Loop 360 at Courtyard Drive/RM 2222 Project

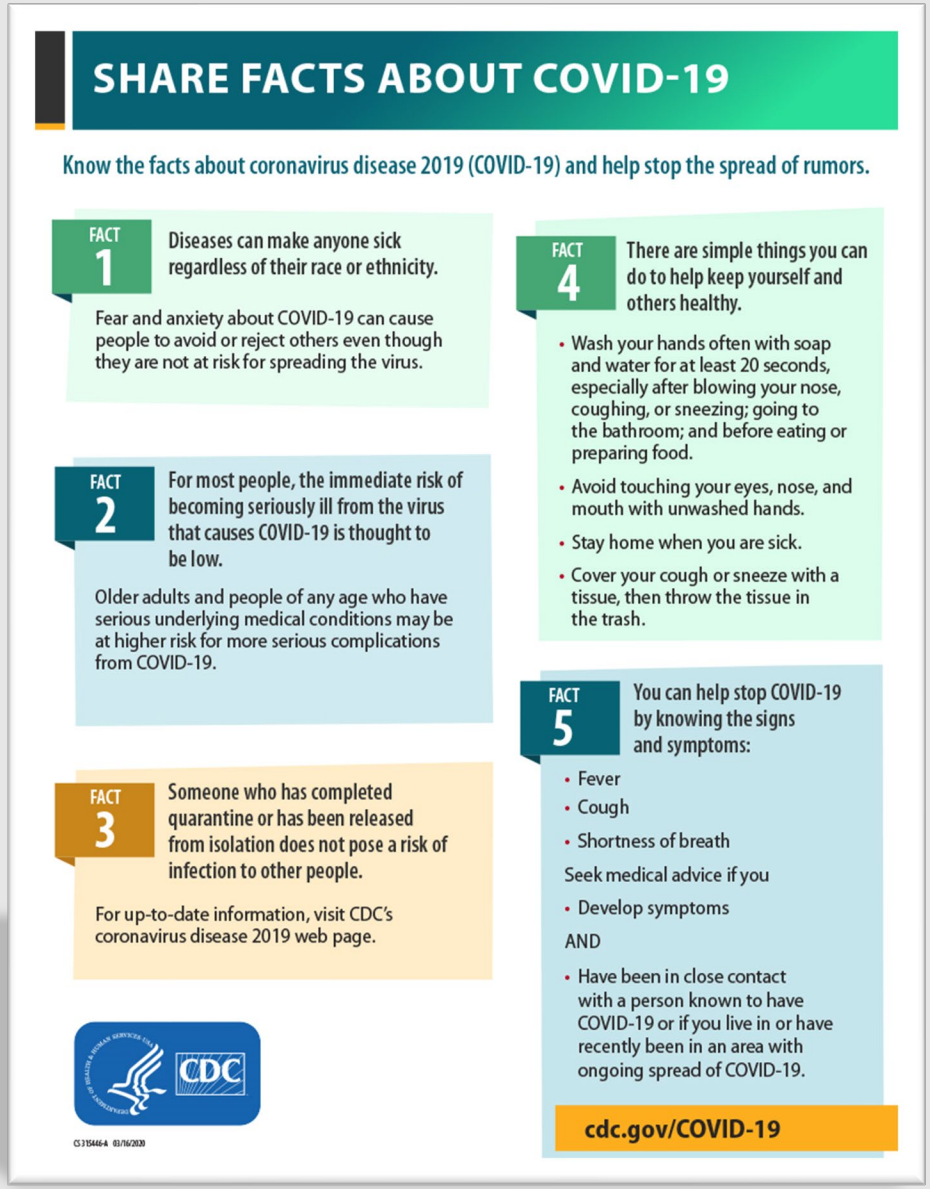
Virtual Public Hearing

October 6, 2020

Virtual public hearing in response to public health

TxDOT changed the in-person public hearing to a virtual format in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

The virtual public hearing and TxDOT website will provide the same information as an in-person hearing.



SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

FACT 1 Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.

FACT 2 For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low.

Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.

FACT 3 Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.

