



# SH 48 Raised Median – Safety Project

Virtual Pre-recorded Public Meeting

October 12– October 27, 2020

Cameron County, Texas

TxDOT Pharr District

CSJ: 0220-05-080

October 12 – October 27, 2020



## 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.



## KCI Technologies:

- Carlos Juarez, P.E. – Project Manager
- Oscar Garza, P.E. – Design Engineer

## TxDOT:

- Samantha Lozano, P.E. – Project Manager
- Octavio Saenz – Public Information Officer
- Robin Gelston – Environmental Coordinator

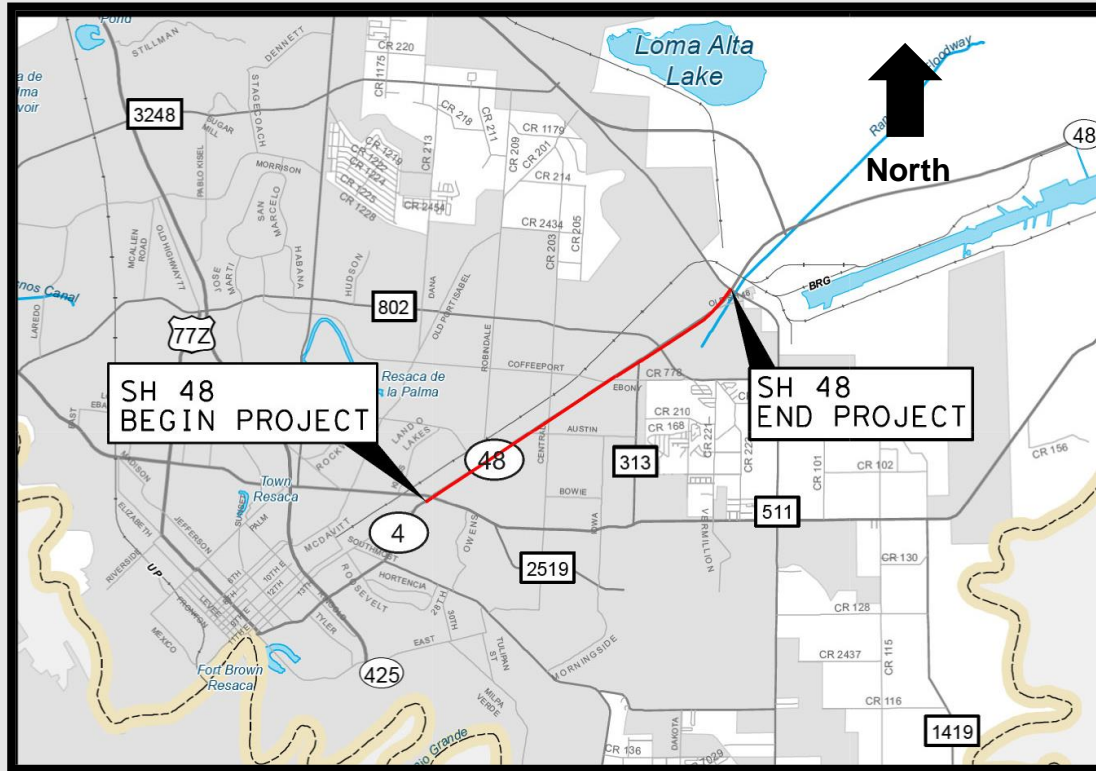
# Project Overview

SH 48 Virtual Public Meeting



## SH 48

- From SH 4 to FM 511
- Project Location Map:





## SH 48

- From SH 4 to FM 511

### Project Details:

Construct a raised median

### Project Length:

Approximately 3.8 miles

### Project Manager:

Samantha Lozano

956-702-6334 or

[Samantha.Lozano@txdot.gov](mailto:Samantha.Lozano@txdot.gov)

