



US 90

Public Meeting Script

SLIDE 1 – Welcome Slide

Welcome to the Texas Department of Transportation Beaumont District’s virtual public meeting for the US 90 at Union Pacific Railroad project in Dayton, TX.

The project is along US 90 at the Union Pacific Railroad or UPRR in Dayton, Liberty County, Texas.

We appreciate your interest and thank each of you for your participation.

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

SLIDE 2 – Safety Moment

Your safety is very important to TxDOT and we can all do our part. Help TxDOT end the streak on Texas roadways. 3,622 people lost their lives on Texas roadways in 2019. There’s been a death every day on Texas roads for 20 years straight—that’s over 70,000 people. And that’s a streak we want to break.

Here’s what you can do:

- Buckle up: Seat belts are your first line of defense
- Drive the speed limit, or slower, depending on road or weather conditions
- Never drive under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. Plan a sober ride home
- When driving, put your phone away or set to “Do Not Disturb”

SLIDE 3 – National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Prior to Dec.16, 2014, the Federal Highway Administration, otherwise known as FHWA, reviewed and approved documents prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act, known as NEPA. However, on Dec. 16, 2014, TxDOT assumed responsibility from FHWA for reviewing and approving certain assigned NEPA environmental documents. This memorandum of understanding was renewed on Dec. 9, 2019. This review and approval process applies to this proposed project.

The notice was published in English and Spanish in the Houston Chronicle and in English in The Vindicator and Bluebonnet News on or before Wednesday, March 16, 2022. The notice was also published in Spanish in La Prensa de Houston on Sunday, March 20, 2022 and in English in the Liberty Gazette on Tuesday, March 22, 2022. In addition, notices in English and Spanish were mailed to adjacent property owners throughout the project limits, elected and public officials, and previous public involvement participants.

Slide 4– Virtual Public Meeting Agenda



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On behalf of TxDOT and the project team, welcome and thank you for watching this virtual public meeting that is being shared with the public starting on Thursday, March 31, 2022. My name is Lena Camarillo, TxDOT Consultant for Public Involvement and I am presenting on behalf of the TxDOT Beaumont District.

We will be covering the following areas:

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

SLIDE 5 – Project Description

The proposed project would extend for approximately one mile along US 90 at UPRR in Dayton.

The project would take place within the existing right of way ranging from 128 to 131 feet wide on US 90.

In addition to the grade separation (overpass), the proposed project would include u-turns to provide access.

No additional right of way is anticipated.

SLIDE 6 – Project Alternative: US 90 Overpass at UPRR

The proposed roadway would consist of a grade separation (overpass) for US 90 over the UPRR tracks.

The proposed overpass would consist of a bridge structure approximately 1,100 feet long.

No additional ROW is anticipated. Existing access will be maintained.

The full schematics presenting this alternative in detail are posted online for review and will be available at the in-person event.

SLIDE 7 – Why is the Proposed Project Needed?

The purpose of the project is to enhance safety and improve mobility by eliminating the at-grade crossing of US 90 and the Union Pacific Railroad as the future volume of both vehicles and train traffic is expected to increase.

SLIDE 8 – Future No Build and Build Alternative Comparison

Train traffic leads to delays and backups, which in turn creates variable travel times and speeds throughout each day.



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The Future No Build Alternative video shows the traffic in queue if no improvements are made at the future US 90/UPRR intersection during a train event.

The Build Alternative video shows the traffic flow for both the No Build and Build alternative for the US 90/UPRR intersection during a train event.

The future volume of both vehicles and train traffic is expected to increase.

SLIDE 9 – Existing Roadway Design vs. the Proposed Roadway Design

Let's talk about the proposed design changes.

The existing US 90 facility consists of Four-12-foot travel lanes, an 18-foot two-way left-turn lane and a 10-foot shoulder along the westbound direction within a variable right-of-way ranging from 128 to 131 feet wide.

