

# FM 707 in Taylor County Public Meeting

Virtual Public Meeting with an In-Person Option

Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022 – Wylie West Junior High School  
Cafeteria, 6 - 8 p.m.

## Why am I here?

- Learn about the FM 707 Project
- Provide feedback on the project

FM 707 Public Meeting

Nov. 29, 2022

Welcome to the FM 707 Virtual Public Meeting with an In-Person Option. This public meeting is divided into a virtual project presentation, which you are currently watching, and an in-person public meeting to be held at Wylie West Junior High School from 6 to 8 pm on Tuesday, November 29, 2022.

The Texas Department of Transportation Abilene District thanks you for your attendance. We appreciate your interest and involvement in this project. Your input is critical to the project development process, and we look forward to receiving feedback and comments from you.

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This presentation will provide an overview of the proposed project, what TxDOT is considering and current conditions on FM 707, as well as goals for public involvement, including the comment deadline and ways to stay connected with the FM 707 Project. We encourage you to engage with the materials posted on the FM 707 webpage at [TxDOT.gov](https://www.txdot.gov). We would also like to stress the importance of providing feedback and comments for our consideration. A comment form is available online as a PDF or comments may be submitted through an online survey. Please submit all comments by Wednesday, December 14, 2022.



# HELP #EndTheStreakTX

End the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways.



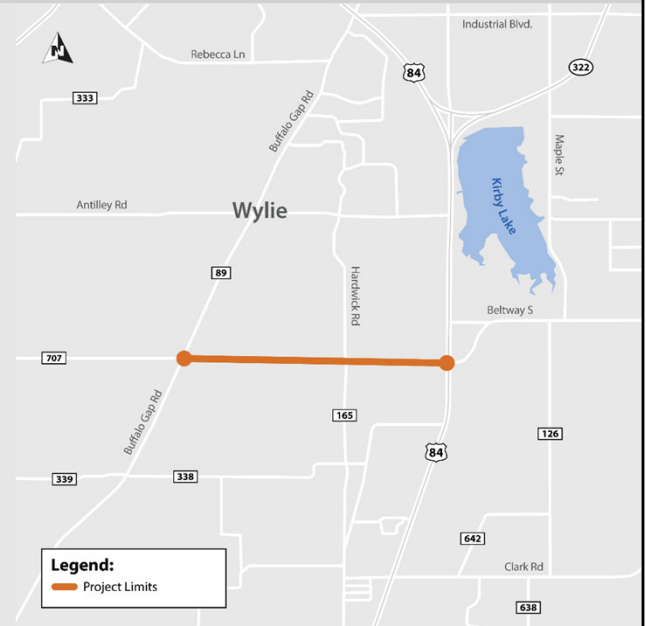
[TxDOT.gov](https://www.txdot.gov) (Keyword: #EndTheStreakTX)

#EndTheStreakTX Toolkit

November 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on roadways in Texas. That means for nearly 22 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 when sleepy or under the influence of alcohol or drugs. So please do your part and share this message with your friends and family.

## Project Overview

- FM 707 (Beltway S) from FM 89 (Buffalo Gap Road) to US 83 is approximately 2.6 miles.
- Studying improvements to safety and mobility along the corridor for vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle traffic.
- Initial studies would analyze improvements based on the public's input while avoiding and minimizing impacts to landowners, the community, and the environment.



This 2.6-mile section of FM 707, also known as Beltway South, stretches from FM 89 - or Buffalo Gap Road - to US 83 / US 84. It serves as a busy connection to local arterials and regional corridors.

TxDOT recognizes that due to the aging condition of the current roadway and increased traffic volumes, improvements to safety and mobility for vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle traffic should be studied. Initial studies would analyze proposed improvements based on public input while avoiding or minimizing impacts to landowners, the community and the environment.

## What is TxDOT Considering?



The FM 707 project will consider a number of issues, concerns and needs as improvement options are developed and refined. Considerations include:



This project will consider numerous issues, concerns and needs as improvement options are developed and refined. These include:

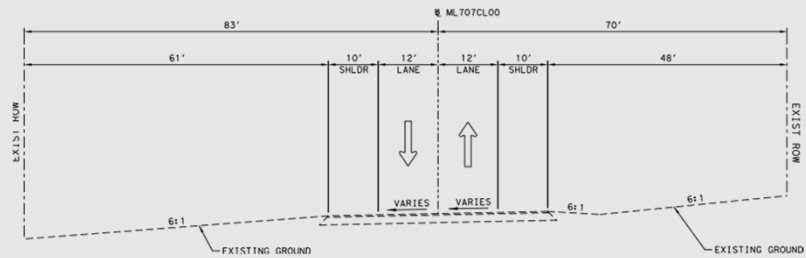
- Safety
- Environmental and Community Features
- Traffic Flow
- Public and Stakeholder Involvement and
- Connectivity and Access

