

FACT SHEET – Virtual Public Meeting – Nov. 10, 2020

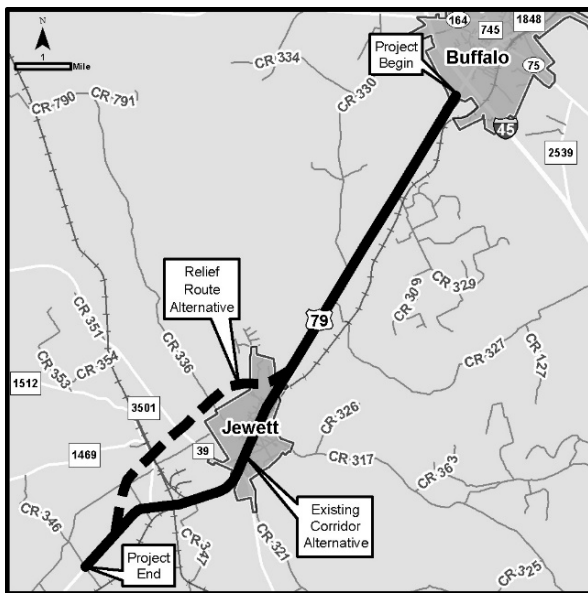
US 79 Alternatives

From West of IH 45 to West of FM 1512

Leon County - CSJ: 0205-04-047

Project Description

TxDOT is holding a virtual public meeting to receive input on proposed alternatives for US 79 from west of I-45 (Buffalo) to west of FM 1512 (near Jewett) in Leon County, Texas. Two alternatives are currently being evaluated, the Existing Corridor Alternative and the Relief Route Alternative. A Relief Route Concept was presented at the US 79 Public Meeting held on April 11, 2019. Based on public comments received, TxDOT added a US 79 Relief Route Alternative Study with a corresponding study area that extends around the north side of the City of Jewett. The virtual meeting will start on **Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2020 at 3 p.m.** To log onto the virtual public meeting, go to the following web address at the indicated date and time: www.txdot.gov, keyword search “US 79 Leon County”.



Project Issues

- Anticipated population growth
- High percentage of heavy truck traffic through Jewett
- Increasing crash rates over the last 5 years
- High pedestrian traffic through Jewett during Flea Market weekends
- At-grade (ground level) railroad crossing at Nucor
- Lack of bicycle/pedestrian accommodations

Project Funding

Construction cost for the proposed project will be covered by federal and state funds. The preliminary estimated cost for the Existing Corridor Alternative is approximately \$141 million. The preliminary estimated construction cost for the Relief Route Alternative is approximately \$162 million.

Existing Corridor Alternative Proposed Improvements

- Widen pavement through Jewett from three lanes to five lanes
- Add pedestrian and bicycle improvements through Jewett
- In rural areas, widen US 79 from a two-lane highway to a four-lane divided highway, two lanes in each direction, separated by a grassy median
- New overpasses at Nucor and FM 39
- Additional right of way would be approximately 220 acres
- Potential Displacements: eight residential, 10 commercial, one church, and one potentially historic structure

Relief Route Alternative Proposed Improvements

- Construct a four-lane divided highway Relief Route around Jewett and maintain access to downtown Jewett
- The typical section between north Jewett and Buffalo is the same as the Existing Corridor Alternative typical section
- Also adds pedestrian and bicycle improvements through Jewett
- Additional right of way would be approximately 440 acres
- Potential Displacements: 13 residential, seven commercial, one church, one potentially historic structure

Provide Comments

Submit a written comment form at the public meeting, by mail, or email by **Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2020.**

Mail or drop off comments to:
TxDOT Bryan District
Attn: US 79 Leon County
2591 N. Earl Rudder Freeway
Bryan, Texas 77803-5190

Email comments to: Juan.Quiroz@txdot.gov.

For more information visit www.txdot.gov and search “US 79 Leon County.”



