección 327 del Código de Estados Unidos y un Memorando de Entendimiento con fecha del 9 de diciembre de 2019, ejecutado por la FHWA (Administración Federal de Carreteras) y TxDOT.

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SLIDE 4 – Project Overview

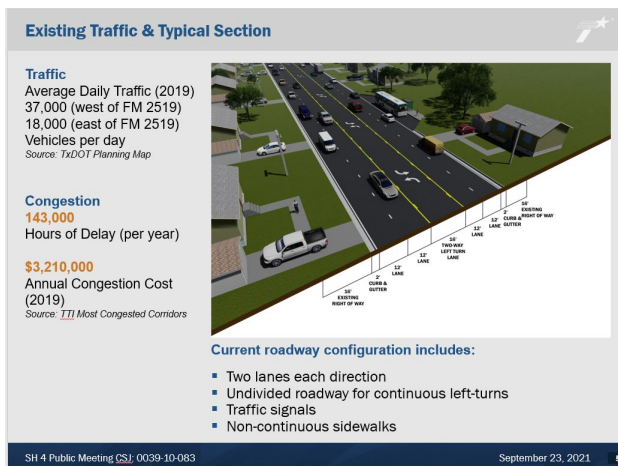


The project limits for the SH 4, or Boca Chica Boulevard raised median project are from SH 48 to FM 313, or Minnesota Ave. The project is about 2.2 miles long and is located within the City of Brownsville in Cameron County Texas, north of the Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport.



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SLIDE 5 – Existing Typical Section & Traffic



This section of SH 4 serves approximately 37,000 of vehicles per day between SH 48 and FM 2519 and 18,000 vehicles per day between FM 2519 and FM 313, or Minnesota Ave. This traffic and the roadway’s current configuration generate congestion which is estimated to be 143,000 hours of delay per year for drivers, which led to over 3.2 million dollars in annual congestion costs in 2019.

The existing roadway includes two travel lanes in each direction, and an undivided roadway that allows for continuous left turns. There is no median or



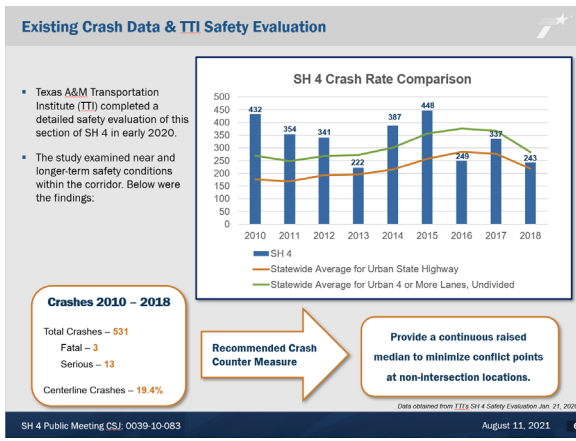
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barrier separating travel from the opposite direction. For pedestrians, sidewalks are discontinuous in the corridor.



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SLIDE 6 – Existing Crash Data & TTI Safety Evaluation

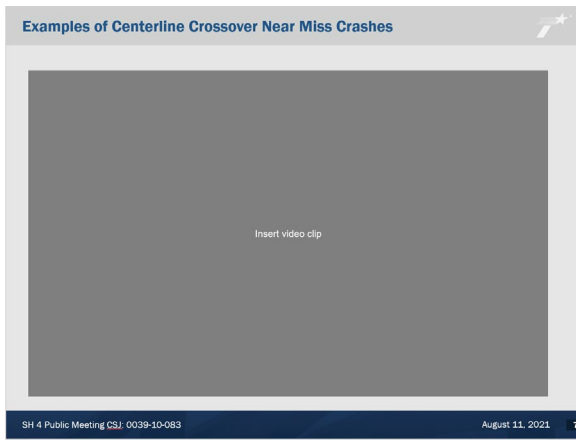


The Texas A&M Transportation Institute completed a detailed safety evaluation of this section of SH 4 in early 2020. The study found that between 2010 and 2018, 531 crashes happened along the alignment, resulting in 13 serious and 3 fatal accidents. Centerline crashes, or crashes that cross the center of the roadway, accounted for 19.4% of accidents. The study recommended the installation of a continuous raised median as a crash counter measure to minimize conflict points, or opportunities for a crash to occur, at non-intersection locations.



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SLIDE 7 – Examples of Centerline Crossover Near-Miss Crashes



The video shown here contains examples of near misses along the SH 4 corridor. Throughout this video, there are multiple instances where drivers turning left out of adjacent driveways interfere with the through traffic lane. The two-way left turn lane further complicates the situation causing an unpredictable travel behavior which results in near-miss collisions. A raised median would minimize the potential for crashes as well as near-miss crashes. As mentioned on the previous slide, crashes that cross the center of the roadway accounted for 19.4% of accidents in the corridor between 2010 and 2018.



