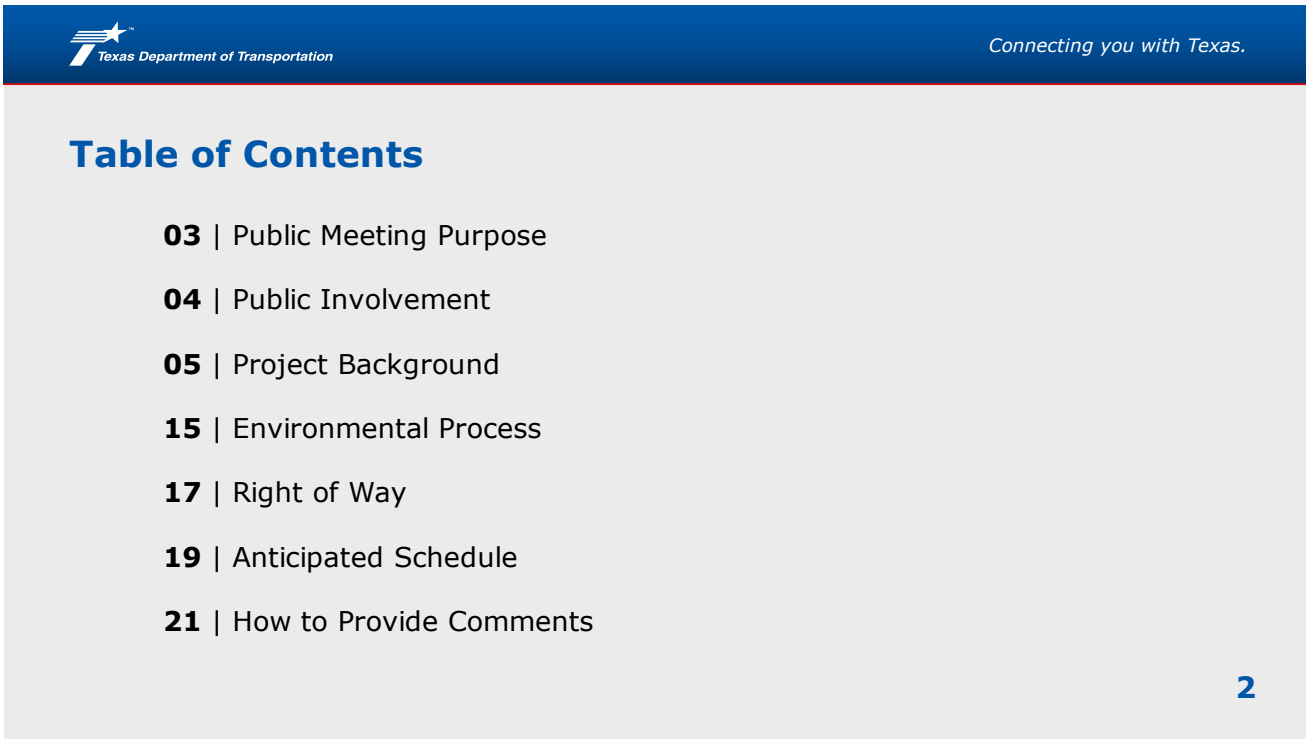
# VIRTUAL/IN-PERSON PUBLIC MEETING SCRIPT
## Abilene I-20 Six Lane Widening Project
## om west of the Abilene city limits to 0.6 miles west of Catclaw Creek
## CSJ: 0006-05-090
## Taylor County, Texas
## Dec. 5, 2024

MS. JESSICA DUVERNAY, CONSULTANT TO TXDOT

SLIDE 1 – Title

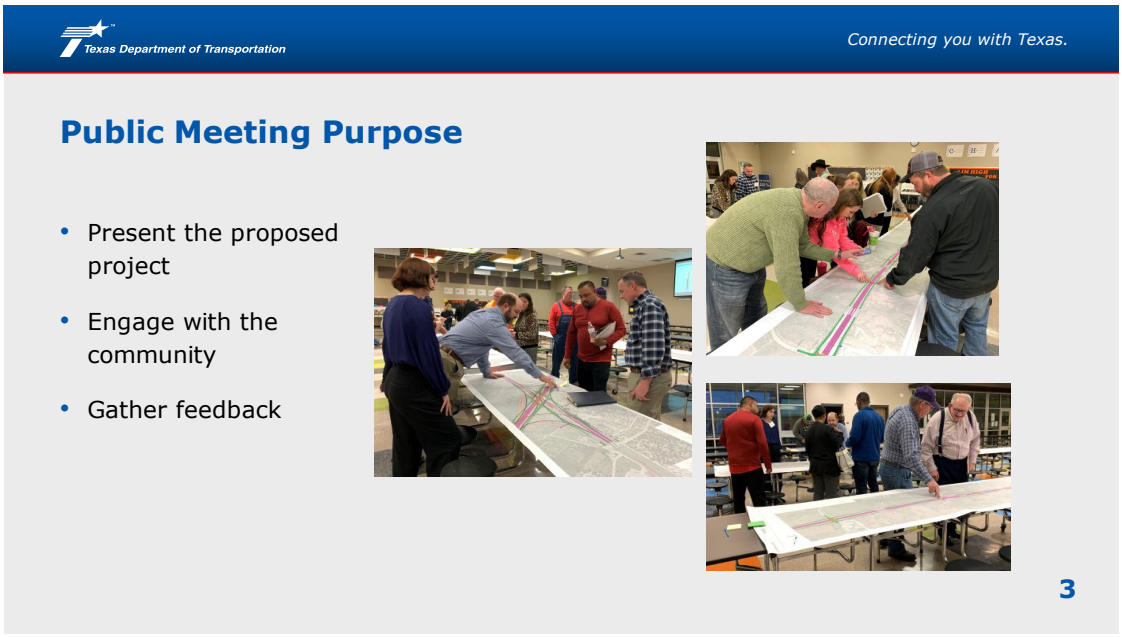
Welcome to the Texas Department of Transportation's prerecorded virtual public meeting presentation. We appreciate your interest in the project and welcome each of you. Please note that you may pause this presentation at any point to allow more time to view the slides or navigate forward or backward as needed.