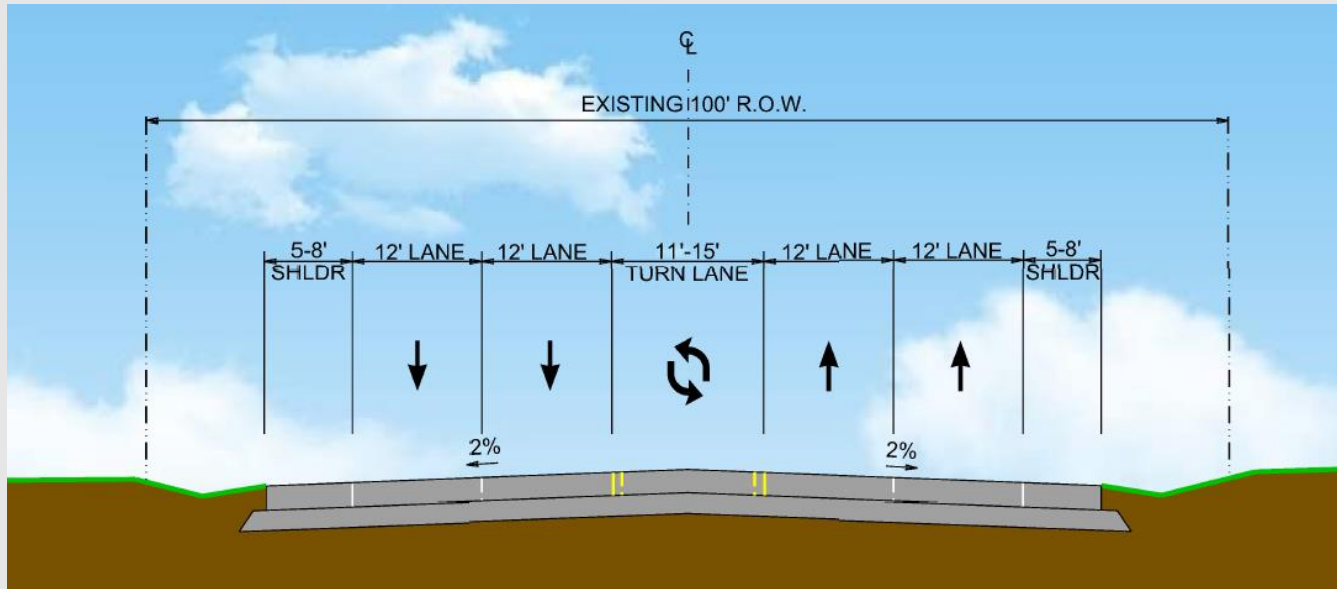


# Existing Roadway

SH 48 Virtual Public Meeting



## Existing Roadway Configuration



Average Daily Traffic (2018)

**26,466**

vehicles per day

Projected Daily Traffic (2038)

**37,052**

vehicles per day

# Project Need and Purpose

SH 48 Virtual Public Meeting



## Project Need:



High crash rate



Increase in traffic volumes,  
(Congested traffic)



