



April 23, 2026

US 96

Virtual Public Hearing with In-Person Option

Jasper and Sabine Counties, Texas

Limits: Recreational Road (RE) 255 to Loop 149

Project Identifiers (CSJs: 0064-06-057, 0064-07-044, 0064-08-062)

If you need accommodations or language assistance to review materials or submit a comment, please contact the Beaumont District at 409-898-5732 or bmtprojects@txdot.gov. Services are provided at no cost.

Si necesita adaptaciones o asistencia en su idioma para revisar los materiales o enviar un comentario, comuníquese con el Distrito de Beaumont al 409-898-5732 o bmtprojects@txdot.gov. Los servicios se proporcionan sin costo.

HELP MAKE TEXAS SAFER FOR EVERYONE

DRIVE *like a* TEXAN™

Kind. Courteous. Safe.



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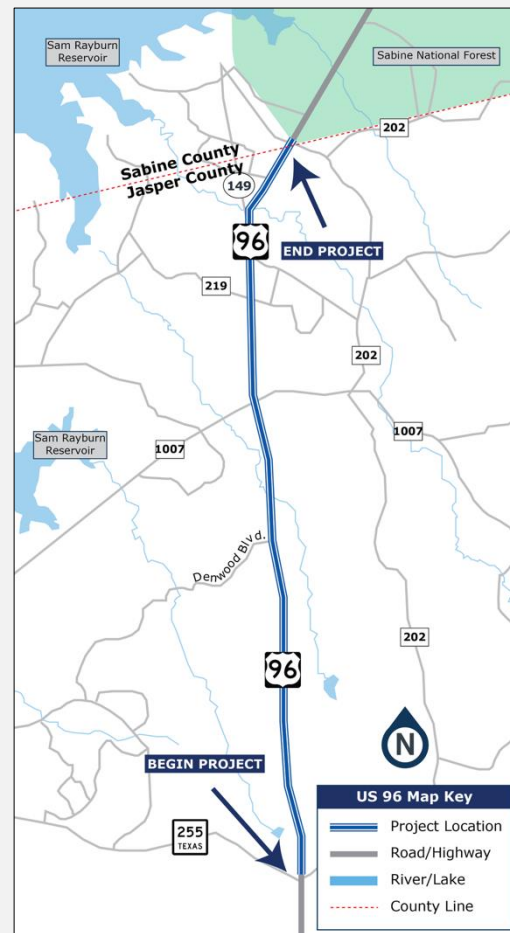
Project Location