CDC

CS 315446-A 03/16/2020

FACT 4 There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

FACT 5 You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Seek medical advice if you

- Develop symptoms

AND

- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

cdc.gov/COVID-19

Public hearing purpose

1. Inform the public of project status and project recommendations.

2. Describe the project so the public can determine how they may be affected.

3. Provide the public the opportunity to provide input.

4. Develop a record of public participation.

We Request Your Feedback

Please submit your comments regarding the information presented in this Virtual Public Hearing by using any of the methods below between **Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2020,** and **Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2020**.

Leave a Voicemail

(512) 647-1064

Email Us

info@Loop360Project.com

Mail in Comments

Loop 360 Project Team
1608 W 6th St.
Austin, TX 78703

Comment Online

Click on the comment form link on Loop360Project.com

For general questions about the presentation or the project, please contact Crystal Wotipka at cwotip-c@TxDOT.gov or 512-832-7192. The public may email at any time in the project development process to ask questions about the project.

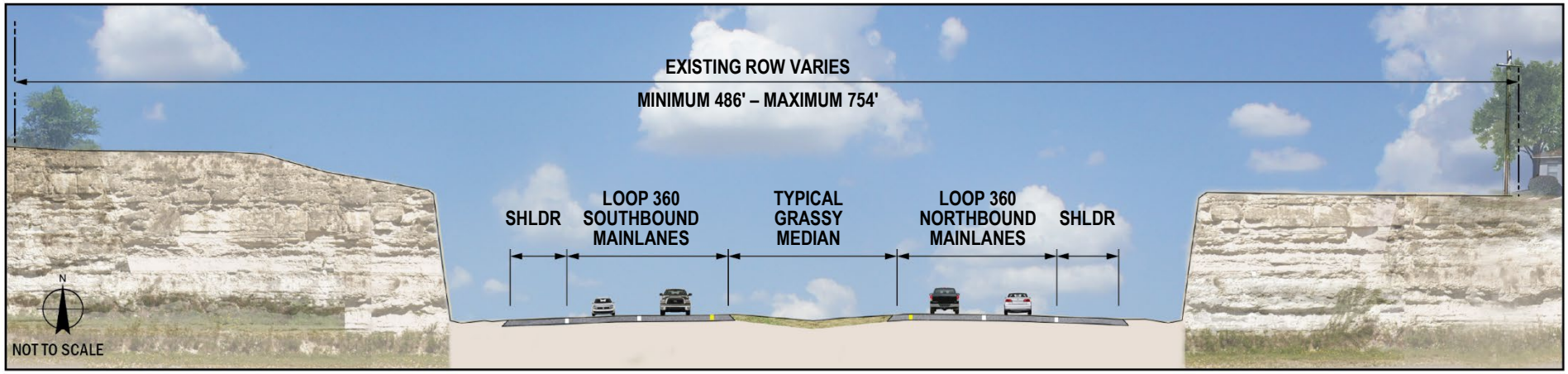
Viewing design, schematic and environmental documentation

- Websites:
  - Loop360Project.com
    - Program website with direct link to the posted materials.
  - TxDOT.gov
    - Search keywords “Loop 360 at Courtyard Drive”
- The information presented on these websites is the same information being presented in this video.