My name is Jessica DuVernay, and I will be your narrator for this presentation. The Texas Department of Transportation Abilene District is led by District Engineer Glenn Allbritton. 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 using the keyword "I-20 West Widening Project" in the search box in the upper right-hand corner. After the project information is presented, we would appreciate your feedback.




## SLIDE 2 – Table of Contents

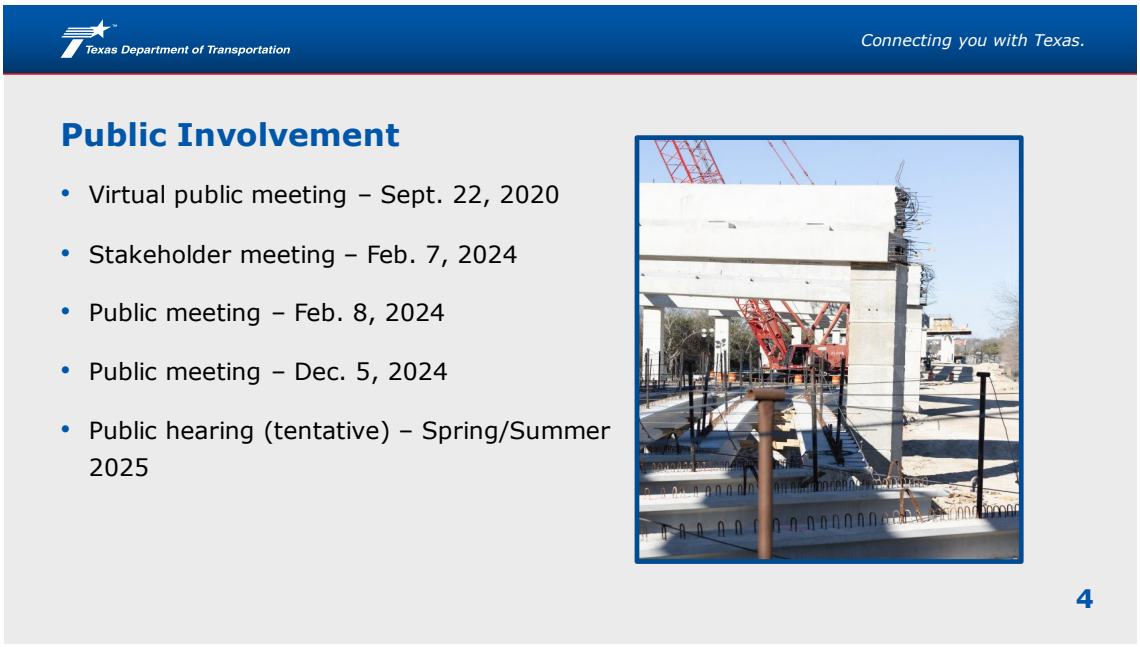
We will cover several topics regarding the Abilene I-20 Six Lane Widening Project including the public meeting purpose, opportunities for public involvement, the project background, the environmental and right-of-way processes, along with the anticipated schedule and how to provide comments.




## SLIDE 3 – Public Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this public meeting is to:

- Present the proposed project,
- Engage with the community, and
- Gather your feedback.




## SLIDE 4 – Public Involvement

Public input is welcomed throughout the project process. To encourage public input, we have and will continue to have several public involvement opportunities:

- September 22, 2020, a virtual public meeting was held
- February 7, 2024, a stakeholder meeting was held in-person and virtually
- February 8, 2024, a second public meeting was held in-person and virtually,
- December 5, 2024, the third public meeting is being held in-person and virtually, and
- A public hearing is anticipated for mid- to late 2025.

Texas Department of Transportation

Connecting you with Texas.

## Project Background Overview

- Taylor County
- Limits: West of the Abilene city limits to 0.6 miles west of Catclaw Creek
- Length: 5.32 miles

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## SLIDE 5 – Project Background

The purpose of the Abilene I-20 Six-Lane Widening project is to improve safety, increase mobility and meet current design standards. This project is needed to meet future travel demands stemming from projected population growth and traffic volumes. This map shows the project's location along the I-20 corridor in Taylor County from west of the Abilene city limits to 0.6 miles west of Catclaw Creek. The project is 5.32 miles in length.

## SLIDE 6 – Project Background - Existing Roadway

The existing roadway consists of two 12-foot-wide travel lanes in each direction and 10-foot-wide outside safety shoulders. The corridor has a rolling terrain and low-water crossings at several locations across the frontage roads. There are no existing bicycle or pedestrian facilities. The existing roadway has curves and hills that do not meet current design standards including the cloverleaf design of the US 277/US 83 interchange (also known as the Winters Freeway).

## Project Background – Existing Interchange

- Partial cloverleaf interchange with no frontage roads
- Exits with 25 mph advisory speeds
- Short distance between entrance and exit ramps (weaving area)
- No pedestrian elements