Decreased mobility

## Project Purpose:



Improve safety



Reduce congestion



Improve mobility

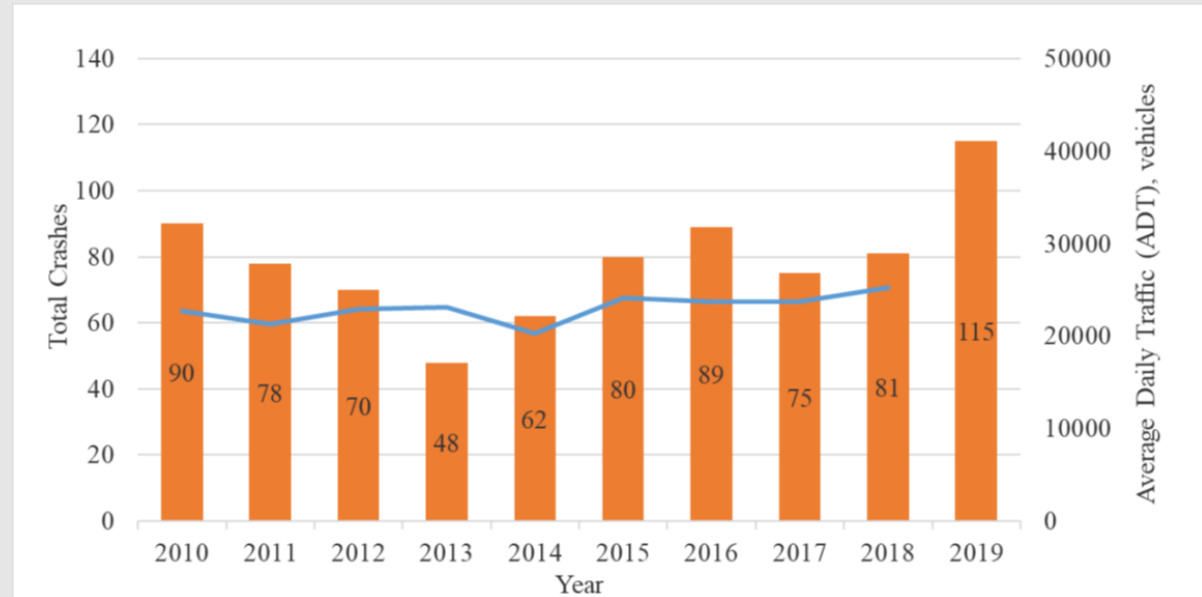


- Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) completed a detailed safety evaluation of this section of SH 48 this year\*
  
- The study examined near and longer-term safety conditions within the corridor. Key findings included:
  - The corridor has a high rate of overall crashes
  - A large number of crashes were centerline crashes



## Overall Crashes

- 799 crashes between 2010 and 2019
- 115 crashes in 2019, the highest number of yearly crashes in the 10-year period

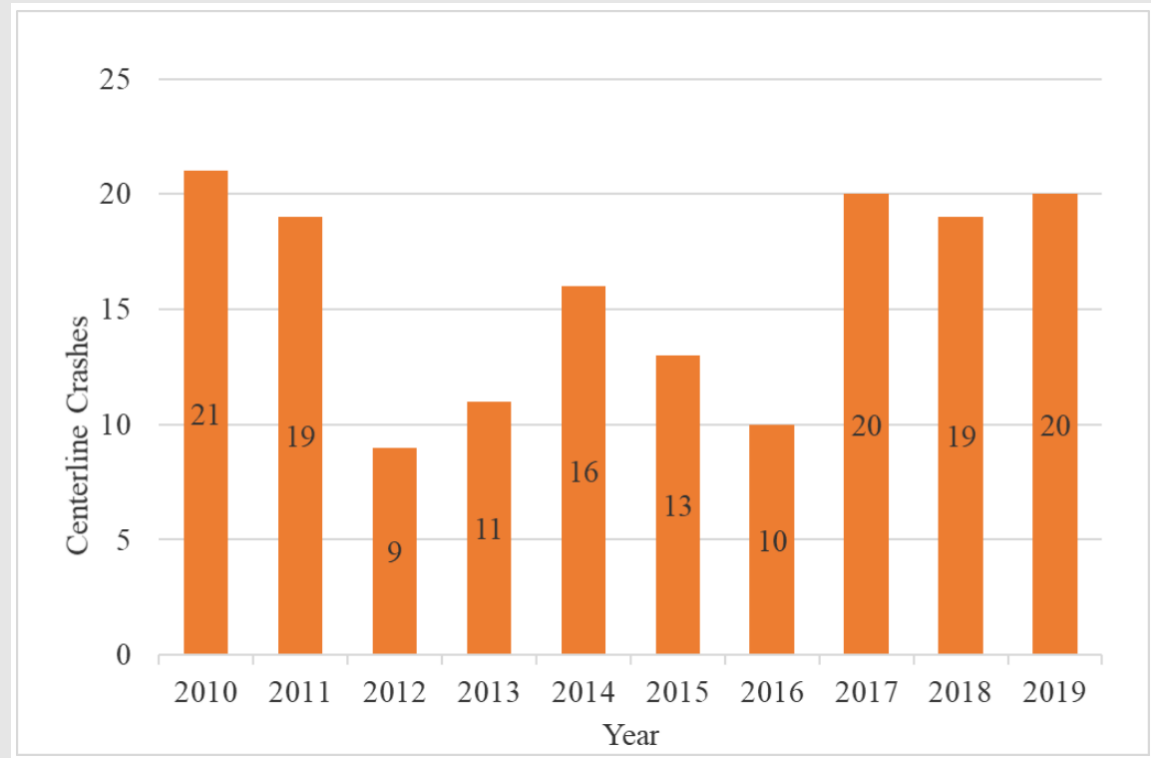


\*Using data from TTI study



## Centerline Crashes

- Twenty percent of all crashes in the SH 48 corridor; 2010-2019
- Preventable with the installation of a raised median