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 Dec. 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

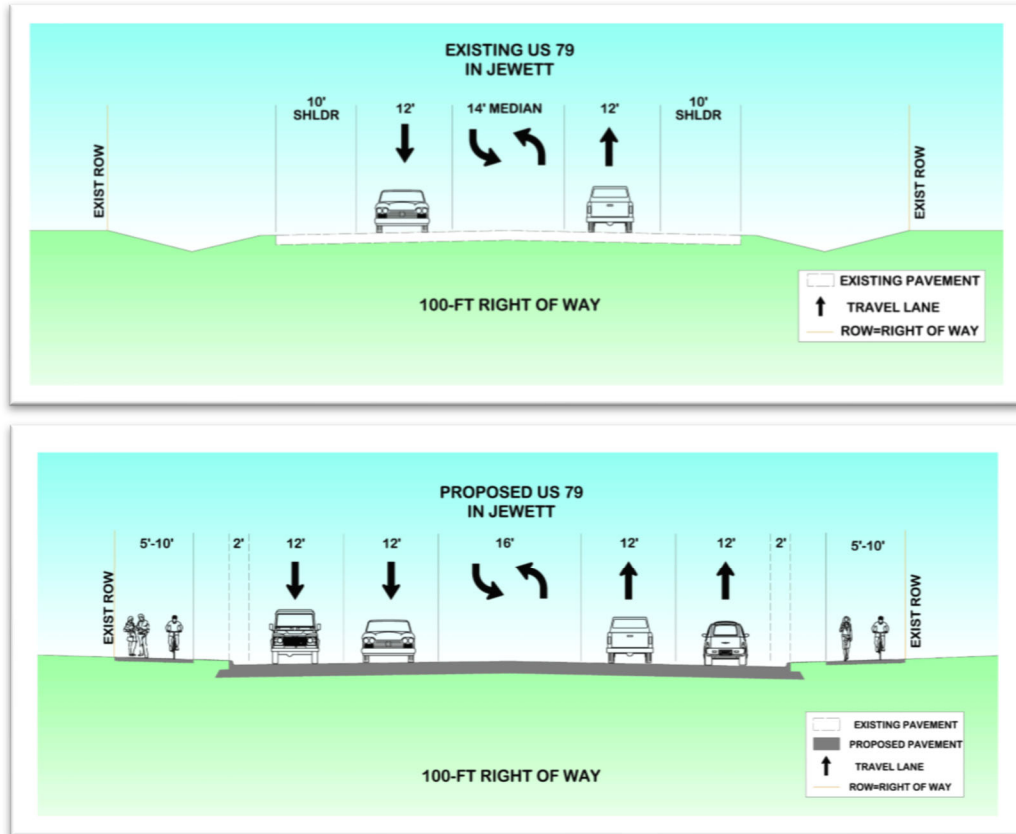
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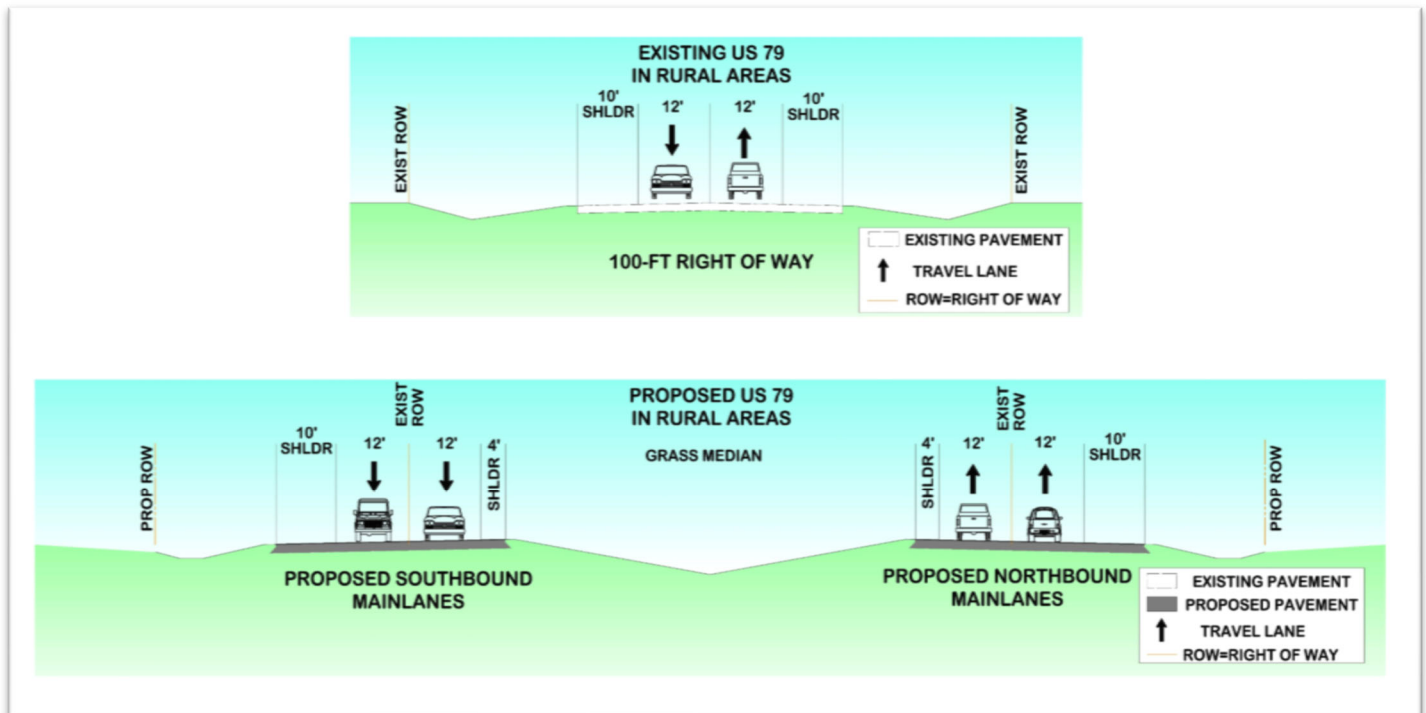
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Existing and Proposed Typical Sections – Existing Corridor Alternative (Within Jewett)