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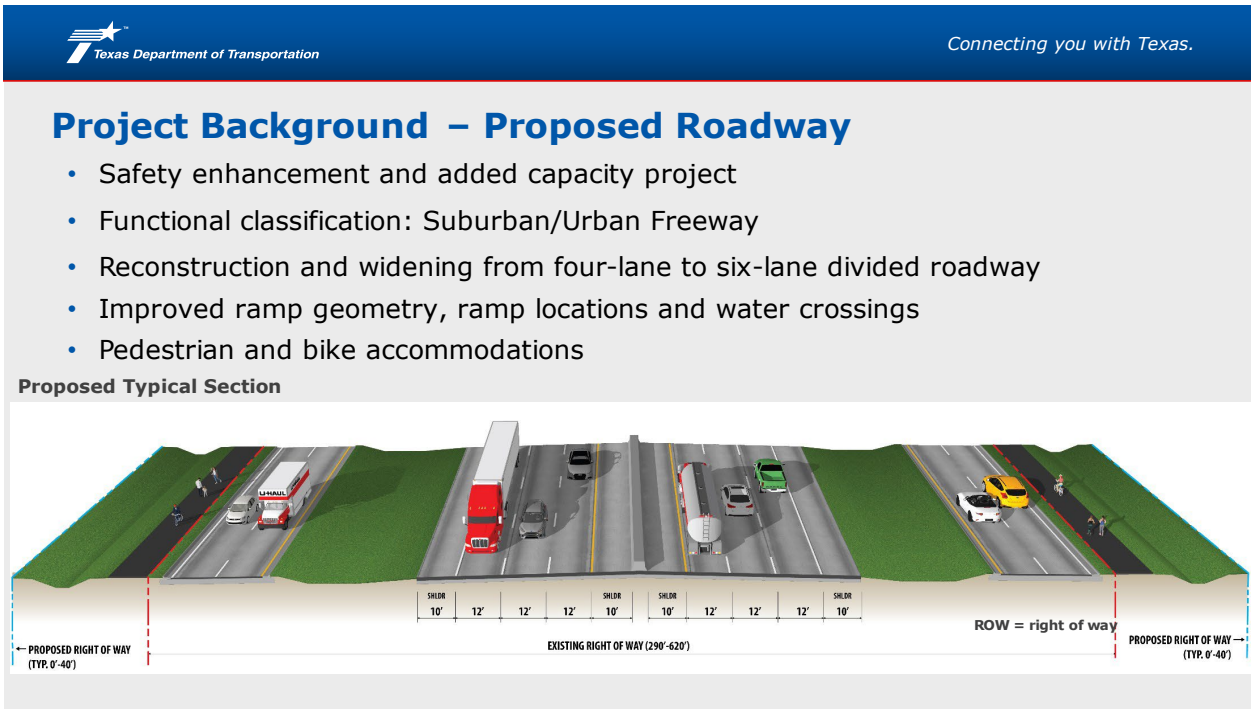
SLIDE 7 – Project Background – Existing Interchange

The existing US 277/US 83 interchange is a partial cloverleaf design that has 25 miles per hour advisory speed limits at the exits and short weaving distances between entrance and exit ramps. Westbound and eastbound frontage roads extend across the I-20 limits of the project and northbound and southbound frontage roads extend along the US 277/US 83 limits, but both sets of existing frontage roads are not continuous through the interchange, thereby limiting local access to include pedestrian and bicycle accommodations.




## SLIDE 8 – Project Background – Proposed Roadway

The proposed project includes a varying right-of-way width of 300 to 400 feet. This would allow for three freeway travel lanes in each direction and a 24-foot-wide median with barriers. Improvements to the frontage roads will eliminate low water crossings and provide pedestrian and bicycle access, expanding mobility options beyond vehicular traffic.

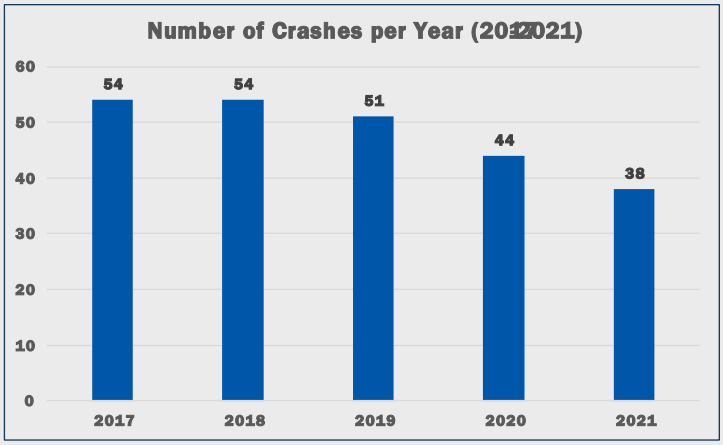
## SLIDE 9 – Project Background – Proposed Interchange

The proposed changes to the US 277/US 83 interchange improve ramp geometry and ramp locations. This enhanced interchange will be a fully directional interchange with the addition of frontage roads that accommodate local traffic as well as pedestrians and bicyclists. The interchange will also include U-turns that will provide further functionality that does not currently exist.

## Project Background – Safety Overview

**Traffic Safety**

- Crash data collected between 2017 and 2021 along the western portion of I-20 study corridor
- Total number of crashes from 2017 to 2021 – ***241 crashes***

