

Welcome

US 69 Woodville-Colmesneil Relief Route Public Meeting

From south of Black Creek to south of Recreational
Road 255
in Tyler County, Texas

CSJs (Control Section Job Numbers):
0200-06-043; 0200-07-043; 0200-08-050

May 28, 2024

SLIDE 1 | Welcome

Welcome to the TxDOT Beaumont District's second virtual public meeting with in-person options for the US 69 Woodville-Colmesneil Relief Route. TxDOT is proposing to construct a new location roadway diverging from US 69 in Tyler County, Texas, from south of Black Creek to south of Recreational Road 255.

My name is Morgan Vance, and I would like to thank you for your interest in this project.

Please note, you can pause this presentation at any point to allow more time to view the slides or other documents on the website.



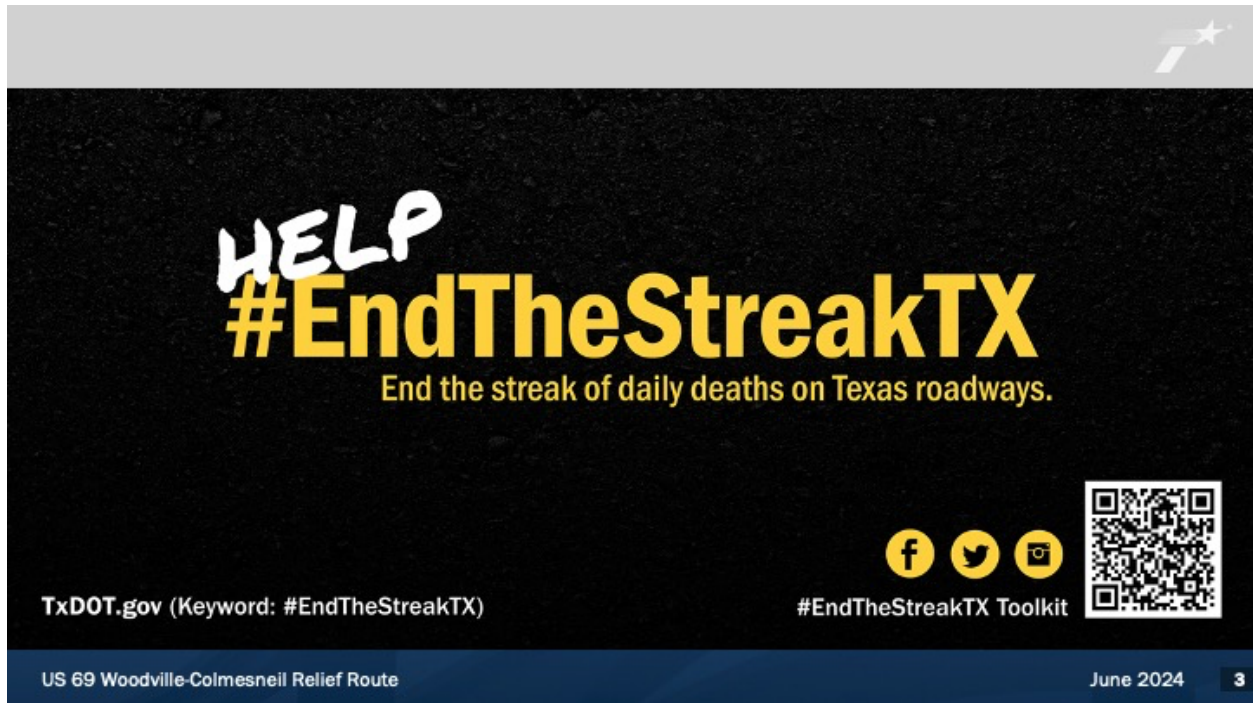
NEPA Assignment to the Texas Department of Transportation

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 the Federal Highway Administration and TxDOT.

SLIDE 2 | MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Prior to December 16, 2014, the Federal Highway Administration, otherwise known as FHWA, reviewed and approved documents prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). However, on December 16, 2014, the Texas Department of Transportation assumed responsibility from FHWA for reviewing and approving certain assigned NEPA environmental documents.

This memorandum of understanding was renewed on December 9, 2019. This review and approval process applies to this proposed project as it is receiving federal funds; therefore, TxDOT is required to assess the potential environmental effects of the proposed project in accordance with Federal standards.