# Existing Typical Section



## Section A

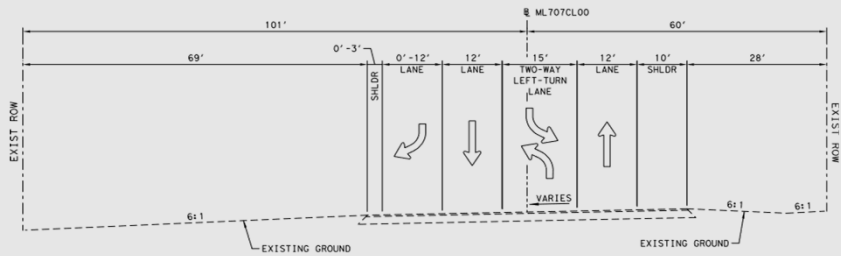
Generally, the corridor has **one 12 ft. lane** in each direction with a **10 ft. shoulder** on the outside and no separation between the lanes.



## Section B

In some locations, turn lanes are present and **the roadway widens/shoulders are reduced**

- In front of the Wylie West Junior High and Beltway Park Church a shared left-turn lane is added and right-turn lanes and acceleration lanes are added in the westbound direction, reducing or eliminating the shoulder.
- Between Tuscan Drive and Hardwick Road, left turn lanes in the eastbound direction and right turn lanes in the westbound direction are added.



On this slide, we have two typical section graphics to show how the roadway looks today. Most of the corridor consists of one 12-foot lane in each direction and two 10-foot shoulders on either side, without separation between the lanes, as depicted in Section A. However, in various areas along FM 707, where there are turn lanes, the roadway widens and shoulders are reduced. This is shown in Section B.

## Current Conditions Analysis



- Annual Average Daily Traffic increased **135-150** vehicles per year from 2002-2021
- **41** crashes between 2017-2022
- The largest concentration of crashes are shown in red and orange on the map, while lesser concentrations are shown in yellow and low concentrations in blue.



Note: TxDOT Statewide Traffic Analysis and Reporting System; TxDOT Crash Record Information System – 2017-2021 crash records

In 2021, annual average daily traffic on FM 707 ranged from 8,400 vehicles per day east of FM 89 to 6,400 vehicles per day west of US 83 / US 84. The area's annual average daily traffic has increased 135 to 150 vehicles per year over a 20-year period from 2002 to 2021. 41 crashes were reported between 2017 to 2022. The map to the right shows where crashes are concentrated. The largest concentration of crashes are shown in red and orange on the map, while lesser concentrations are shown in yellow and low concentrations in blue. The largest concentration of crashes has occurred at the intersection of FM 707 with the frontage road of US 83. The second highest concentration is split between the intersection of FM 707 with Hardwick Road and the intersection of FM 707 with Thompson Parkway.

## Environmental Process



The environmental study will identify and assess potential impacts to the natural and human environment, including the following:



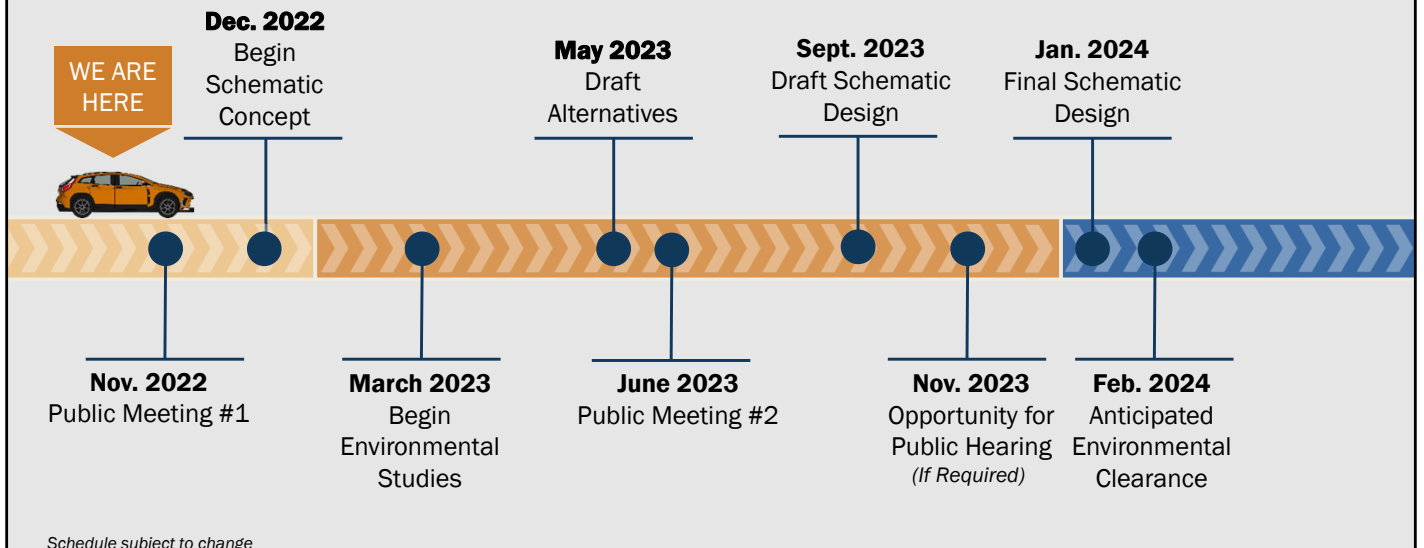
The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated Dec. 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