Existing and Proposed Typical Sections – Existing Corridor Alternative (Rural Areas)



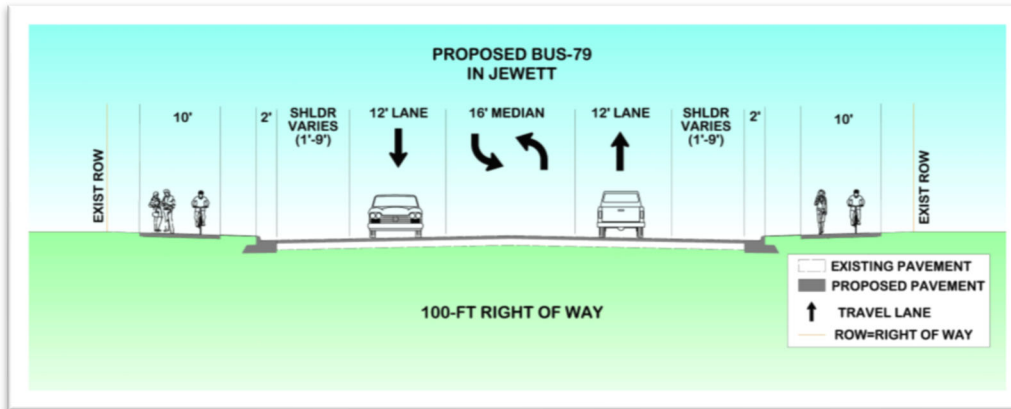
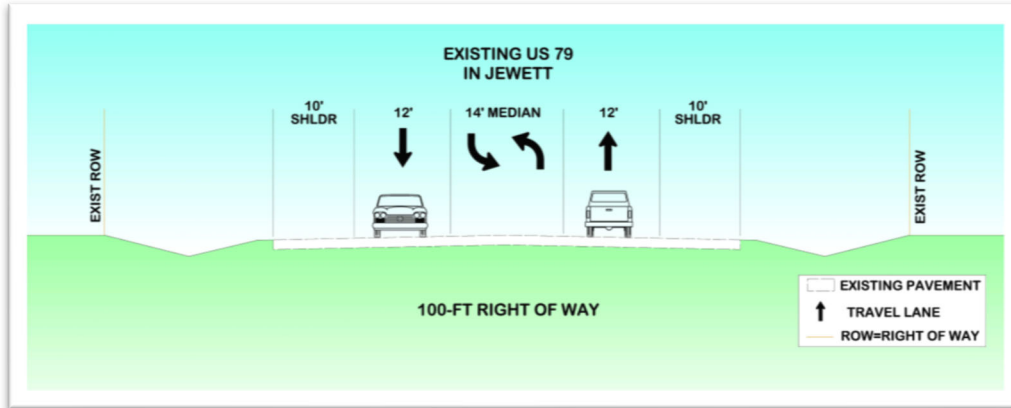
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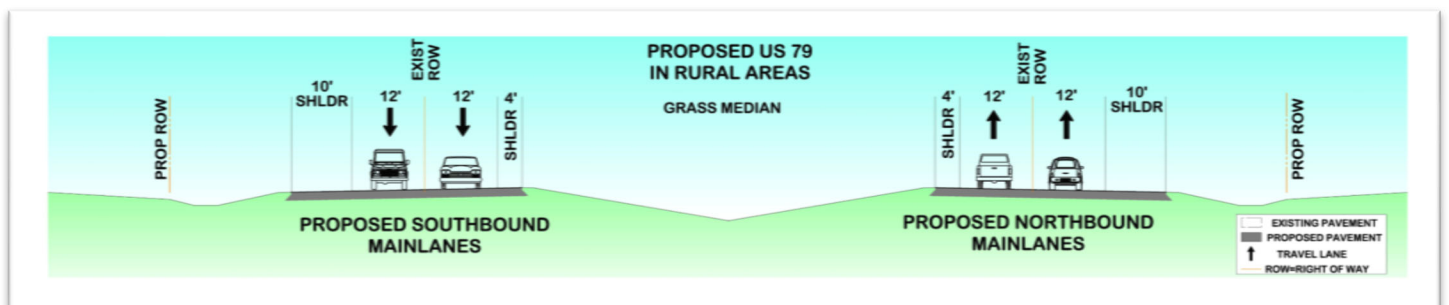
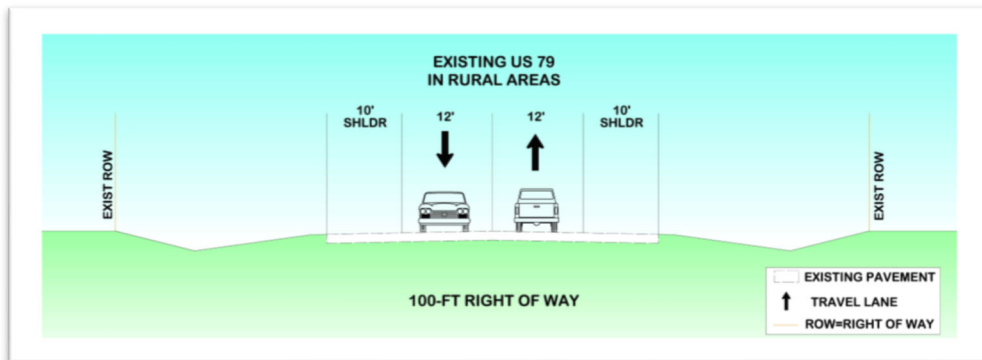
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Existing and Proposed Typical Sections – Relief Route Alternative (Within Jewett)



Existing and Proposed Typical Sections – Relief Route Alternative



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Alternatives Analysis

This table lists the various advantages and disadvantages of each alternative.

The Existing Corridor Alternative has the lowest cost, fewer displacements, and least environmental impacts. This alternative would still allow heavy truck traffic through Jewett, would have the slowest travel time, with limited right of way within Jewett may not accommodate long-term traffic growth, and would have more potential traffic conflicts in Jewett.

The Relief Route Alternative could route most truck traffic away from downtown Jewett, would have a faster travel time, with adequate right of way would accommodate long-term traffic growth and would also include urban improvements. This alternative would have more displacements, the highest cost, and more environmental impacts.

Alternative	Advantages	Disadvantages
Existing Corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Lowest cost▪ Fewer displacements▪ Least environmental impacts▪ Includes urban improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Heavy truck traffic through town▪ Slowest travel time▪ Limited right of way within Jewett may not accommodate long-term traffic growth▪ More potential traffic conflicts in Jewett
Relief Route	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Routes most truck traffic away from downtown Jewett▪ Faster travel time▪ Provides adequate right of way to accommodate long-term traffic growth▪ Includes urban improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ More displacements▪ Highest cost▪ More environmental impacts