Road: US 96

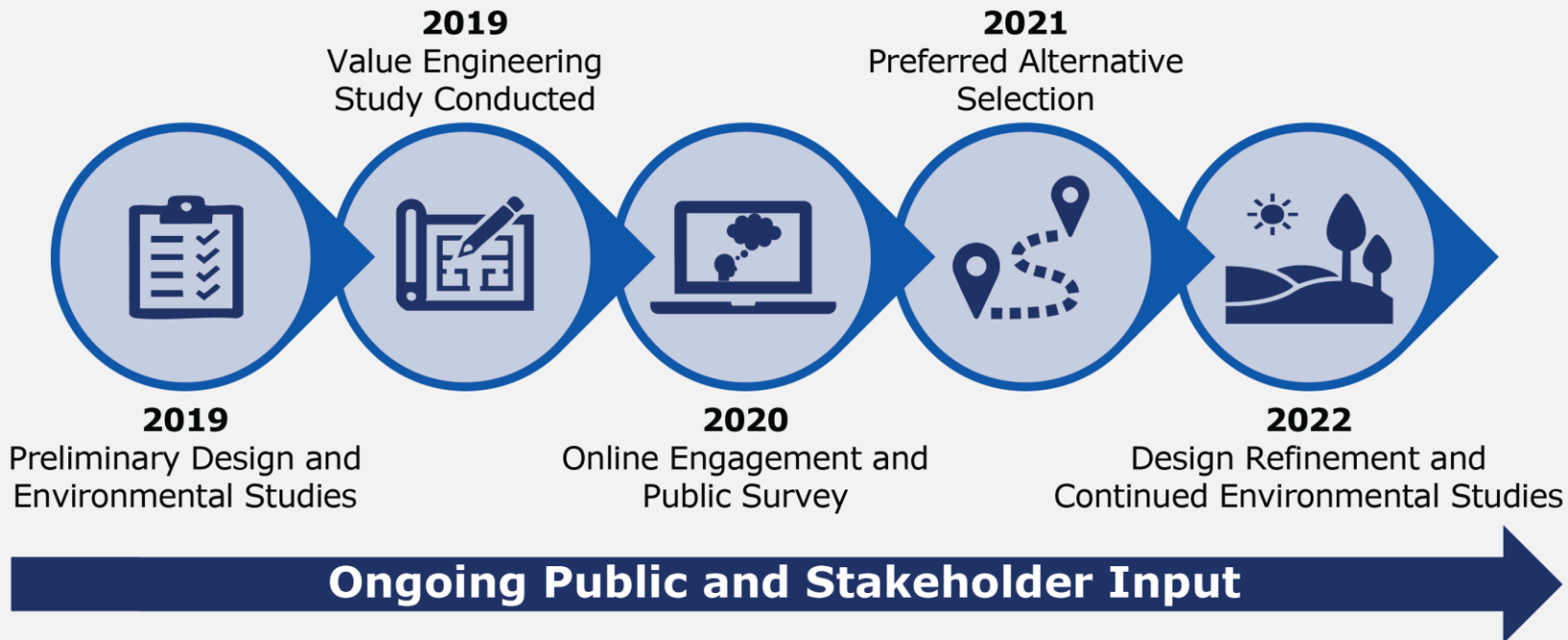
Limits: From Recreational Road (RE) 255 to Loop 149

Length: Approximately 7 miles

Location: Jasper and Sabine counties




Timeline



Previous Public Outreach


- MetroQuest Online Engagement Survey
 - Conducted October - December 2020
 - Respondents were asked to rank project priorities, rate alternatives, and add comments and/or markers to interactive map
 - 555 people responded and 981 markers were placed on the interactive map
 - Majority of comments referenced safety issues, traffic issues, and hurricane evacuation concerns with a smaller number of comments placed in the “environmental issue” and “other” categories




**PROPOSED US 96 PROJECT – TxDOT NEEDS YOUR INPUT
TAKE OUR US 96 ONLINE SURVEY!**

The TxDOT Beaumont District encourages the public to take a brief survey about proposed improvements to US 96 in Jasper and Sabine Counties. The survey is available through Friday, Dec. 11, 2020, at www.txdot.gov, and search “US 96.”

Survey participants will be able to give feedback on project priorities, view the proposed alternatives, and add their comments on a digital map. The TxDOT Beaumont District invites the public to share information about the survey with their community.





About Proposed US 96 Improvements:

Location: US 96 from Recreational Road (RE) 255 to Loop 149 in Jasper and Sabine Counties, Texas

Purpose: Improve a critical hurricane evacuation route, improve safety by accommodating projected traffic and freight growth, and improve access to and from the ports in Beaumont, Port Arthur and Orange.

Comments must be submitted on or before Friday, Dec. 11, 2020, to be part of the survey findings. Mail additional comments to: TxDOT Beaumont District, Attn: TxDOT Project Manager, 8350 Eastex Fwy, Beaumont, TX 77708, or email to bmtprojects@txdot.gov.

For more information about this project, visit www.txdot.gov, and search “US 96.” You can also contact the Beaumont District at (409) 898-5732, or email us at bmtprojects@txdot.gov about this project.

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.

What is the Purpose of the Public Hearing?

Project status and preferred alternative



Public comment and review of Draft Environmental Assessment



Present project design and environmental analysis



Develop record of public participation



Public Outreach and Notifications



March 24, 2026

www.TxDOT.gov
**Public Hearing
Notice**



March 24, 2026

**Elected Official
Letters**



April 3, 2026

Public Notices
Adjacent property
owners and
stakeholders



April 7, 2026

Postcards
Approximately
7,600 area
addresses



April 8-9, 2026

Local Publications
Jasper Newsboy
and Sabine County
Reporter

Project Purpose and Need

PURPOSE

- Reduce congestion by widening the roadway.
- Improve safety with a wider median, improved sight distance, and enhanced pedestrian features.
- Enhance regional north–south mobility in East Texas.
- Support hurricane evacuations with a northbound emergency shoulder lane.