A graphic for the #EndTheStreakTX campaign. It features a dark background with a white star in the top right corner. The word "HELP" is written in white, hand-drawn letters. Below it, "#EndTheStreakTX" is written in large, bold, yellow letters. Underneath the hashtag, the text "End the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways." is written in a smaller, yellow font. In the bottom right corner, there are three social media icons (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and a QR code. Below the icons, the text "#EndTheStreakTX Toolkit" is written. In the bottom left corner, the text "TxDOT.gov (Keyword: #EndTheStreakTX)" is written. At the very bottom, there is a dark blue bar with the text "US 69 Woodville-Colmesneil Relief Route" on the left, "June 2024" in the center, and a small white square with the number "3" on the right.

HELP
#EndTheStreakTX
End the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways.

TxDOT.gov (Keyword: #EndTheStreakTX)

#EndTheStreakTX Toolkit

US 69 Woodville-Colmesneil Relief Route

June 2024 3

SLIDE 3 | END THE STREAK TX

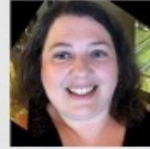
November 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on roadways in Texas. That means for nearly 24 years, at least one person has died every single day. We all have a part to play to change that. This message is that reminder – to End the Streak of deaths on Texas highways. We need drivers and passengers to 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 under the influence of alcohol or drugs. So please do your part and share this message with your friends and family.

Agenda



- 1 Welcome
- 2 Project overview
- 3 Environmental overview
- 4 Project schedule and next steps
- 5 Public comment process



Lisa Collins, P.E.
TxDOT Beaumont District Director of
Transportation Planning and Development



Presenter:
Morgan Vance, WSP USA

SLIDE 4 | AGENDA

My name is Morgan Vance, and I would like to welcome and thank you for watching this virtual public meeting that was shared with the public starting on June 4, 2024. I am presenting on behalf of the TxDOT Beaumont District.

We'll be covering the following areas:

- A project overview;
- Environmental overview;
- Project schedule and next steps;
- The public comment process and then,
- Adjournment – which will conclude this video presentation.

Public meeting notifications



- Elected Officials Letters – Mailed on May 16, 2024
- Property Owner Letters – Mailed on May 23, 2024
- Post Card Notice – Mailed on May 22, 2024
- Notices for public meeting were published in:
 - Tyler County Booster
 - East Texas News
- Information was posted on the TxDOT webpage on May 28, 2024
- Social Media

SLIDE 5 | PUBLIC MEETING NOTIFICATIONS

The public and stakeholders were notified of this public meeting using the following methods:

- Notices to elected and local officials were mailed on May 16, 2024;
- Notices to Adjacent Property Owners were mailed on May 23, 2024;
- Post card notices were mailed to local businesses and stakeholders on May 22, 2024.

Notices for the public meeting were published in English and Spanish on East Texas News on May 16, 2024, and in the Tyler County Booster on May 23, 2024. It was published on the TxDOT website on May 28, 2024, and was posted on TxDOT social media pages.

Public involvement process



- Public Meeting #1
 - October 24, 2023 - Woodville
 - October 26, 2023 - Warren
 - Virtual public meeting with in-person options
 - 446 in-person attendees, 13,783 online visits
 - 4 alternatives presented
- Comments Received:
 - 112 written comments
 - 1,351 Social Pinpoint comments
- Comments included feedback on the proposed alternatives and physical and/or environmental constraints.
- TxDOT has removed alternatives B and C and modified alternatives A and D for further study and public review.

SLIDE 6 | PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

In October 2023, a virtual public meeting with in-person options was held to present this project to the public and receive feedback. Four alternatives were presented to the public at this meeting. These alternatives may be viewed in detail by visiting www.TxDOT.gov and search: US 69 Woodville-Colmesneil Relief Route.

At the previous public meeting, a total of 446 people attended the in-person meeting options. 112 people submitted comments, and 1,351 social pinpoint comments were received through the social pinpoint website. Many comments received provided feedback on the proposed alternatives and physical or environmental constraints along these proposed corridors.

Based on public input received during the October 2023 public meetings, TxDOT has removed alternatives B and C and modified alternatives A and D for further study and public review during this public meeting.

Project location and overview



The proposed improvements to the approximately 25-mile-long project include:

- New location roadway with a 400-foot right of way width
- The ultimate roadway would generally include two 12-foot travel lanes and two-lane frontage roads in each direction
- Northbound 13-foot-wide outside shoulder to be used as a hurricane evacuation lane
- Southbound 10-foot outside shoulder
- Bicycle and pedestrian accommodations would be considered throughout the project
- Proposal is preliminary and subject to change.