\*Using data from TTI study

# Proposed Improvements

SH 48 Virtual Public Meeting



To improve the safety and mobility along SH 48 TxDOT is proposing to:

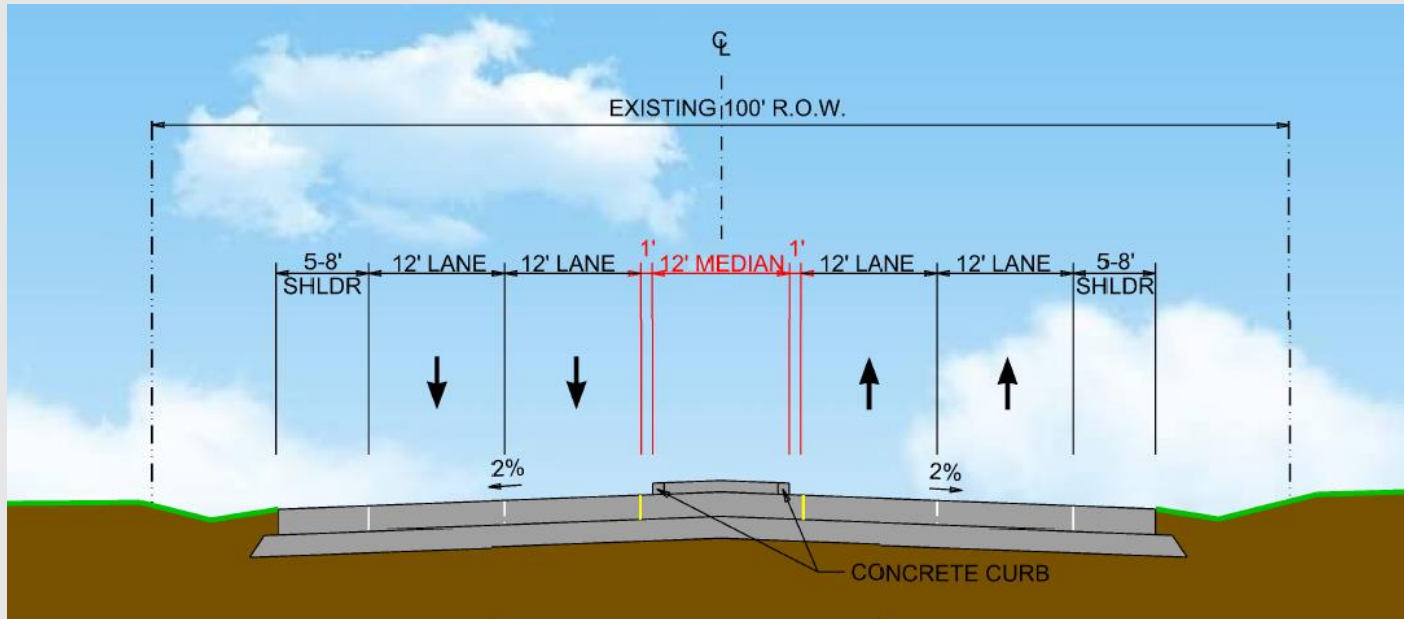
Construct a raised median

Provide extended left-turn lanes

Provide mid-block turns to allow additional U-turns

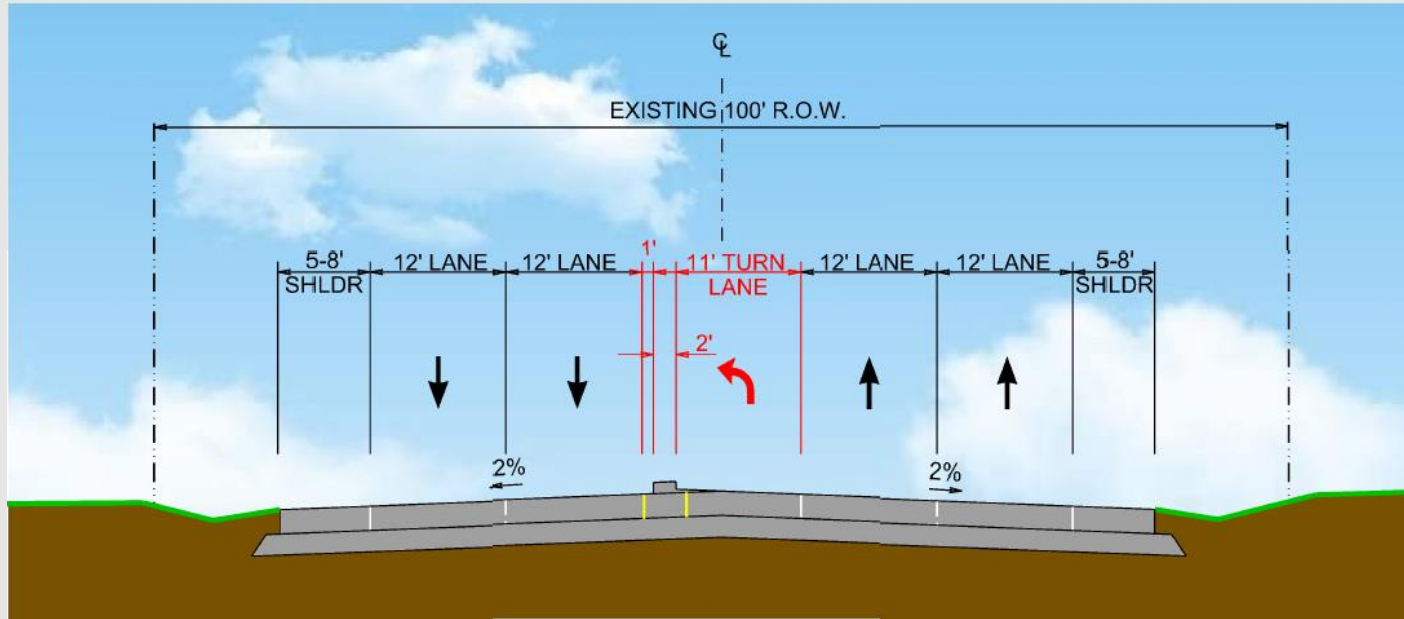


## Roadway Configuration with Median





## Roadway Configuration with Left Turn Lane





## Medians Enhance Safety and