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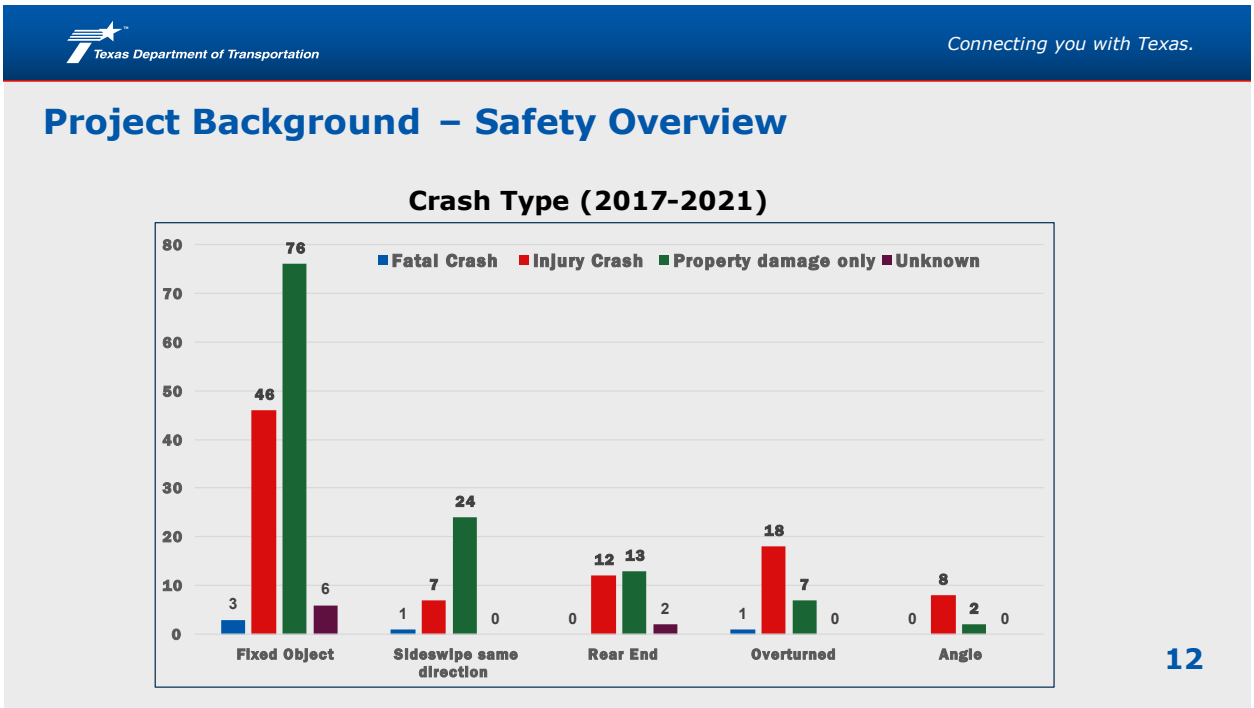
## SLIDE 10 – Project Background – Safety Overview

Along the I-20 project corridor, 241 vehicular crashes occurred between 2017 and 2021, averaging about 48 crashes per year.

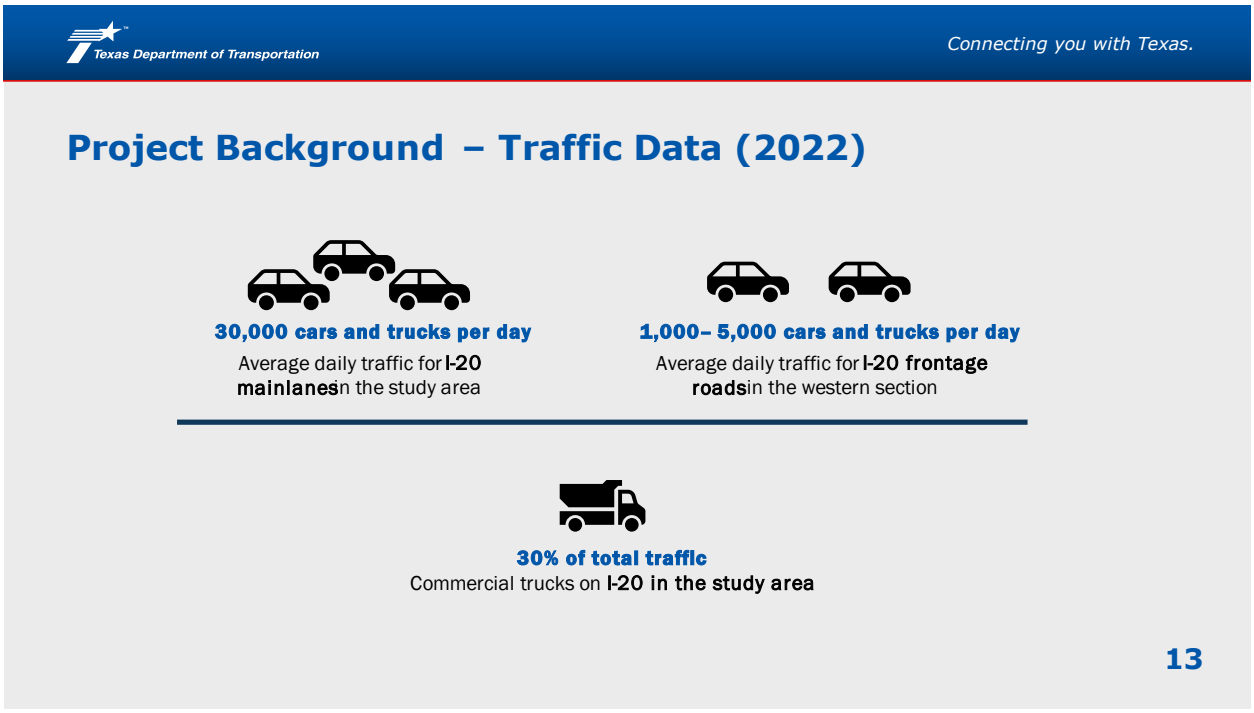
## SLIDE 11 – Project Background – Safety Overview

Crashes that resulted in injuries and fatalities are 42% of the crashes on average peaking in 2019 at 53% of the total crashes for this 5-year time period. There were a total of six crashes resulting in fatalities and 95 crashes resulting in injuries over this time-period.




## SLIDE 12 – Project Background – Safety Overview

This bar chart shows that within the project limits, fixed object crashes are the predominant crash type resulting in the highest number of fatality and injury accidents as well as the total number of crashes. These crashes can often be the result of avoidance maneuvers, and the "fixed object" reported could be guard fence or concrete barriers. Overturning is the next highest type of crash resulting in injuries or fatalities.




## SLIDE 13 – Project Background – Traffic Data

This slide shows the current volume of traffic that is traveling on this portion of the I-20 corridor.

- 30,000 cars and trucks on average per day on the I-20 mainlanes;
- Between 1,000 and 5,000 cars and trucks on average per day on the frontage roads; and
- Approximately 30% of the traffic is commercial vehicles.