SLIDE 7 | PROJECT LOCATION AND OVERVIEW

This slide provides a project overview. The project is approximately 25 miles long and the project limits extend from approximately one mile south of Black Creek to approximately one mile south of Recreational Road (RR) 255 in Tyler County.

The proposed project improvements would include a new location roadway with a 400-foot right of way width and include the following:

- The ultimate roadway would generally include two 12-foot travel lanes and two-lane frontage roads in each direction
- Northbound 13-foot-wide outside shoulder to be used as a hurricane evacuation lane
- Southbound 10-foot outside shoulder
- Bicycle and pedestrian accommodations would be considered throughout the project.

The estimated project proposal is preliminary and subject to change.

Why is the proposed project needed?



- The purpose of the US 69 project is to provide a relief route to support safe and efficient south/north movement of people and goods between Colmesneil and Warren.
- What problems are we trying to address?
 - Provide a south-north evacuation route for the growing population of Southeast Texas
 - Improve safety by providing a relief route to reduce congestion on existing US 69
 - Address demand from freight traffic
 - Provide an alternate/secondary route from south of Warren to north of Colmesneil

SLIDE 8 | WHY IS THE PROPOSED PROJECT NEEDED?

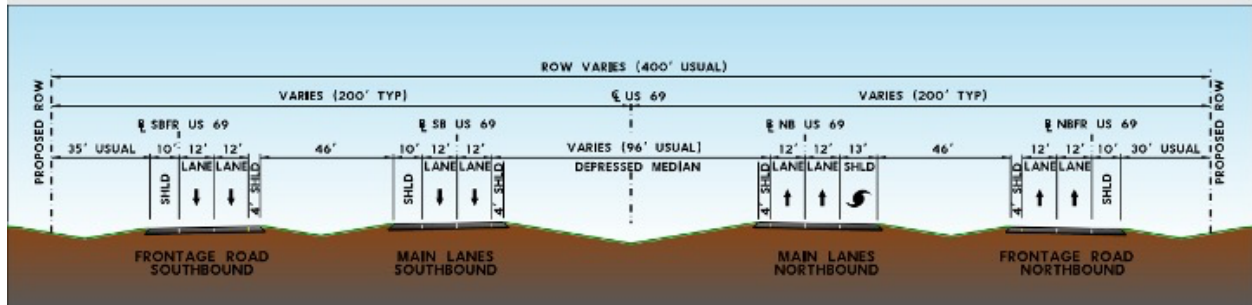
The purpose of the US 69 project is to provide a relief route to support safe and efficient south/north movement of people and goods between Colmesneil and Warren.

What problems is the proposed project aiming to address?

Provide an alternate South-North evacuation route for the growing population of Southeast Texas;

- To improve safety by providing a relief route to reduce congestion on existing US 69;
- Address increasing demand from development and freight traffic; and
- To provide an alternate or secondary route from south of Warren to north of Colmesneil.

Proposed typical section



Ultimate preliminary configuration of a four-lane divided roadway with two-lane frontage roads in each direction.

SLIDE 9 | PROPOSED TYPICAL SECTION

The approximate 25-mile proposed project would include a new location roadway.

The ultimate roadway would generally include two 12-foot travel lanes in each direction, a northbound 13-foot outside shoulder to be used as a hurricane evacuation lane, a southbound 10-foot outside shoulder, and two-lane frontage roads in each direction that would require approximately 400 feet of right-of-way (ROW) width. Bicycle and pedestrian accommodations would be considered throughout the project.

This typical section is preliminary and subject to change.

Environmental overview



- Environmental technical reports and an Environmental Assessment would be prepared for the proposed project to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- The environmental studies will identify and assess potential impacts to the natural and human environment including:
 - Air quality
 - Archeological resources
 - Non-Archeological historic properties
 - Community and social impacts
 - Biological resources
 - Hazardous materials
 - Indirect and cumulative effects
 - Traffic noise
 - Water resources
 - Induced growth
 - Protected lands

SLIDE 10 | ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW

The environmental technical reports and Environmental Assessment for this project would comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. In addition, 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 United States Code 327. This also includes the Memorandum of Understanding dated December 9, 2019, and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and TxDOT.