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SLIDE 8 – Purpose & Need

Purpose & Need

- The proposed project is needed to:
 - Reduce crash conflict points
 - Address discontinuous bicycle and pedestrian accommodations
- The purpose of the proposed project is to:
 - Improve safety by installing a concrete raised median
 - Improve safety by consolidating left-turn movements
 - Provide bicycle and pedestrian accommodations

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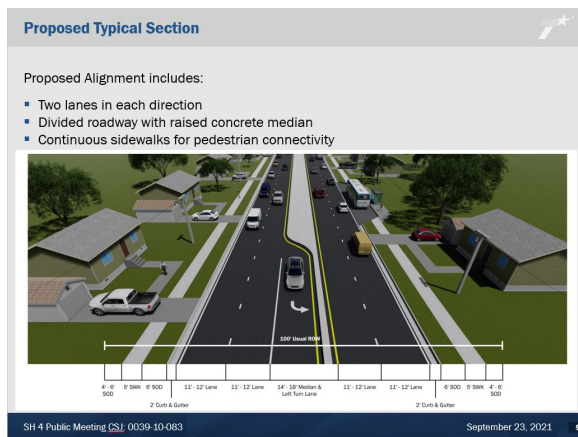
The SH 4 raised median project is needed to reduce severe and fatality crashes, and address discontinuous pedestrian accommodations.

The purpose of the SH 4 raised median project proposes to improve safety by installing a concrete raised median, improve safety by consolidating left-turn movements, and to provide continuous sidewalks for pedestrian connectivity.



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SLIDE 9 – Proposed Typical Section





The proposed typical section for SH 4 resurfaces the existing two vehicle travel lanes in each direction, constructs a raised concrete median with directional median openings, and provides continuous sidewalks. No additional right of way is currently planned. The illustration shown highlights these proposed improvements.

SLIDE 10 – Directional Median Openings

Directional Median Openings

- The reduction and replacement of existing median openings with directional median openings is intended to enhance safety by limited the number and type of conflict points.
- The directional median opening provides left turning or u-turning movements and restricts left turns from the crossing streets or driveways.

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The addition of directional median openings enhances safety by limiting the number and type of conflict points, or opportunities for a crash to occur. Directional median openings provide left turn movements and restrict left turns from crossing streets or driveways.



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SLIDE 12 – Pedestrian Accommodations – Sidewalk Connectivity

Pedestrian Accommodations – Sidewalk Connectivity

The SH 4 project proposes to add continuous sidewalks in the corridor to provide additional connectivity for pedestrians.

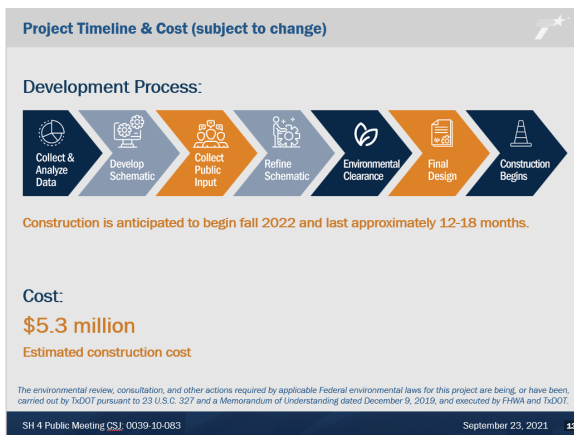
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The SH 4 project proposes to add continuous sidewalks in the corridor to provide additional connectivity for pedestrians.



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SLIDE 13 – Timeline & Next Steps



Through this public meeting we are requesting input from the public regarding the proposed design for this project. We will review your comments and continue to refine the proposed design and conduct additional environmental studies. Throughout this process, public input will be taken into consideration. Construction is expected to begin in fall 2022 and last approximately 12 to 18 months. The construction cost for this project is anticipated to be approximately \$5.3 million dollars.



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SLIDE 14 – How to Provide Input

How to Provide Input

All comments must be received or postmarked by **Friday, Oct. 8, 2021** to be included in the official meeting documentation.

| Online | Interactive Map | Email Us | Mail-in Comments |
|---|---|--------------------|---|
| www.txdot.gov Keyword search "SH4 Public Meeting" | Click the provided link on the website | SH4@hdrinc.com | TxDOT Pharr District Attn: Samantha Lozano, P.E., Project Manager 600 West Interstate 2 Pharr, TX 78577 |

Additional Questions?
Any questions regarding this project may be made at any time during the project development process.

Please contact:
Samantha Lozano, Project Manager
Phone: (956) 702-6334
Email: Samantha.Lozano@txdot.gov

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The public comment period for this public meeting ends on October 8, 2021. Comments will be accepted in four ways, which are outlined here. Comments can be submitted online through the txdot.gov public meeting web page, using the keyword search at the top right. The key word for the SH 4 project is SH4 Public Meeting. Comments can be provided on an interactive map, which is available on the public meeting web page. Comments can also be emailed to SH4@hdrinc.com or mailed to TxDOT Pharr District, Attention Samantha Lozano, P.E., 600 West Interstate 2 Pharr, Texas, 78577. To be included in



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the project record, comments must be received or postmarked by Friday, October 8, 2021.

If you need assistance regarding the commenting process, please contact Samantha Lozano, TxDOT Project Manager at 956.702.6334 or samantha.lozano@txdot.gov. All comments will be fully considered and responded to in the project record. This document will then be made available for public review at txdot.gov. We sincerely appreciate your participation and interest concerning the SH 4 raised median project. Your questions, comments, and concerns will receive careful consideration.

Thank you, this concludes the presentation.