

## **STATION 1: INTRODUCTION & WELCOME**

### **Introduction by Mayor Ivy Avalos:**

Hello and welcome to the virtual public meeting for the proposed Arterial 1 project, which is presented by the City of Socorro in collaboration with the Texas Department of Transportation. My name is Ivy Avalos and I am the Mayor of the City of Socorro. In 2013 and 2014, TxDOT conducted a planning and environmental linkages study, and a series of public meetings were held to gather public input on transportation needs in the vicinity of the City of Socorro. Based on the results of this study, the project team has developed three viable alternatives, including the No Build Alternative, to carry forward for further evaluation. The purpose of this public meeting is to present the viable alternatives to the public and solicit input. Take your time to look through the virtual exhibits and don't forget to send us your comments by phone, email, or mail. You can close this window by clicking the "x" in the upper right corner and you can enter the virtual meeting. Thank you!

### **Virtual Room Narration:**

Thank you, Mayor Avalos. My name is Kim Johnson, and I will guide you through the interactive virtual public meeting.

*Para español por favor presione "Clic en Español," en la estación uno.*

If you have questions about using this format, please call me and I will help you maneuver through the virtual meeting or give you options to access the materials. My number is (512) 567-9270.

This virtual public meeting has been designed to mirror a traditional public meeting, while giving you a chance to experience the meeting from the comfort and safety of your own home. You will have the opportunity to learn about the proposed project by viewing boards that provide project background, the purpose and need for the project, the timeline, a typical section, and several slides showing the viable alternatives and the alternative analysis process that has been conducted to date. In addition, we will provide information on who to contact for questions on the project and we will also show you how to leave a comment.

Let's begin with an orientation of this virtual room format. At the top left of the screen is a dropdown menu which provides an outline of the stations in the room. At the top right, there is a map of the room. If you do not see a rectangular layout, press the map icon. The numbered stations on this map align with the numbers on the dropdown menu. The blue station numbers highlighted on the map indicate which station you are currently viewing. At any time, you can use this map to move from station to station or orient yourself in the room.

At the bottom of the screen, you will see several icons. The first icon to the left, labeled as the letter "i" for "information" will explain how to navigate around the room and what the different buttons do. The next icon to the right, shown as a "www" will take you to the TxDOT project website which includes all the materials you will see in the virtual room. The middle icon shows you a map of the project area and where it is in the region. Next, there are plus and minus icons that can be used to zoom in and out, respectively. There is a comment icon in the right bottom corner of the screen. You can leave a comment in any station by clicking this button. Also, there is a pause and play button near the bottom of the screen which allows you to play and pause this narration. Finally, to move forward one station, click the arrow

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on the right-hand side of the screen. To move backward, click the arrow on the left-hand side of the screen. You can view all stations as many times as you'd like and replay any narration as many times as you'd like.

Now let's look at Station 1, beginning with the boards. The welcome board is on the far left; to zoom in on the board simply click the icon that looks like an eye. You can also click the icon on the right to download the board and view it as a PDF and then print or save it to your device. Downloading the boards should allow you to zoom in even more than the plus icon. You will see the same icons for all exhibits and handouts in the room. Once you are finished viewing the board, click the "X" in the top right-hand corner of the window to exit.

The board in the middle explains TxDOT's response to public health. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, TxDOT and the City of Socorro have changed the in-person public meeting to a virtual format.

The board on the right describes TxDOT's Memorandum of Understanding with FHWA in both English and Spanish. This agreement applies to this project.

Moving to the table – this is where you sign in for the meeting. We encourage all visitors to sign in. Please click on the "pen" icon under the "sign-in" label to provide your contact information so that we can keep you informed as the project progresses.

When you are finished viewing the materials at this station, either click the arrows on the right-hand side of the screen or select Station 2 from the map at the top right corner of the screen, to advance. At Station 2, you'll be able to view boards providing an overview of the project background.

### **STATION 2: PROJECT BACKGROUND**

Station 2 provides a general study area board and a board explaining the Planning and Environmental Linkages (or PEL) study that was conducted in the project area.

The first board on the left provides the Arterial 1 general study area shown as a red dashed line. This area was used to initiate the alternative analysis for the proposed project. The study area and project limits extend from Interstate Highway 10 (or I-10) to FM 258 (also known as Socorro Road).