Mobility

The TxDOT *Roadway Design Manual* recommends medians where the Average Daily Traffic exceeds 20,000 vehicles per day.

Average Daily Traffic (2018)

**26,466**

vehicles per day

Projected Daily Traffic (2038)

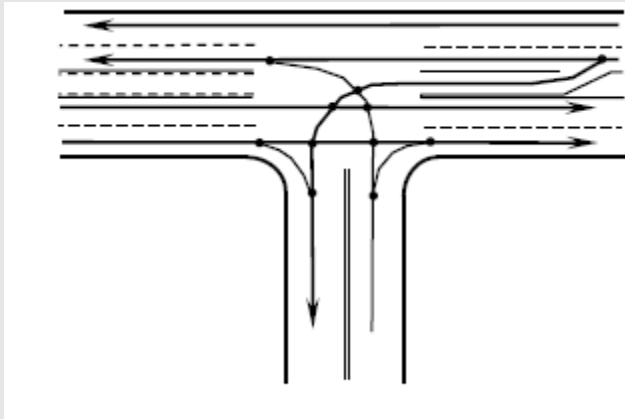
**37,052**

vehicles per day



## Medians Reduce Conflict Points:

### Two-Way Left Turn Lane

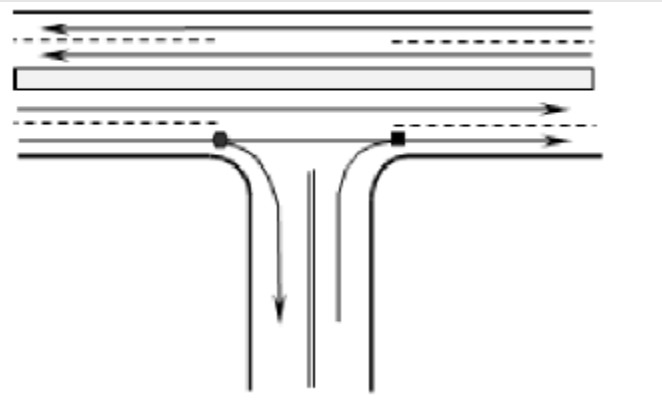


**11 Conflict Points**

- Five Crossing
- Three Merging
- ◆ Three Diverging

vs.