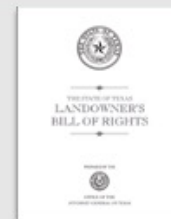
The environmental studies will identify and assess potential impacts by the proposed project to the natural and human environment including:

Air quality; archeological resources; non-archeological historic properties; community and social impacts; biological resources including threatened and endangered species and vegetation types; hazardous materials; indirect and cumulative effects; traffic noise; water resources; induced growth; and protected lands.

Right-of-Way (ROW) acquisition information



- Additional right of way (ROW) is anticipated but has not been determined at this time.
- The proposed project could potentially displace residences.
- ROW acquisition and relocation would be conducted in accordance with the Federal Uniform Relocation and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970.



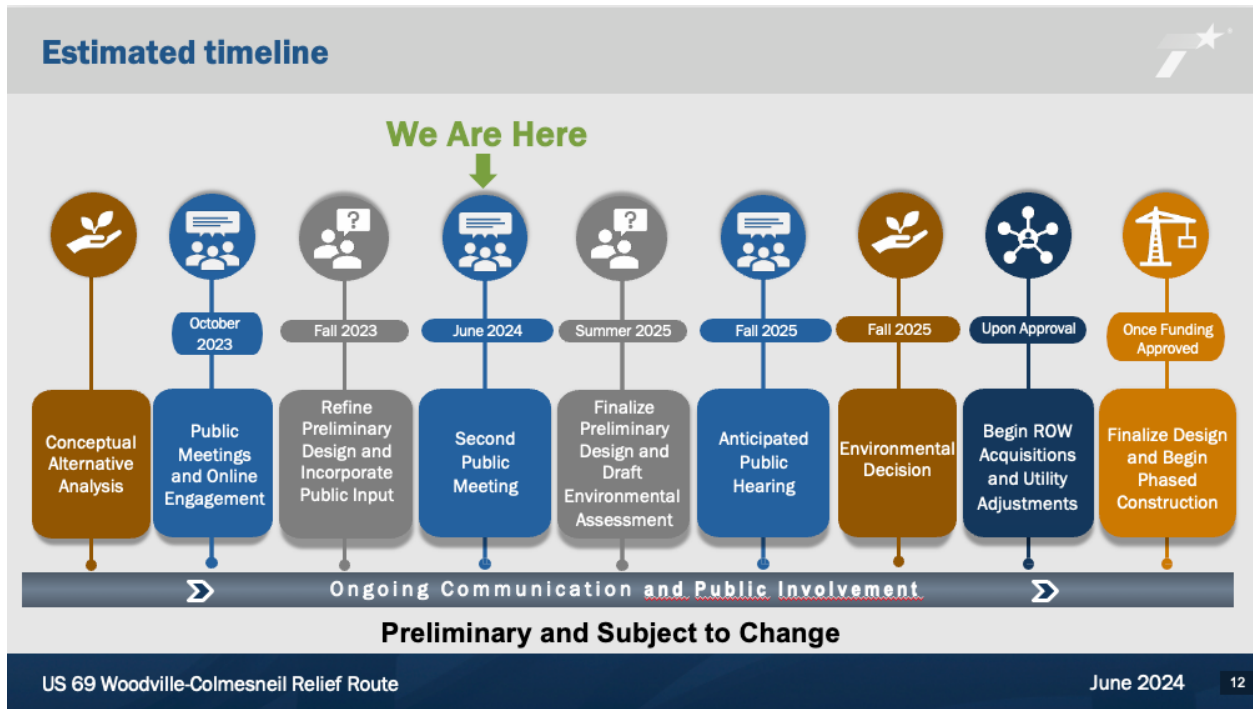
Please visit www.txdot.gov for more information about the Uniform Act and TxDOT Relocation Assistance Program information

SLIDE 11 | RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW) ACQUISITION INFORMATION

Let's talk about the right-of-way acquisition process.

The alternatives presented today anticipate additional right-of-way and would potentially displace residential homes and businesses. ROW acquisition and relocation would be conducted in accordance with the Federal Uniform Relocation and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970

We invite you to review more information about the TxDOT Relocation Assistance Program concerning services and benefits for displaced persons and businesses if needed on the TxDOT website on www.txdot.gov.



SLIDE 12 | ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Now we want to highlight the estimated project timeline. This timeline is preliminary and subject to change.

Look for the green “We are here” arrow, which indicates where we are in the project process. Four alternatives were originally developed and presented to the public in October 2023. Based on public input received during those meetings, alternatives B and C were removed, and alternatives A and D were modified for further study and public review during this second round of public meetings.