As part of this project, environmental studies will be conducted as part of the National Environmental Policy Act, also known as “NEPA” (*pronounced Nee-pah*) process. During the environmental study process, the project team will identify the need and purpose for improvements, examine project alternatives and potential environmental impacts.

The environmental study will identify and assess potential impacts to the natural and human environment, including:

- Air quality
- Community impacts
- Hazardous material sites
- Historical and archeological resources
- Land use and parkland
- Threatened and endangered species
- Traffic noise
- Vegetation and wildlife and
- Water resources

# Project Planning Timeline



Schedule subject to change

This figure represents the FM 707 project's anticipated timeline. This timeline shows we are at the very beginning of the process, prior to schematic design, construction plan development, right-of-way appraisal and acquisition, and letting and construction that may follow. TxDOT is hosting this public meeting to kick off the project development process and receive feedback and input from the community on areas for improvement along the corridor. We are committed to coming back to the community with proposed improvements during the study process and plan to hold another public meeting to collect feedback in the summer of 2023 after we have started developing design concepts, environmental studies and draft alternatives. Ultimately, we anticipate schematic design to be complete in early 2024.

\* Please note this schedule is subject to change.

## How to Comment



### Give Us Your Input

Please submit  
or postmark  
comments by:

Wednesday,  
Dec. 14, 2022



#### Online Comment Form

Please access on the [TxDOT.gov](http://TxDOT.gov) virtual public meeting web page or from the virtual room



#### Interactive Comment Map

Please access on the [TxDOT.gov](http://TxDOT.gov) virtual public meeting web page



#### Email

[FM707@wsp.com](mailto:FM707@wsp.com)



#### Mail

WSP USA

**Attn: FM 707**

1601 S. Mopac Expressway,  
Suite 325  
Austin, TX 78746

Send a letter or print out the comment form available in the downloads section and mail to the address above



#### If you have any questions or need additional information you may contact:

Zachary Hall, E.I.T., Transportation Planning and Development, TxDOT Abilene District,  
[Zachary.Hall@txdot.gov](mailto:Zachary.Hall@txdot.gov) or by phone (325) 676-6973

The primary objective for this public meeting is to engage the community at the start of the project development process, providing you with an opportunity to ask questions and give the project team valuable feedback and comments on the FM 707 as a potential improvement project. To ensure we collect your input we have several options for how you can provide feedback:

- All methods for providing comments are available on the project website.
- Go to [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov); and either keyword search FM 707 or click -Explore Projects-Hearings, Meetings and Notices Schedule
- Look for this meeting in the Schedule
- Click on the Description link ("FM 707") and
- Find Meeting Materials section
- In the meeting materials section, you will see links to comment via an online comment form, download a comment form to print and mail or access our interactive comment map.
- If you would like to mail in your comments, please send those to the WSP USA Office located at 1601 S. Mopac Expressway, Suite 325, Austin, Texas 78746

•Or you may choose to email your comments to [FM707@wsp.com](mailto:FM707@wsp.com)

•This presentation, along with all of the other project information such as displays and comment forms available at this public meeting can be found at [www.TxDOT.gov](http://www.TxDOT.gov) with a keyword search for "FM 707"

For your comments to be included in the official record, your feedback must be received by one of the methods listed here and comments must be received on or before **Wednesday, December 14, 2022**.

Moving forward if you have any questions or wish to obtain updates on the project, we encourage you to visit the [TxDOT.gov](http://TxDOT.gov) website to learn more. If you have any questions or need additional information please contact, Zachary Hall with the TxDOT Abilene District Office for Transportation Planning and Development. He can be reached via email at [Zachary.Hall@txdot.gov](mailto:Zachary.Hall@txdot.gov) or by phone (325) 676-6973.

Thank you again for participating in the FM 707 virtual public meeting.