NEED

- Accommodate future traffic and freight growth along this key corridor.
- Improve safety by addressing operational and geometric challenges.
- Improve regional access to and from Texas ports (Beaumont, Port Arthur, Orange) for passenger and freight travel.
- Enhance north–south mobility and capacity during hurricane evacuations.



Alternative Analysis

Data collected 2019-2020

Table Key:

Highest Rank / Least Anticipated Impact / Cost

Middle Rank / Moderate Anticipated Impact / Cost

Lowest Rank / Most Anticipated Impact / Cost

*Note: The No Build Alternative does not meet the Need and Purpose of the project but was carried forward as a baseline comparison for the Build Alternatives.

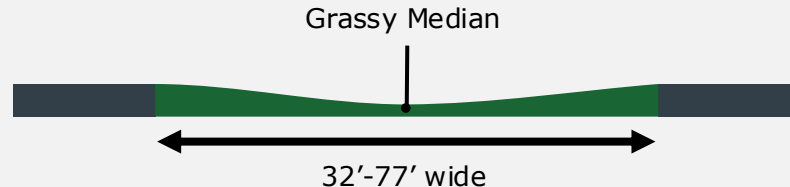
		No Build Alternative*	Alternative A (East)	Alternative B (West)	Alternative C (Both)
Engineering Constraints	Est. Proposed Right of Way Needed		65.78	71.00	61.60
	Pipeline Crossings		6 (Gas) 4 (Water)	6 (Gas) 4 (Water)	6 (Gas) 4 (Water)
Human Environment Impacts	Potential Displacements		8	10	8
	Estimated Parcels Impacted		100	100	100
	Driveways Impacted		45	43	45
	Parking Areas Impacted		5	5	6
	Communication Towers Impacted		1	0	0
	Potential HazMat Sites		0	3	1
Natural Environment Impacts	Floodplain Impacts		Zone X (56.3) Zone A (5.1)	Zone X (58.1) Zone A (4.7)	Zone X (56.3) Zone A (5.1)
	Waters of the US/Wetlands		Similar	Similar	Similar
	Stream Crossings		3 [220]	3 [220]	3 [220]
	Known Historic Sites		0	0	0
	Known Critical Habitat		0	0	0
	Public Preference (to date)		Middle	Lowest	Highest

Proposed Project Description



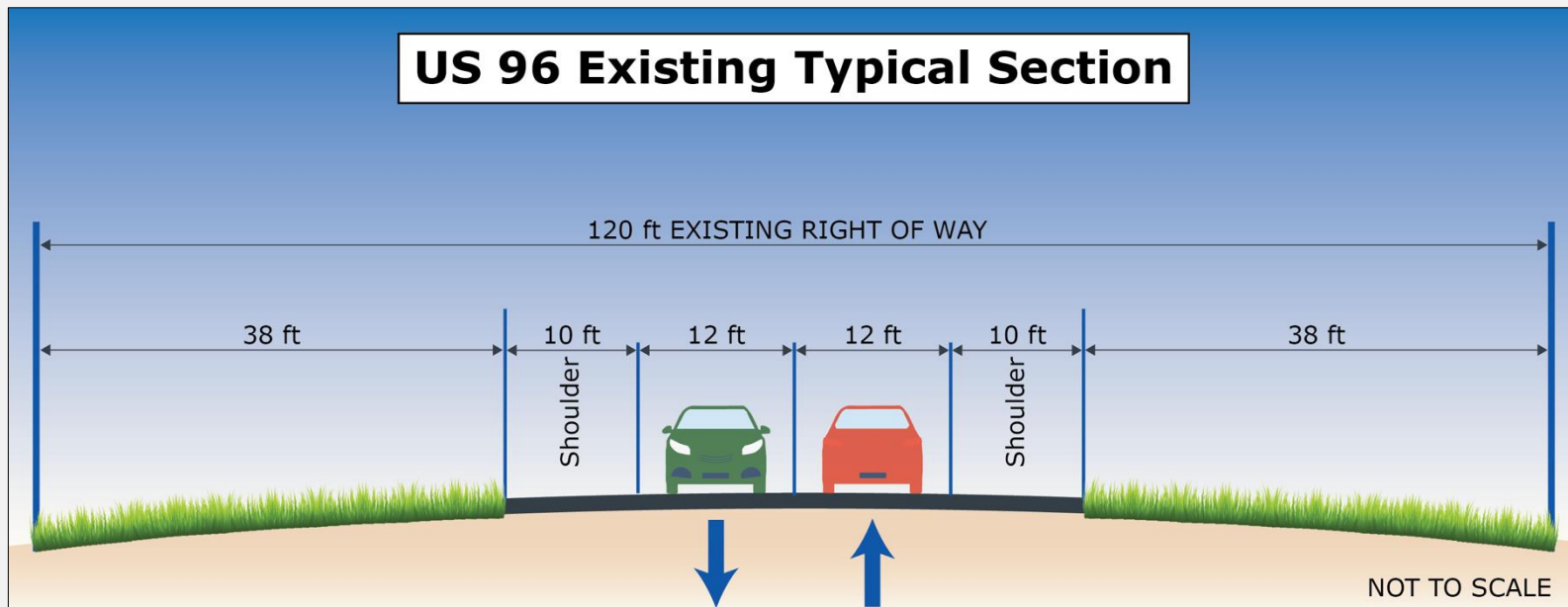
2+ additional lanes
(two lanes each direction)