Project location, need and purpose

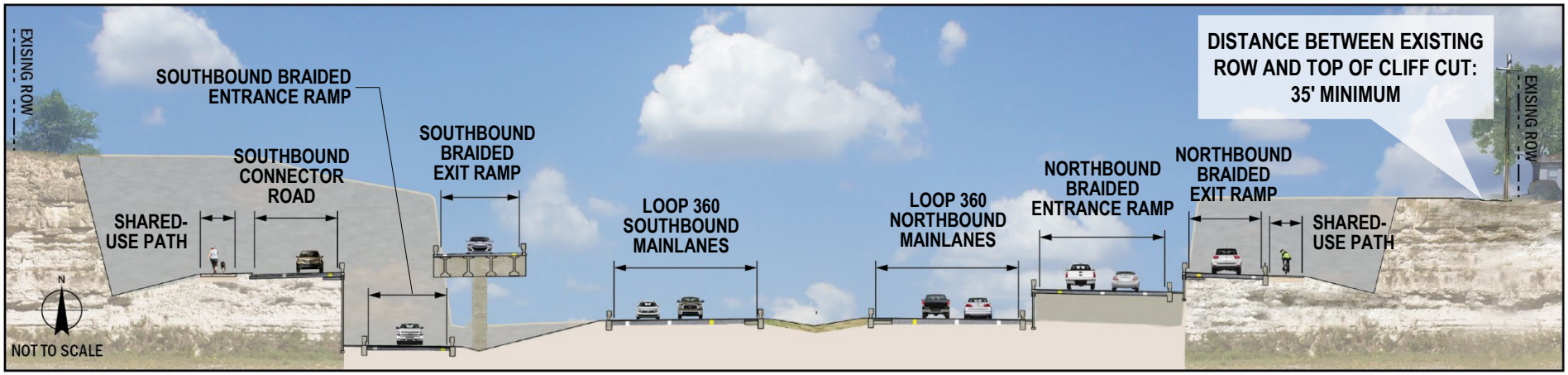
- Project Limits:
  - Lake Austin to north of RM 2222.
  - Project length – 1 mile.
- Project Need:
  - Congestion, reduced mobility and safety issues.
- Project Purpose:
  - Improve safety.
  - Improve mobility.

Existing roadway



- Existing Roadway
  - Two, 12-foot wide mainlanes with 10-foot wide outside shoulders in each direction, separated by a 48-foot wide grassy median.
  - At-grade intersection at Courtyard Drive with left-turn and right-turn lanes.
  - Traditional grade-separated intersection with entrance and exit ramps at RM 2222.
  - No bike lanes, shared-use paths or sidewalks.

Proposed roadway



- Proposed improvements
  - Replace the existing traffic signals on Loop 360 at Courtyard Drive with an underpass (where the Loop 360 mainlanes go under the cross street).
  - Construct a diverging diamond intersection (DDI) at RM 2222.
  - Add 10-foot wide shared-use path along both sides of Loop 360, a 10-foot wide shared-use path on the north side of the Courtyard Drive bridge over Loop 360, and 6-foot wide sidewalks along both sides of Courtyard Drive east and west of the bridge, within the project limits.
- Construction details, including construction phasing and cliff removal methodology, will be determined as the project progresses into detailed design.

Diverging diamond intersection – How it works

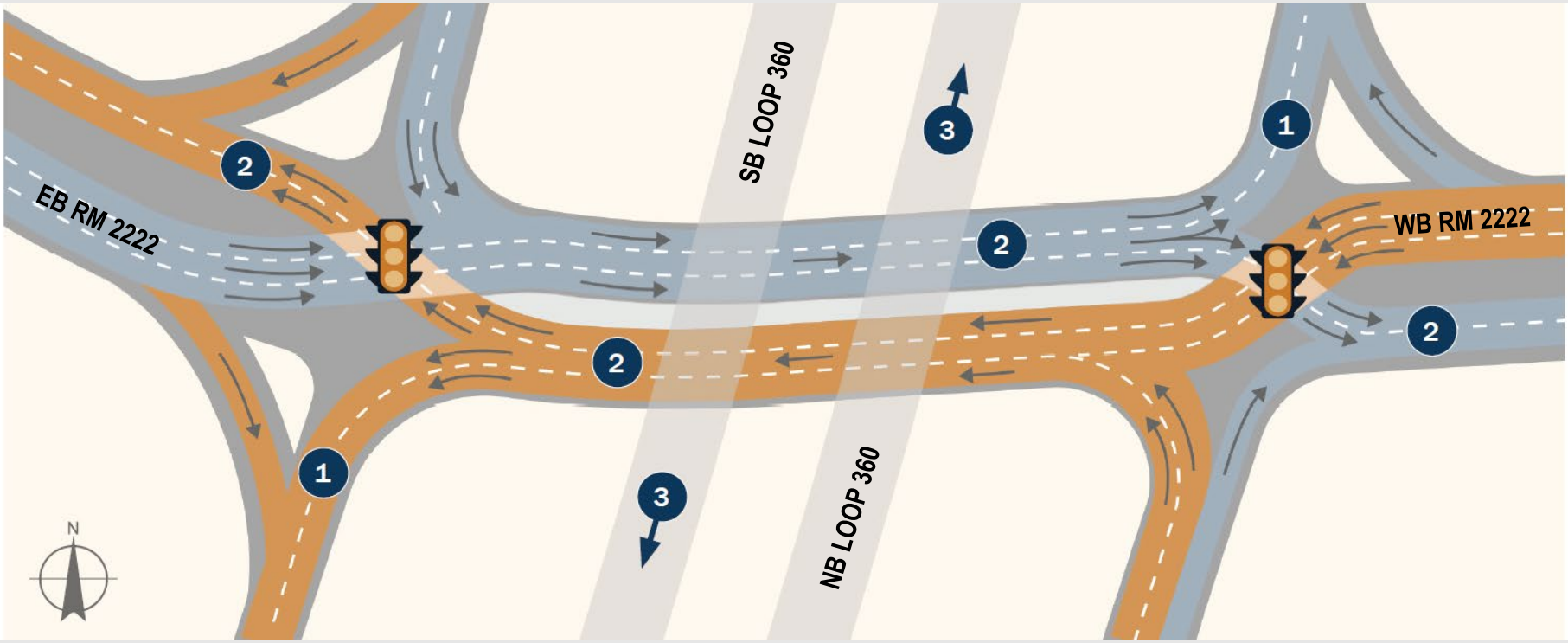
- Traffic signals are installed at crossover points. After a driver has crossed over they can:

❶ Make a protected left turn, rather than wait for oncoming traffic to clear or for a left-turn signal.

❷ Continue straight and shift back to the right side of the roadway once clearing the intersection.

- Northbound and southbound traffic can:

❸ Bypass the intersection by staying on the Loop 360 mainlanes.

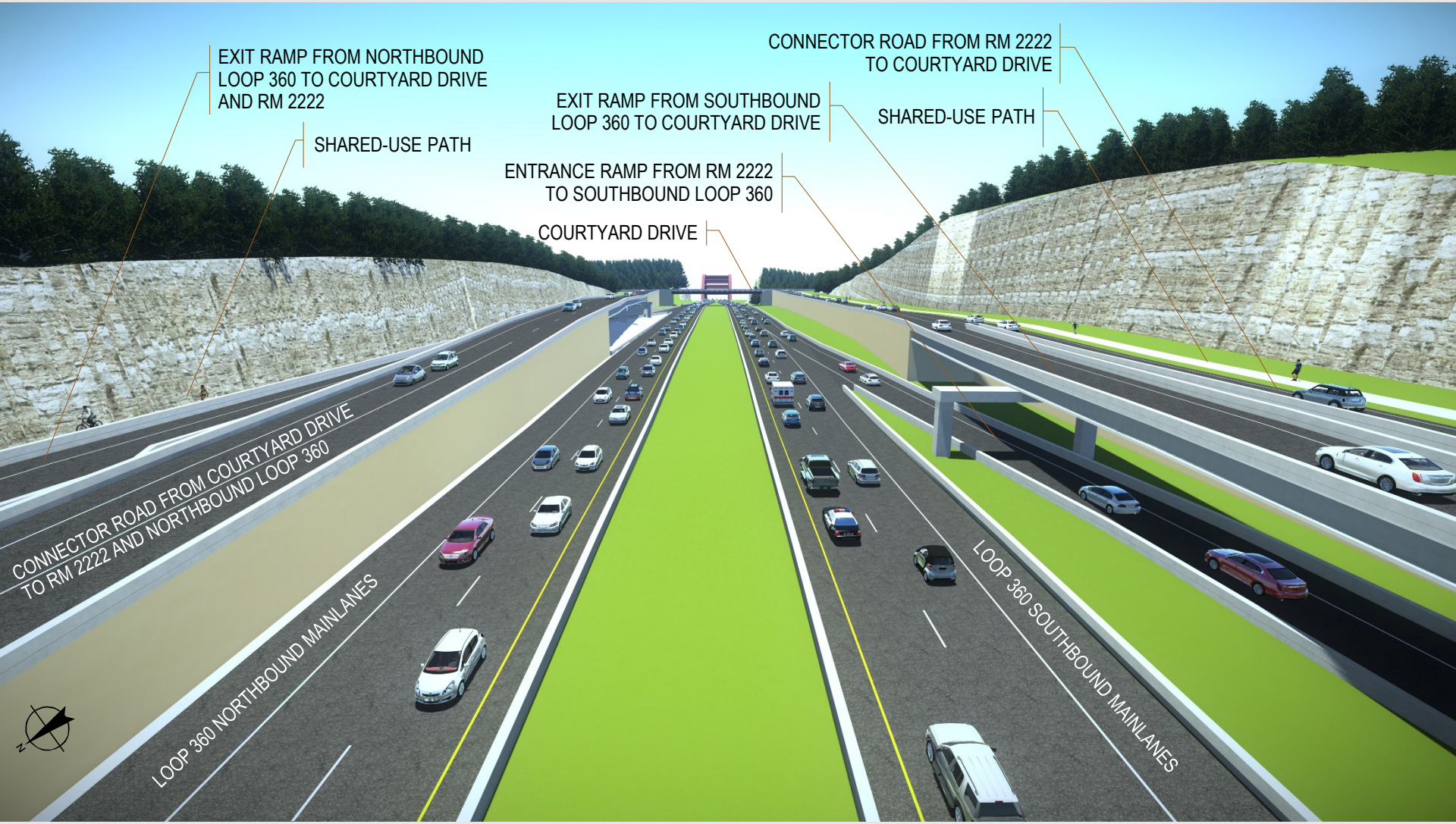