The project is in the preliminary design phase. Following this public meeting, TxDOT will incorporate your comments into the design, choose an alternative and begin the environmental assessment. An anticipated public hearing will occur in the Fall of 2025 and the environmental reports will be finalized. After environmental clearance is issued, ROW acquisitions and utility relocations will begin upon approval. This process is anticipated to take several years and is expected to be complete prior to construction.

At this time, construction is not anticipated to begin until 2030; however, the schedule is preliminary and subject to change based on funding availability. As timelines develop and change, the public will be kept informed.

We’ll feature information about how to stay informed in just a few minutes.

How to submit comments



Submit your comments via one of the following ways:



| Comment Form | Email | Mail |
|--|--|---|
| Fill out a comment form and drop it in the comment box, email or mail it back. You can also access this form online at www.TxDOT.gov , keyword search "US 69 Woodville-Colmesneil Relief Route" | bmtprojects@txdot.gov | TxDOT Beaumont District Re: US 69 Woodville-Colmesneil Relief Route 8350 Eastex Freeway Beaumont, TX 77708 |

Comments must be received by Monday, July 8, 2024.

SLIDE 13 | HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS

This slide provides details on how to submit comments.

1. Fill out a comment form. This can be done with the paper comment form, which could be left in the comment box at the in-person public meeting, mailed or emailed.
2. You can email comments to bmtprojects@TxDOT.gov
3. You can mail comments to the District office at 8350 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont, TX 77708

You may also submit comments using the online engagement site. Details regarding the online engagement site will be provided on the next slide.

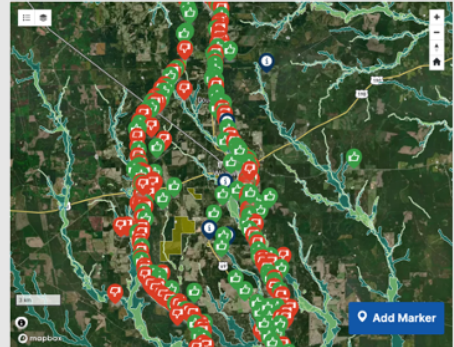
Remember to submit your comments by Monday, July 8, 2024. Comments and their responses will be included in the public meeting documentation that can be found on the project webpage once it has been prepared.

Visit our online engagement



Online Engagement Site:

- Visit our online engagement site, which is live until **Monday, July 8, 2024**.
 - Mark areas of interest on an interactive map and indicate if you like or dislike a proposed route
 - Learn more about the purpose and need
 - Review frequently asked questions
- Visit www.TxDOT.gov
 - In the upper right-hand search box, enter “US 69 Woodville-Colmesneil Relief Route”
 - From the project page, click the *Share Feedback* image



SLIDE 14 | VISIT OUR ONLINE ENGAGEMENT SITE

We encourage the public to visit our online engagement site, which is live until Monday, July 8, 2024.

On the site you have the options to do the following:

- Mark areas of interest on an interactive map
- Learn more about the purpose and need
- Review frequently asked questions

To access the online engagement site:

- First, visit www.txdot.gov.
- In the “Search TxDOT” box in the upper-right hand corner, click the magnifying glass and enter: US 69 Woodville-Colmesneil Relief Route.
- Then, click on the “Share Feedback” button on the bottom-right side of the page.

Quick contacts – engage TxDOT online



- Project webpage: www.TxDOT.gov, search “US 69 Woodville-Colmesneil Relief Route”
- Contact TxDOT Beaumont District with any questions at: **(409) 898-5732**
- Email bmtprojects@txdot.gov
- Follow us: X - Beaumont:
<https://x.com/TxDOTBeaumont>
- Like us: TxDOT Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/TxDOT/>

Scan the QR code to visit the project page:



SLIDE 15 | QUICK CONTACTS – ENGAGE TxDOT ONLINE

Please don't hesitate to contact the Beaumont District office with any questions.

You can contact the Beaumont District by calling (409) 898-5732 with any questions. And don't forget to click on these links and follow us for ongoing road closures and construction updates on the Beaumont District X, formerly known as Twitter, and Facebook pages.



Thank you for your participation!

**Please don't forget to submit your
comments by Monday, July 8, 2024.**

SLIDE 16 | CONCLUSION

Thank you for watching! Please don't forget to submit your comments by Monday, July 8, 2024. Thank you again and stay safe.

This concludes the presentation, and this virtual public meeting is adjourned.