Separate traffic with
a grassy median

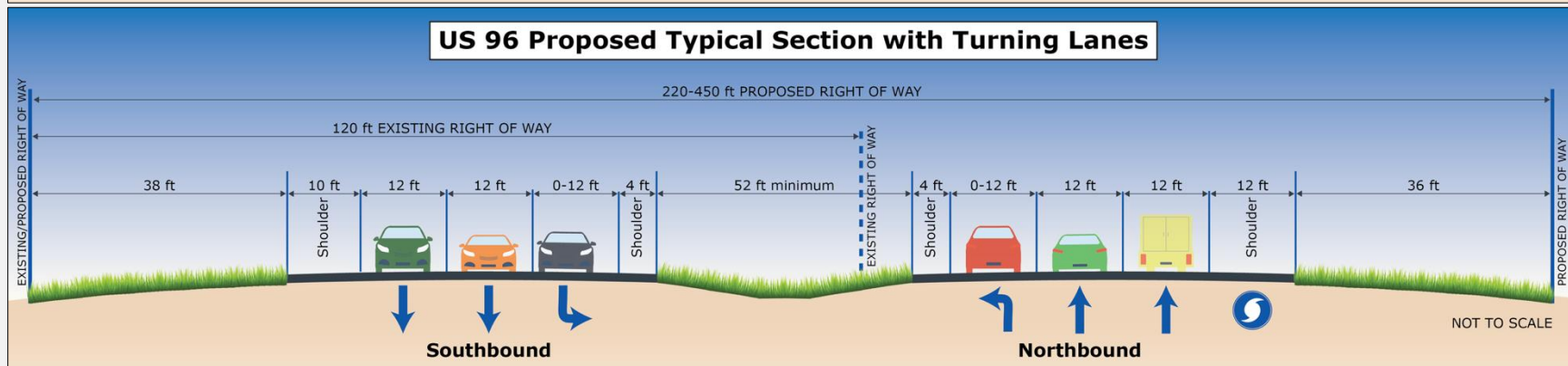
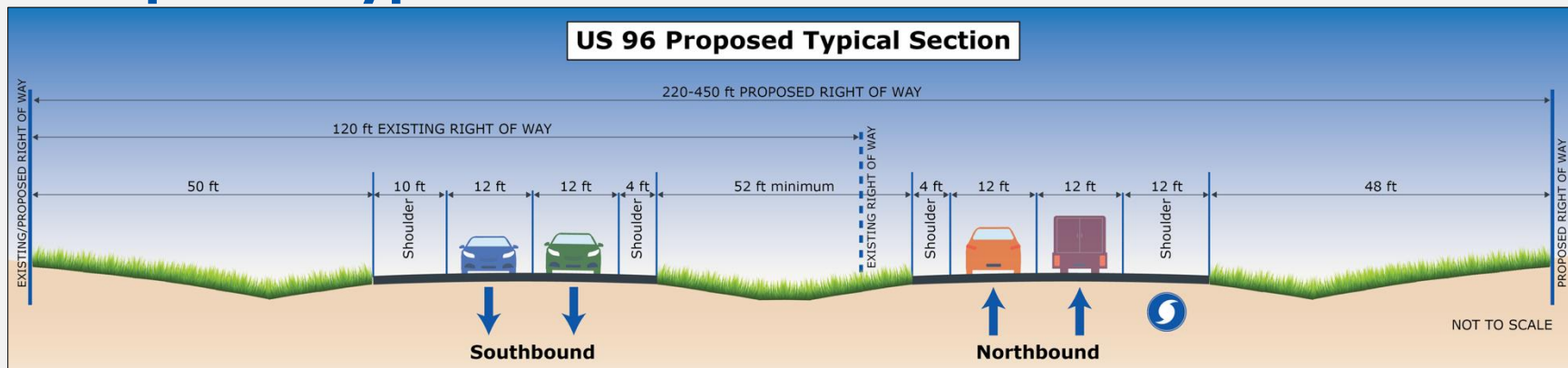