Diverging diamond intersection – Benefits

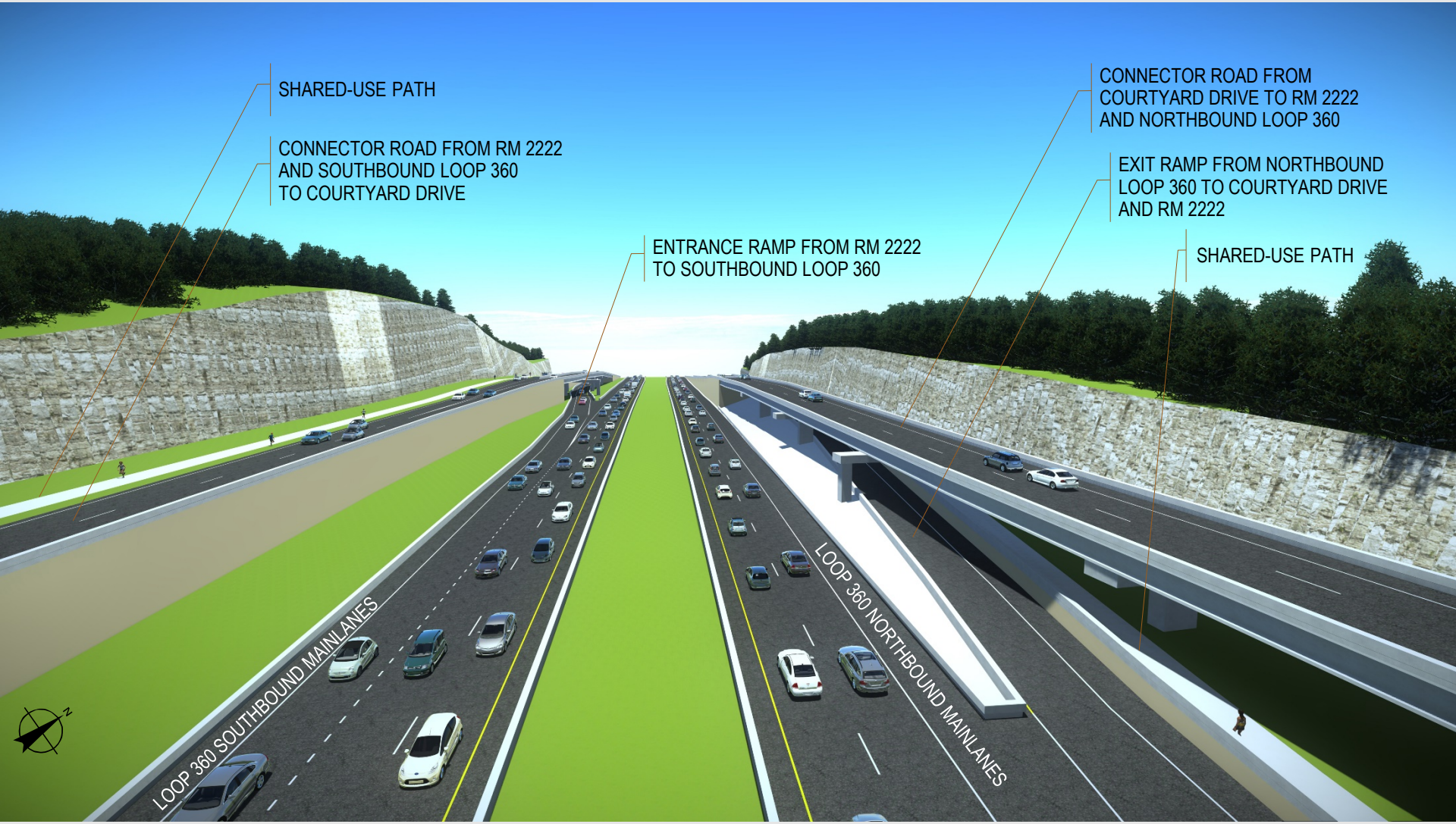
- Enhances safety by reducing potential crash points at intersections.
- Increases mobility by allowing more cars to move through an intersection.
- Accommodates more vehicles turning left without adding more lanes.
- Better sight distance at turns.