### Raised Median



**Two Conflict Points**

- Zero Crossing
- One Merging
- ◆ One Diverging

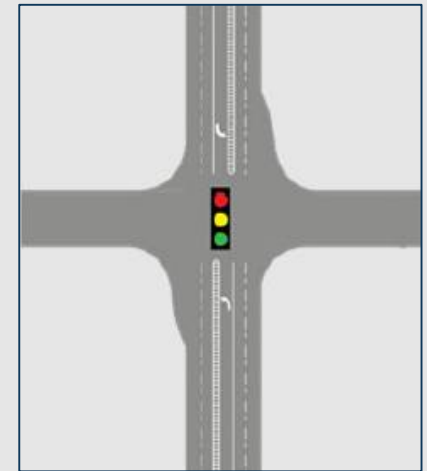
# SH 48 Proposed Improvements



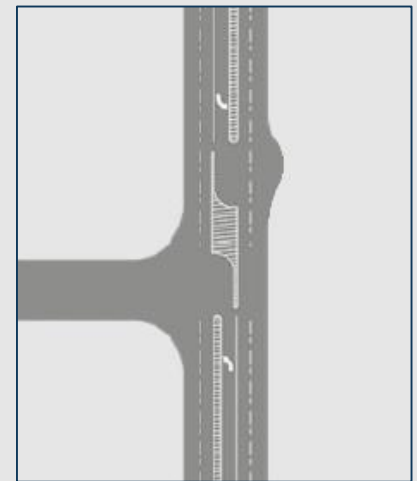


## Median Breaks

- Located at all signalized intersections along the project
- Spaced to allow for adequate left turn lane storage
- Two types of median breaks are proposed:
  - Intersections
  - Mid-block turns
- Some intersections will accommodate U-turns
- Additional mid-block turnarounds are proposed