## Project Background – Important Features

- Drainage Structures:
  - Bridge crossings for Elm Creek, 4 cross culverts (bridge class), 11 other cross culverts
- Utilities:
  - 2 major electric transmission line crossings
- Environmental/Community Considerations:
  - 2 churches, 2 regulatory floodways

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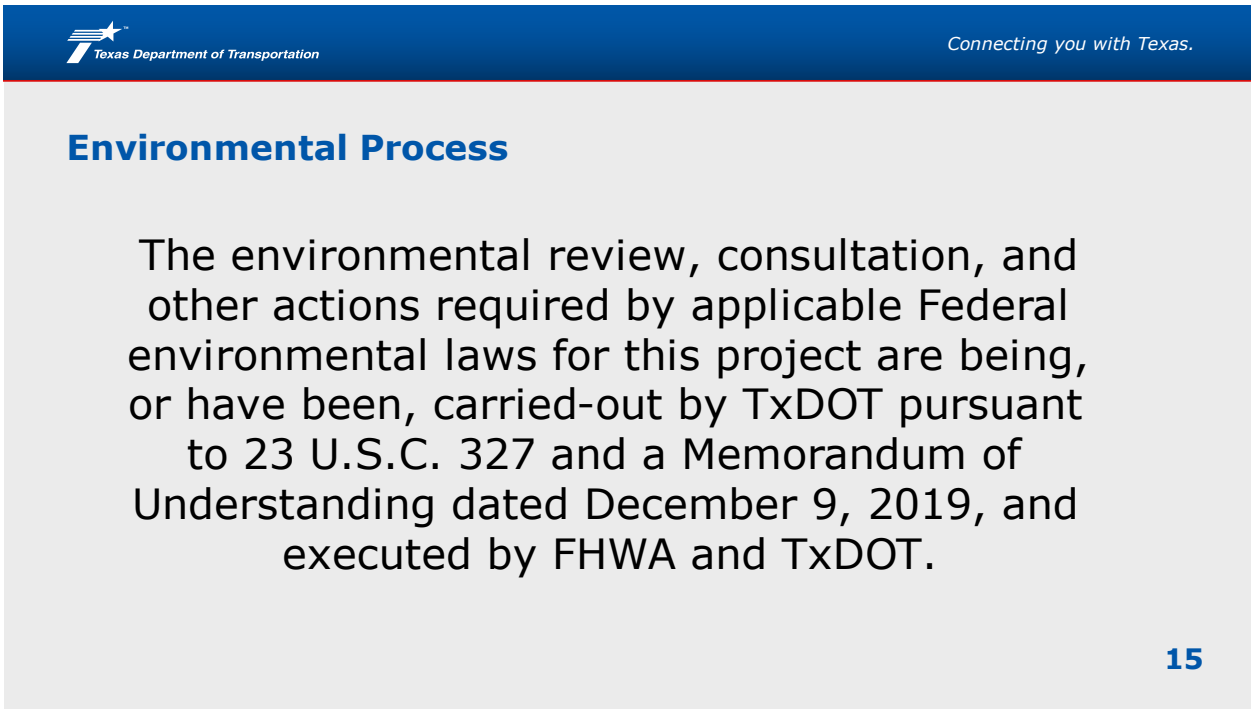
## SLIDE 14 – Project Background – Important Features

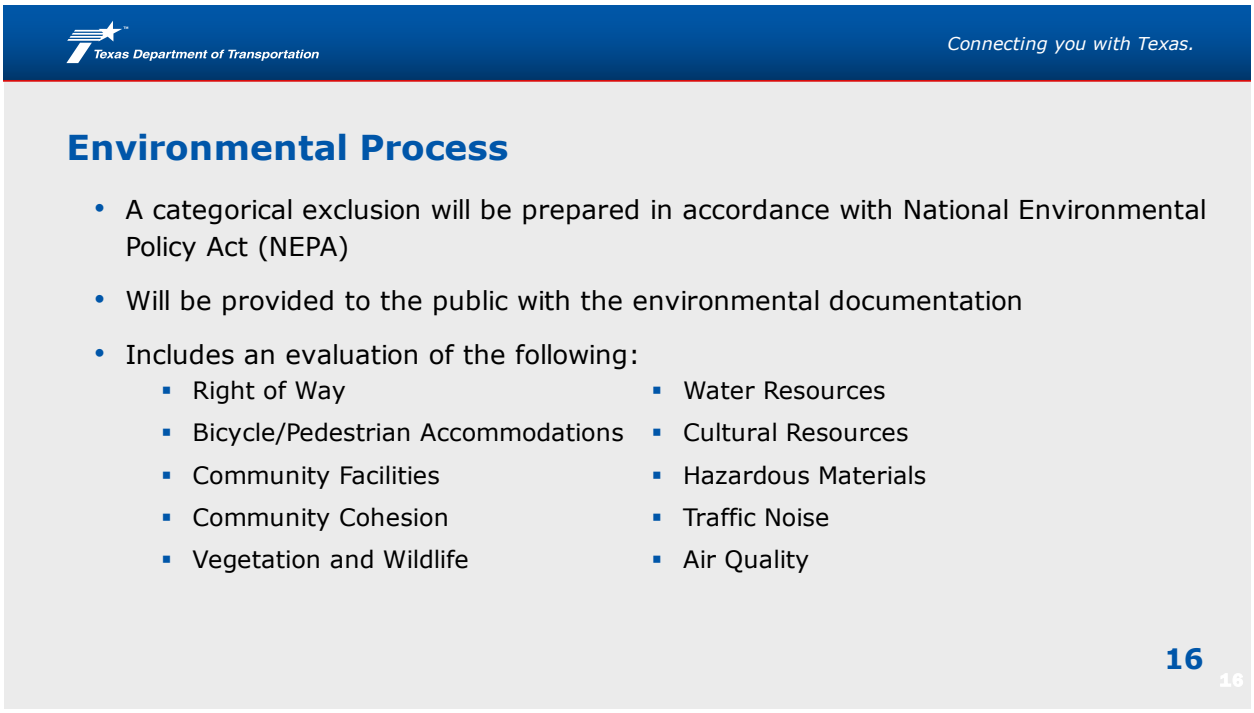
This 5.32-mile corridor of I-20 has several important features considered for this project, including:

- Bridge crossings for Elm Creek,
- 4 cross culverts that are 20 feet or wider (referred to as bridge class culverts,
- 11 other cross culverts,
- 2 major electric transmission line crossings,
- 2 churches, and
- 2 regulatory floodways.