The proposed typical section illustrates how the roadway would look in the future once the project is complete. The facility would consist of a grade separation or overpass for US 90 over the UPRR tracks. The at-grade portion of the proposed US 90 facility would consist of two-12-foot eastbound lanes and two-12-foot westbound lanes with a 12-20-foot variable median for an overall roadway width of 80 feet, and a 10-foot shoulder along the westbound direction. The US 90 overpass would consist of four-12-foot travel lanes [two in each direction separated by a 2-foot traffic concrete barrier], with 10-foot shoulders on the outside and 4-foot shoulders on the inside, within a right of way ranging from 128- to 131 feet wide. The proposed project includes adding a bridge over the existing UPRR to meet the purpose of the project. In addition to the grade separation or overpass, the proposed project would also include adding U-turns to provide access as well as safety lighting. No additional right of way is anticipated.

The proposed drainage would be curb-and-gutter along the roadway improvements. To tie back in to the existing on the western end of the project where the project begins, the proposed drainage would be open ditch.

The proposed overpass would consist of a bridge structure approx. 1,100 feet long.

The proposed project is not an added capacity project.



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SLIDE 10 – Environmental Overview

The environmental documentation for this project including all technical reports and an open ended (d) categorical exclusion 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:

- Land Use
- Hazardous Material Sites
- Threatened and Endangered Species/Habitat
- Vegetation
- Cultural Resources
- Potential Waters of the U.S., including Wetlands and potential Section 404 Permitting Requirements
- Floodplains
- Soils
- Socio-Economic
- Air Quality (Attainment/Non-attainment status)
- Community Impacts
- Archeological Resources
- Non-Archeological Historic Properties
- Community Impact Assessment
- Traffic Noise
- Biological Resources

SLIDE 11 – Estimated Timeline*

We wanted to also highlight the estimated project timeline.

Look for the green “We are here” arrow, which indicates where we are in the project process right now.

Currently, we are hosting a virtual public meeting with in-person option to gather input on



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the proposed project. Upon approval of the environmental document, environmental clearance is anticipated in Summer 2023. Construction is then anticipated to start in 2024 upon approval. Construction communication will be provided on the Beaumont District Twitter site, and We will feature more information about how to stay informed in just a few minutes.

SLIDE 12 – How to Submit Your Comments

TxDOT is committed to continuing our efforts to gain public feedback about this project. We understand that this virtual public meeting format is a bit different, so let's take a few minutes and explain the comment process – the most important part of this video.

The Beaumont District is asking the public to provide their comments in the following ways: Email your comments to:

bmtprojects@txdot.gov

Mail your comments to:

Texas Department of Transportation
Lisa Collins, P.E., Project Manager
8350 Eastex Freeway
Beaumont, Texas 77708

Submit your comments online:

In the upper right-hand search box enter: US 90 UPRR

Then click "Email" in the "Contact Us" section at the bottom of the page.

Call (936) 367-9099 to leave a recorded voicemail in Spanish or English. The comment line opens on Thursday, March 31 at noon and closes on Friday, April 15 at 11:59 p.m. You may call (409) 898-5732 with any questions throughout the project development process.

If you would like your comments to be part of the official public meeting record, please be sure to submit your comments no later than Friday, April 15, 2022. The responses to your comments submitted during the comment period will be included in the online virtual public meeting summary report. This report will be posted to the TxDOT website as soon as it becomes available.

We appreciate your understanding with this comment process.



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SLIDE 13 – Stay Informed: www.txdot.gov

We encourage the public to stay informed about the project in the following ways:

First, sign up to receive email updates. Visit www.txdot.gov and in the upper-right hand corner, enter: US 90 UPRR in the search box. Click on the project page, and then click on the upper-right hand button called: Subscribe to Updates. When there is a project update, an email will be sent to you.

We also invite you to view the various project materials on the TxDOT website. For example, the schematic allowing you to see the design in detail is available online now.

SLIDE 14 – Quick Contacts – Engage TxDOT Online

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

You can contact the Beaumont District by calling (409) 898-5732 or email bmtprojects@txdot.gov

And don't forget to follow us on Twitter at TxDOT Beaumont for ongoing road closures and construction updates on the Beaumont District Twitter page. You can also keep up with TxDOT news on our TxDOT Facebook page.

SLIDE 15 – Thank You

Thank you for watching! Be sure to submit your comments by Friday, April 15, 2022. Thank you again and please, stay safe.

This concludes the presentation. The virtual public meeting is adjourned.