Intersection

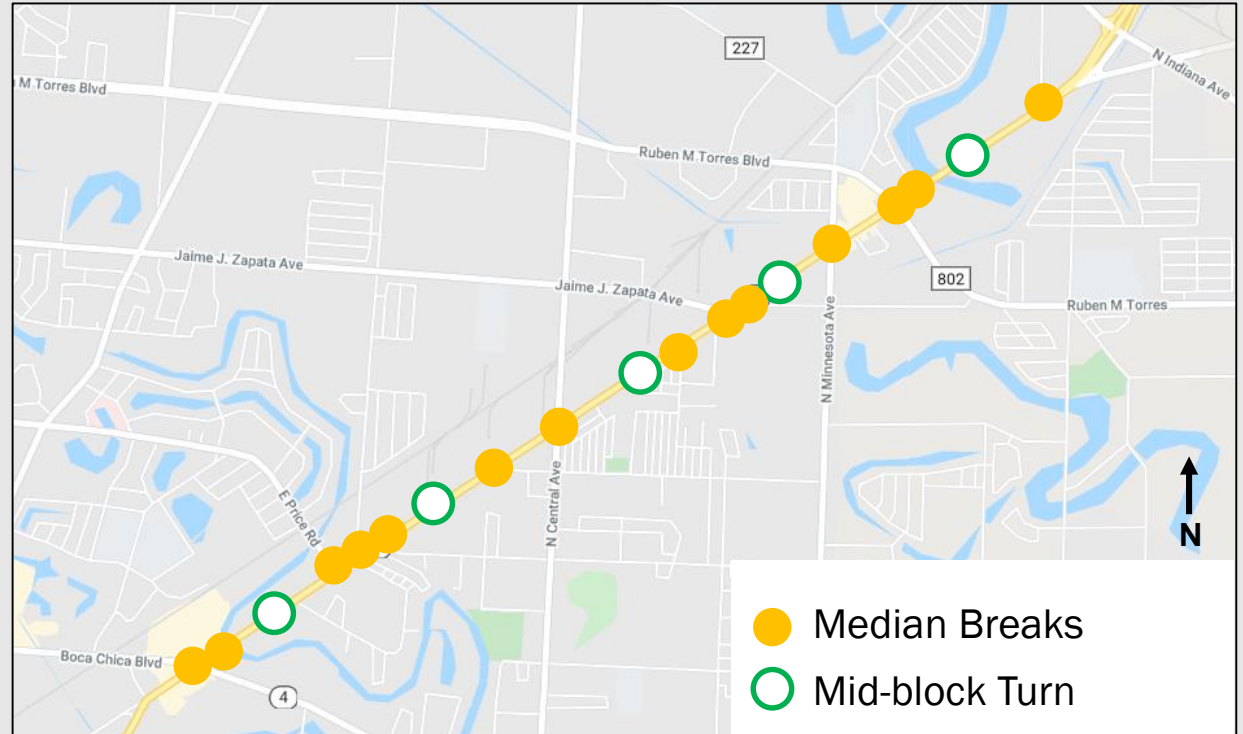


Mid-block  
turnaround



## Intersection median breaks are proposed for:

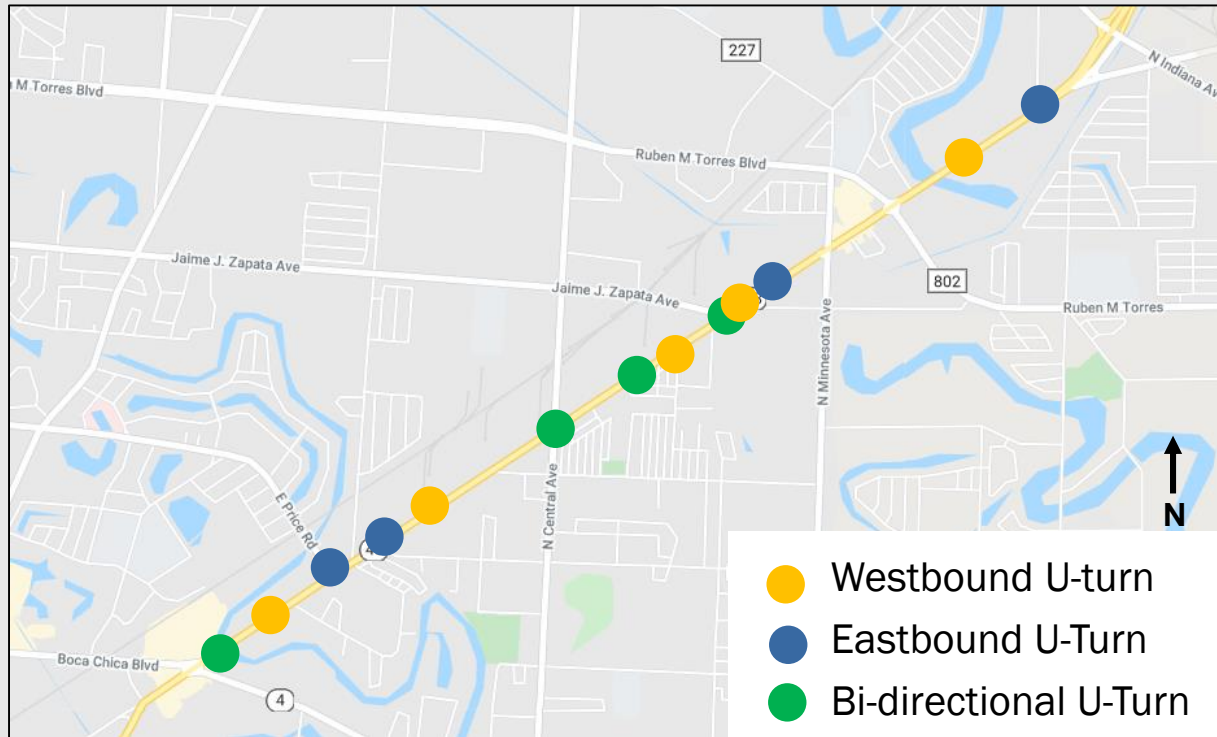
- SH 4
- Home Depot
- E Price Rd
- Robindale/Fruitdale Dr
- McKenzie Rd
- Austin Rd
- N Central Ave
- Zena Dr
- Jamie Zapata Ave
- Coffee Port Rd
- N Minnesota Ave
- Ruben M Torres Blvd
- Former Walmart
- Nafta Pkwy



Mid-block U-turns are proposed at 5 additional locations

## U-turns

- Allow travel in the opposite direction
- Provide access to properties on the other side of the street