Visit Loop360Project.com/divergingdiamond.htm to learn more about a DDI and view an informational video.

Loop 360 looking south at Courtyard Drive



Loop 360 looking north toward RM 2222



Courtyard Drive looking east

Utility adjustments

- Underground and overhead utilities:
  - Known existing utilities have been identified and mapped.
  - Conflicting utilities will need to be adjusted or relocated prior to roadway construction.

Construction Start Date

Summer 2023*

*Contingent on construction funding.

Construction Duration

Approximately 2 to 3 years.

Estimated Total Project Cost

Approximately $42 million.

$11 million from the City of Austin 2016 Mobility Bond.

Remaining funds from TxDOT.

Review and approval of environmental document

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.

Environmental review – Impacts addressed

- Right of Way/Displacements
- Traffic Noise
- Community/Socioeconomic
- Air Quality
- Visual/Aesthetics
- Archeological Resources
- Historic Resources
- Water Resources
- Wetlands/Waters of the U.S.
- Biological Resources
- Hazardous Materials
- Indirect and Cumulative Effects
- Section 4(f) Resources
  - Publicly owned parks, recreation areas, wildlife/waterfowl refuges, and historic properties

Environmental review – Traffic noise

- Traffic noise analysis completed according to TxDOT and FHWA guidelines.
- Analysis showed traffic noise impacts to multiple receivers.
- Mitigation was analyzed for the impacted receivers.
- Noise barriers determined to not be feasible and reasonable for the impacted receivers.

Environmental review – Water resources

- Floodplains
  - Portions of project within FEMA 100-year flood hazard areas associated with West Bull Creek.
  - Project would not violate applicable floodplain regulations or ordinances.

- Waters of the U.S., including Wetlands
  - West Bull Creek and a tributary to Lake Austin were evaluated.
  - No impacts to these waters of the U.S. would occur, so no USACE permit or compensatory mitigation would be required.
  - Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be used to minimize any potential impacts to water quality. BMPs could include temporary vegetation, silt fences or other appropriate methods for erosion and sedimentation control during construction.

- Conclusion:
  - Studies, analyses and evaluation of the proposed project indicate no significant impacts.

Next steps and timeline

- Public Comment Period (ends Oct. 21, 2020).
- Anticipated Environmental Decision – Winter 2021.
- Utility Relocation Begins – Winter 2022.*
- Construction Begins – Summer 2023.*

PROJECT TIMELINE

***Dates are subject to change.**

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Thank you for your interest in the Loop 360 at Courtyard Drive/RM 2222 project.