Sidewalk and pedestrian
facilities where necessary

Existing Typical Section



Proposed Typical Section



About the Environmental Study

TxDOT prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for US 96 in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The environmental process included:

- Identification of the purpose of and need for the project
- Engagement with the public
- Analyses of current project area conditions
- Evaluation of three alternatives and the No Build (do nothing) Alternative
- Evaluation of potential impacts to the human and natural environment
- Recommendation of a preferred alternative



NEPA Compliance

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 July 17, 2025, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

Environmental Study Findings



Air Quality and
Traffic Noise



Hazardous
Materials



Cultural
Resources
(Historic and
Archeology)



Biological
Resources



Threatened and
Endangered
Species



Water Resources



Social and
Community
Impacts

Draft Environmental Assessment Conclusion: Implementation of the proposed project would not result in a significant impact on the human or natural environment. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is recommended.

Environmental Studies – Community Impacts



Community Study Area:

- Adjacent to project area
- Community of Brookeland



Potential Displacements:

- Two Residential Structures
- Five Commercial Structures
- Three Storage Structures



Access and Travel Patterns:

- Potential minor travel time increase due to medians
- North of FM 1007, median breaks are spaced less than one mile apart

Environmental Studies – Community Cohesion



Improved community cohesion due to increased north-south mobility



Enhanced pedestrian access with the addition of sidewalks



Improved bicycle access south of County Road 209/219


Reduced bicycle access north of County Road 209/219

Environmental Studies – Cultural Resources Impacts

Section 106 Compliance: Required
Focus: Evaluation of historic and cultural impacts



Historic Resources Survey: Completed (No adverse effects)
Texas Historical Commission: Coordination finalized



Archeological Surveys: Pending (Awaiting Right of Entry)
Next Steps: Surveys to follow right-of-way acquisition
Final Clearance: Texas Historical Commission & Tribal coordination required before construction

Environmental Studies – Protected Lands

The project begins south of the Sabine National Forest and would therefore not impact/use properties protected under:

- Section 4(f) of the US DOT Act
 - protects parks, recreation areas and historic sites
- Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act
 - prohibits the conversion of property acquired or developed with land and water conservation funds to a non-recreational purpose
- Chapter 26 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code
 - protects the use of public land designated as park, recreation area, scientific area, wildlife refuge, or historic site



Environmental Studies – Natural Resources

Water Resource Impacts:



- Approximately 35 water resources were identified
- Additional delineations may be required when right of way is acquired or access is granted
- Impacts anticipated to be authorized under Nationwide Permits (NWP) with and without notification and potentially an Individual Standard Permit (ISP)

Threatened, Endangered, and Rare Species Impacts:

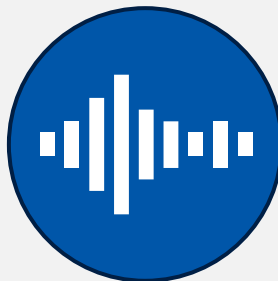
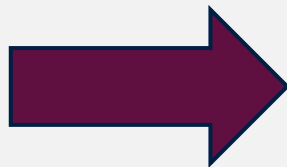


- Federally Proposed as Endangered
 - Tricolored Bat
 - Texas Heelsplitter Mussel
- Federally Proposed as Threatened
 - Monarch Butterfly
 - Louisiana Pigtoe Mussel
- State Listed as Threatened
 - Western Creek Chubsucker
 - Northern Scarlet Snake
- Species of Greatest Conservation Need
 - 42 species

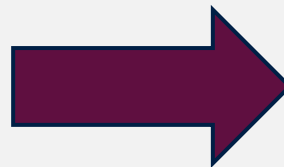
Environmental Studies – Noise Impacts



Traffic noise evaluated



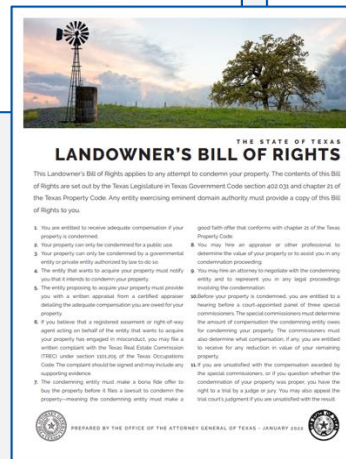
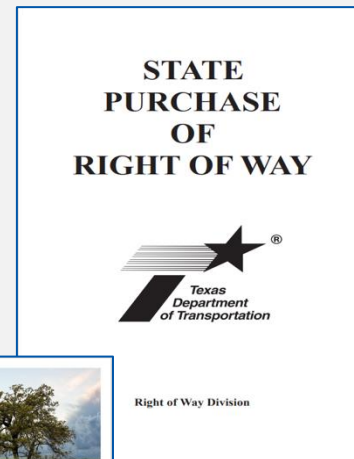
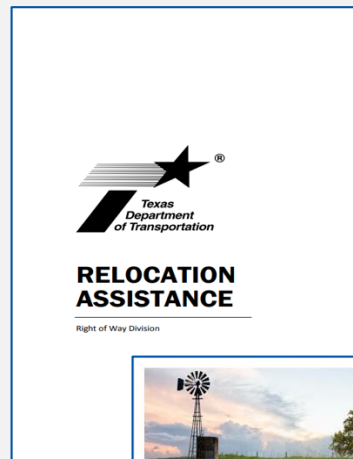
Noise-sensitive receptors
identified and analyzed



Traffic noise abatement not
reasonable or feasible

Information on Right-of-Way Acquisition

- Right-of-Way Acquisition will be conducted in accordance with the Federal Uniform Relocation and Real Property Acquisition Polices Act of 1970
 - Proposed Right of Way:
 - Approximately 125 acres
 - Temporary Construction Licenses:
 - Approximately 0.03 acre
- Additional resources:
 - State Purchase of Right of Way
 - Landowner's Bill of Rights
 - Relocation Assistance
 - Posted on project web page. Go to www.txdot.gov and search "landowner rights"



Next Steps and Timeline



This timeline is approximate and subject to change.

Advancement to final design and construction is contingent upon the results of the environmental process and funding availability.

We Want Your Input

Please submit your comments regarding this public hearing using any of the methods below.

Comments must be received or postmarked by **Friday, May 8, 2026**, to be included in the official public hearing documentation.



Comment Form

Leave a written comment at the in-person hearing



Email

bmtprojects@txdot.gov



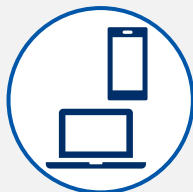
Voicemail

409-203-3314



Mail

TxDOT Beaumont District
ATTN: US 96
8350 Eastex Fwy
Beaumont, TX 77708



Online Form

Visit www.txdot.gov, search "US 96 from RE 255 to Loop 149" or scan the QR code here



Questions?

You may contact us at any time with questions by phone at 409-898-5805.



Thank you for participating!