SLIDE 15 – Environmental Process

Prior to December 16, 2014, the Federal Highway Administration, or FHWA, reviewed and approved documents prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act, known as NEPA; however, on December 16, 2014, the Texas Department of Transportation assumed responsibility from FHWA to review and approve certain assigned NEPA environmental documents. This agreement was updated on December 9, 2019.



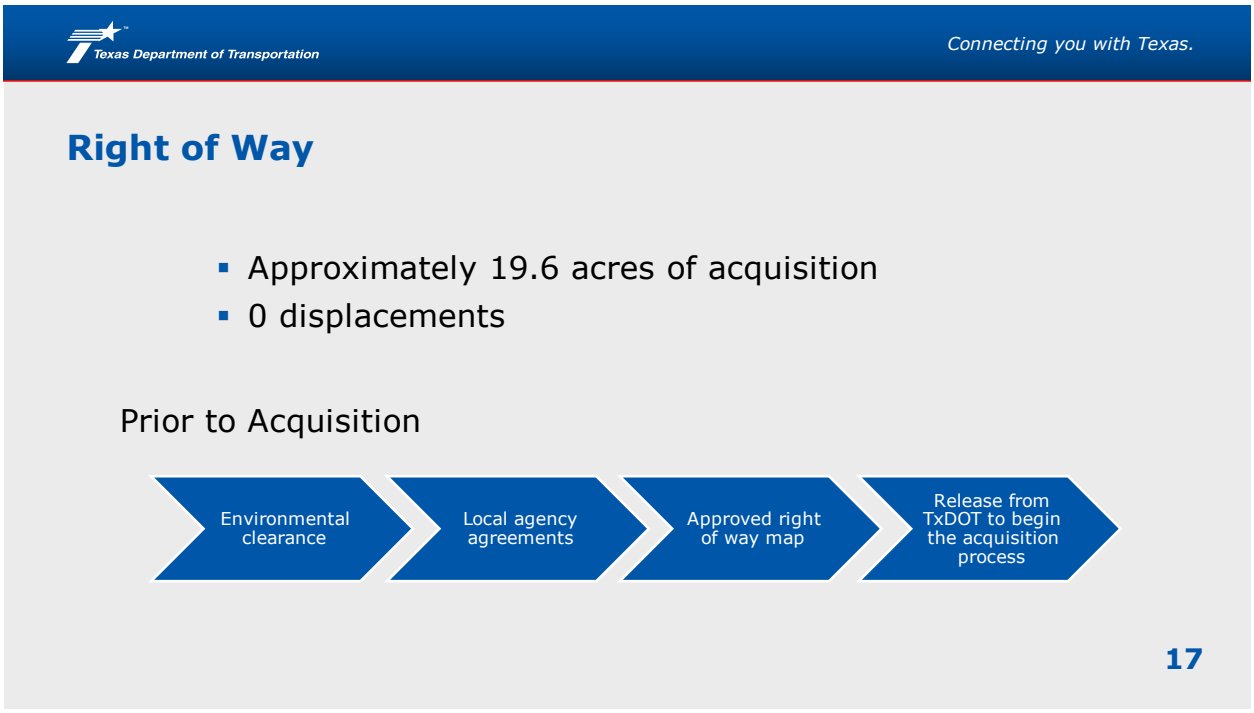

## SLIDE 16 – Environmental Process

A categorical exclusion will be prepared in accordance with NEPA for the Abilene I-20 Six-Lane Widening Project.

Once completed, the report will be available on the TxDOT project website at www.txdot.gov using the keyword "I-20 West Widening Project" in the search box.

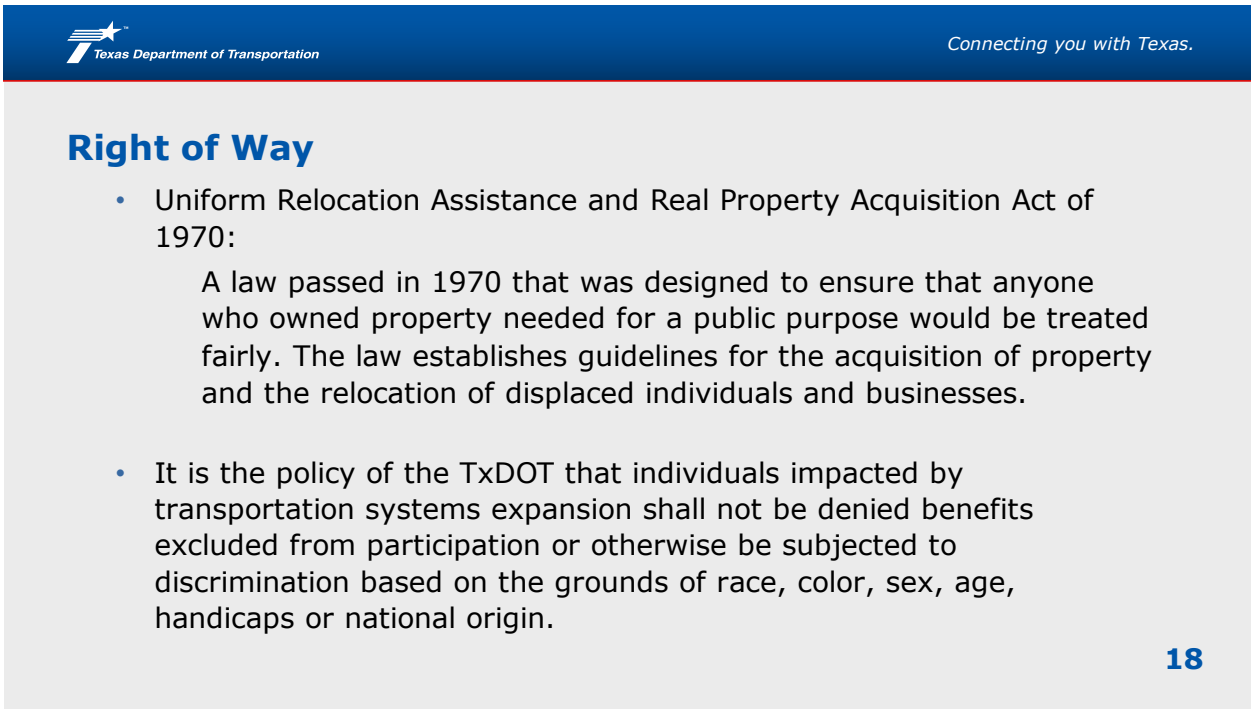
Numerous environmental matters are being evaluated, including, but not limited to:

- Right-of-Way assessment
- Bicycle and Pedestrian accommodations
- Community Facilities
- Community Cohesion
- Air Quality
- Noise impacts, and
- Vegetation and Wildlife preservation



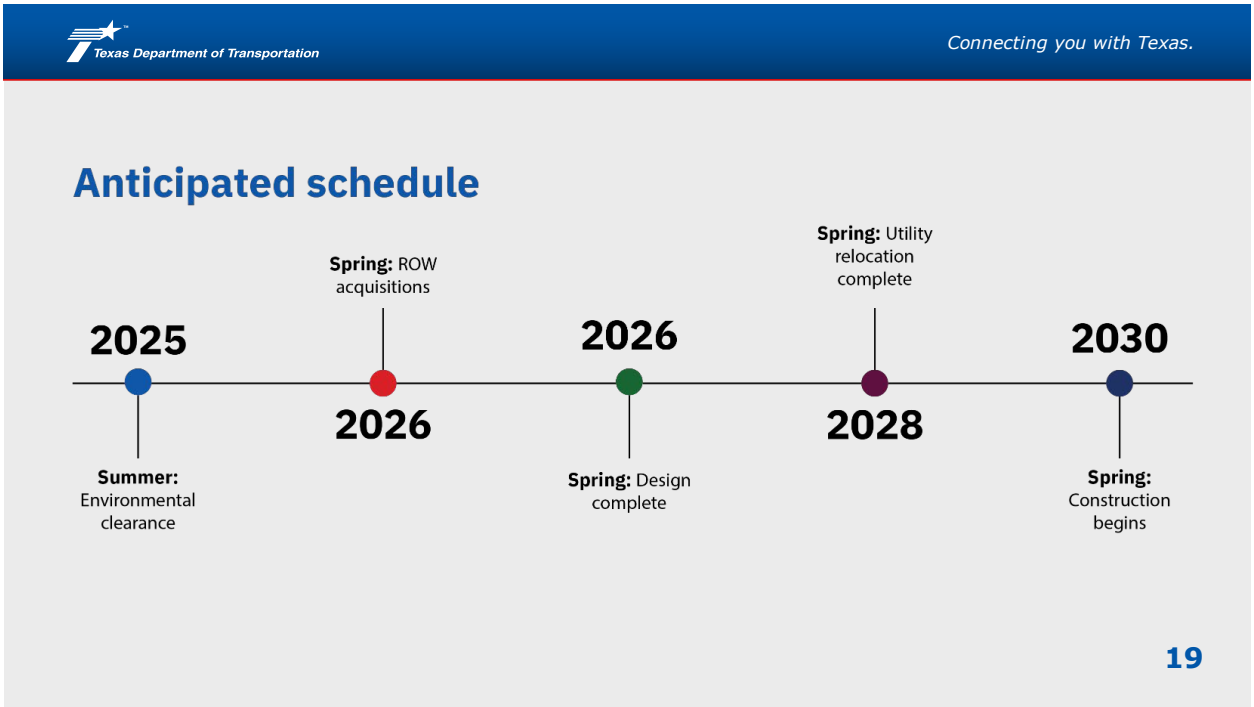

Slide 17 – Right of Way

The proposed project design anticipates about 19.6 acres of additional right of way needed to construct the project. No properties will be displaced for this project. In the event a displacement becomes necessary, TxDOT will provide assistance to potentially displaced businesses and property owners.




Slide 18 – Right of Way

The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act of 1970 states that anyone who owned property that is needed for a public purpose would be treated fairly. Additionally, TxDOT does not deny benefits or subject owners to discrimination based on the grounds of race, color, sex, age, handicaps or national origin.