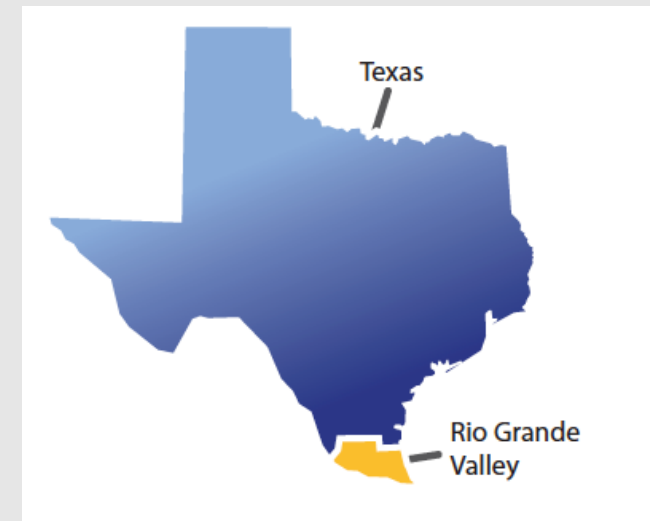






## Economic Effects Related to Raised Medians

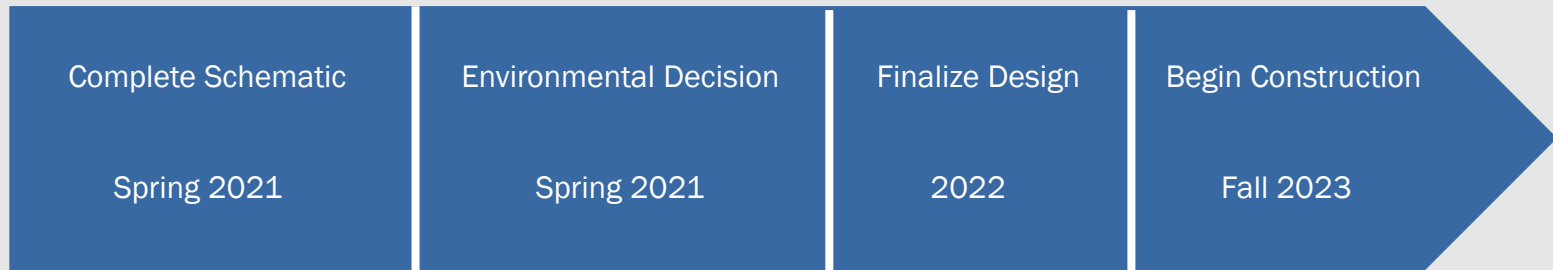
- Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) developed and prepared studies on economic impacts of raised median implementation. These show overall economic activity is not negatively impacted by raised medians.
- *Economics Impacts of Raised Median Implementation (2016)* focused on the Texas Lower Rio Grande Valley region. Four corridors were analyzed using tax receipts collected from businesses along the corridor. The change in tax receipts compared to the surrounding area shows there were no negative economic effects from these projects.





- **Project Schedule:**

- Ongoing Public Involvement
- Funded for construction starting in 2023\*\*



\*\* Project schedule is preliminary and subject to change

- **Project Funding:**

- \$4.8 Million

# Tell Us What You Think

SH 48 Virtual Public Meeting



**All comments must be received or postmarked by October 27, 2020 to be included in the official meeting documentation**

- **Online:** [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov)
  - Keyword search “SH 48 Virtual Public Meeting”
- **Email:** [Robin.Gelston@txdot.gov](mailto:Robin.Gelston@txdot.gov)
- **Voicemail:** (512) 806-0677
- **Mail:**
  - TxDOT Pharr District
  - Attn: Robin Gelston
  - 600 West Interstate 2
  - Pharr, Texas 78577



### Additional Questions?

While comments need to be received or postmarked by October 27, 2020 to be included in the official meeting documentations, any questions regarding this project may be made at anytime during the project development process.

Please contact:

- Project Manager: Samantha Lozano
- Phone: 956-702-6334
- Email: [Samantha.Lozano@txdot.gov](mailto:Samantha.Lozano@txdot.gov)

# Thank You

SH 48 Virtual Public Meeting