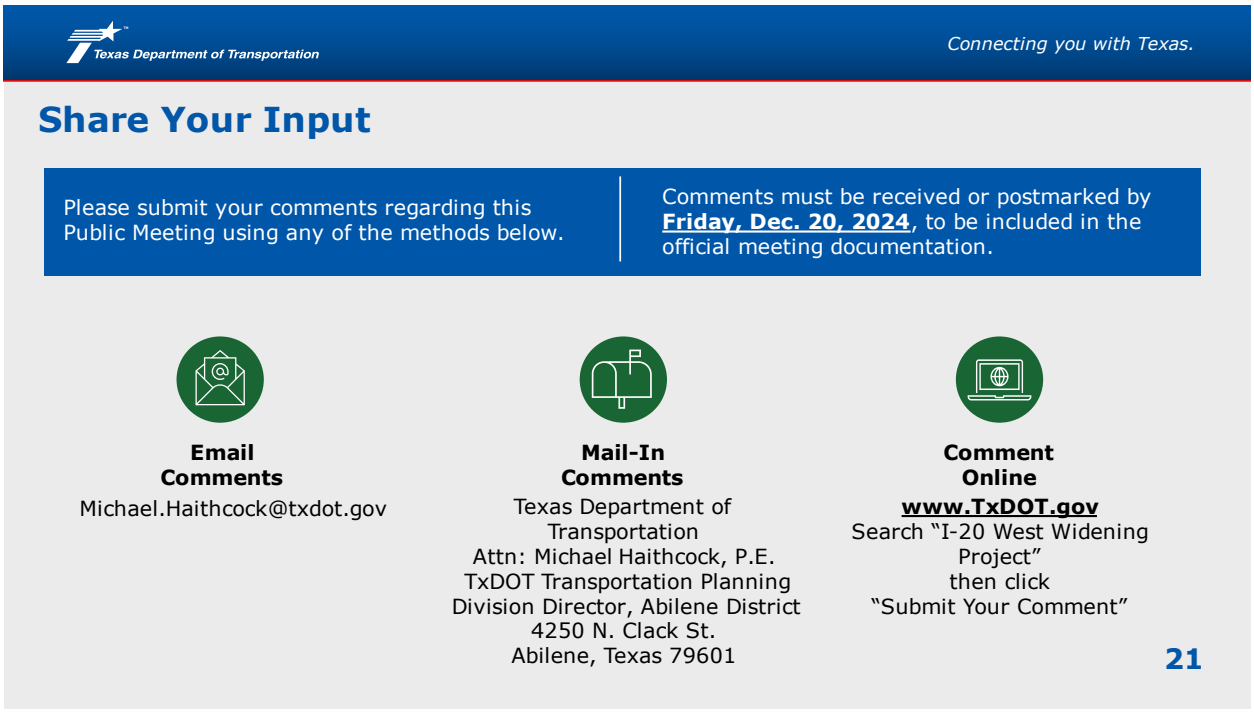



## Slide 19 – Anticipated Schedule

After this public meeting, the environmental study will continue to be developed. After approval of the environmental documentation, any right of way that may be needed will be acquired and conflicting utilities will be adjusted. Construction, which is dependent on available funding, could begin as early as spring 2030. Again, please note, this is a tentative schedule, as nothing has been finalized and is subject to change based on your input.

## Slide 20 – Project Contact Information

The public is welcome to reach out to project staff at any time throughout the project timeline. Please see the contact information on the screen if you have any questions regarding the Abilene I-20 Six-Lane Widening project.



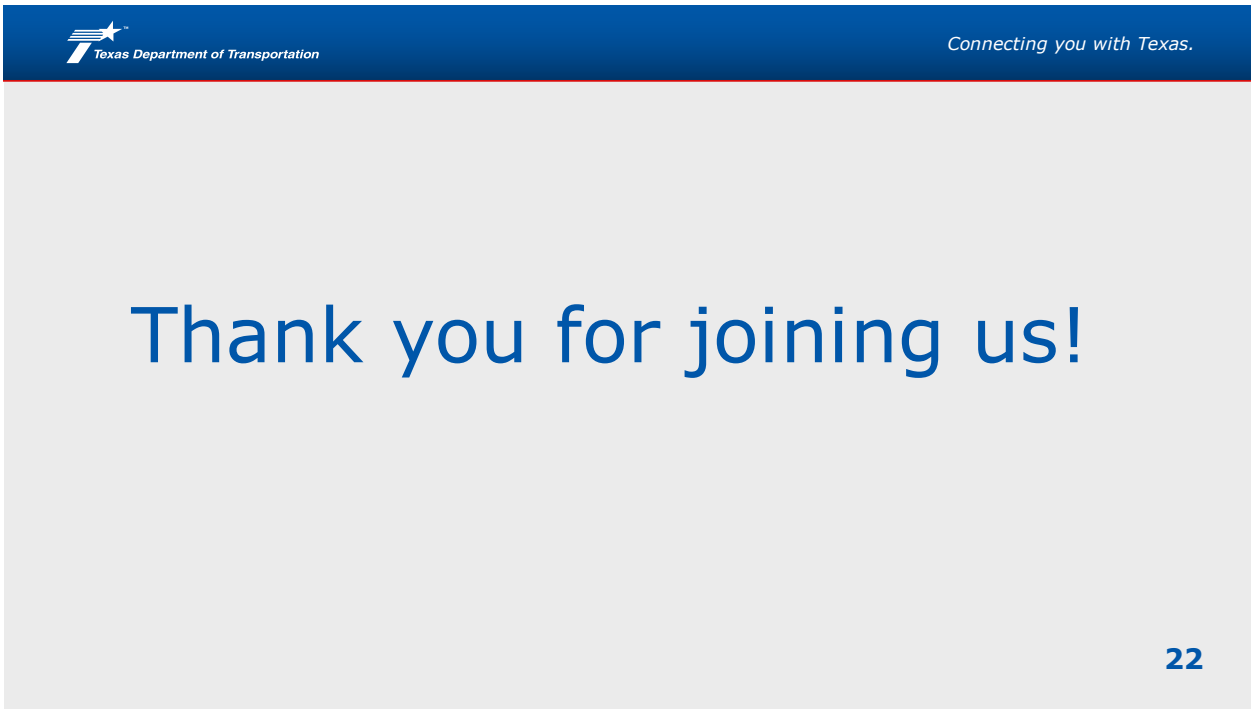

## Slide 21 – Share your Input

Comments will be accepted in a variety of ways: Submit your comment online at www.txdot.gov keyword search "I-20 West Widening Project," send us an email at Michael.Haithcock@txdot.gov, you can call us and leave a verbal comment by calling 325-676-6810, or you can mail your comments to the TxDOT Abilene District Office at 4250 North Clack St., Abilene, Texas 79601

Comments must be received or postmarked by Friday, December 20, 2024, to be included in the official public meeting record.

All comments and questions will be fully considered and responded to in the Public Meeting Summary Report and made part of the final environmental document for this proposed project. This document will be made available for review on the TxDOT website once available.

If you would like to discuss the project development process, please call 325-676-6810 during regular office hours. You may also email staff at any time during the project development process.




Slide 22 – Thank you

We sincerely appreciate your participation and interest in the proposed design of the Abilene I-20 Six-Lane Widening Project. Your questions, comments and concerns will receive careful consideration. Thank you.