The second board provides a summary of the TxDOT PEL study, which was conducted to develop conceptual solutions for connecting I-10 to Loop 375 and to address future traffic demands in the area. The study established that the project is needed to address congestion and lack of connecting roadways throughout the region. Three series of public meetings were held between 2013 and 2014 to present the PEL alternatives to the public. The Arterial 1 PEL conceptual alternative was carried forward to the currently proposed project and helped determine the study area.

When you're finished viewing the boards, please advance to Station 3.

### **STATION 3: PROJECT OVERVIEW**

Station 3 provides a project overview, including the project's purpose and need, project timeline, and a proposed typical section.

The first board on the left provides the purpose and need for the project. The project is needed to accommodate increased traffic volumes due to increasing populations and development, and to address

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congestion and a lack of connectivity in the region. The purpose of the project is to provide improved mobility and connectivity in the region by providing an east/west connection.

The second board from the left provides the project timeline. Please note this schedule is subject to change. We are currently at the first public meeting for the project. Public input received will help shape the project design and assist in selecting a technically preferred alternative. As the project design progresses, environmental analyses will be conducted. A public hearing or opportunity for a public hearing is anticipated to be held in 2023 to present the final project design and environmental findings. The approval date for the final schematic and environmental document is dependent on project funding as funding for the proposed project has not yet been identified.

The third board from the left provides the proposed typical section. Please note this design is subject to change. The proposed Arterial 1 roadway would consist of two 11-foot-wide travel lanes in each direction with a 16-foot-wide median. Approximate 5-foot-wide bike lanes, 6-foot-wide parkways, and 6-foot-wide sidewalks would also be constructed along both sides of the roadway. The travel lanes and the bike lanes would be separated by a 3-foot buffer. The right-of-way width would be approximately 110 feet.

Please advance to Station 4 when you are finished viewing this exhibit.

### **STATION 4: ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS**

Welcome to Station 4, which provides the viable alternatives and a summary of the alternative analyses to date. A high-level analysis of five conceptual alternatives resulted in the selection of the three viable alternatives shown. The conceptual alternatives included the alternative recommended by TxDOT's PEL Study mentioned in Station 2.

There are three boards in this station. The first board on the left shows the three proposed viable alternatives in more detail. Please click on each board for a separate narration describing what is shown.

This board provides the viable alternatives.

To see each alternative in greater detail, click on the "click here" icon next to each alternative and each environmental constraint map will open and show more detail. We would like your input. After viewing the alternatives, please let us know if you have a preferred alternative and why, by clicking on the comment button at the bottom right.

You can zoom in and out by using the "+" or "-" signs at the bottom of the screen, or by pinching the screen in or out if you have a touch screen for a closer view of each alternative. You can also move to different areas of the map by clicking and dragging your mouse left or right. The legend is on the right side of the map and it identifies the shading and symbols used on the map. Again, if you have comments on any of the alternatives, you can use the comment link below. In addition, it is important to note that the No Build Alternative has been carried forward for analysis of the existing condition. To continue to the next board, please click the "x" at the top right corner of this window.

This board provides a list of the engineering and environmental constraints that have been considered at each level of the alternative analysis. This list was used to analyze conceptual alternatives to narrow down the alternatives to the three viable alternatives shown in the first board. Note that "Parcel impacts" refers to the number of individual commercial or residential parcels impacted and "ROW impacts" refers to the

total acreage of impacts to all of the parcels. Also, “structure impacts” are counted if a building appears to be impacted by the proposed ROW line.

This board provides the viable alternative evaluation matrix. The information in this matrix is based on the engineering and environmental constraints listed on the second board in this station. These constraints were calculated quantitatively and qualitatively using engineering data and the constraints maps, and then ranked according to the level of impact. Please note that additional constraints were measured but were left out of the matrix if there was no difference between the impacts shown under each viable alternative.

After you have had a chance to review the alternative analysis station, please move to the final station.

### **STATION 5: COMMENT STATION**

This is the final station of the virtual public meeting. The board on the left provides contact information for the Socorro City Manager, the City’s consultant Project Engineer, and the TxDOT Project Manager. Please contact this group if you have questions about the proposed project. The board on the right provides instructions for submitting comments on the project and viable alternatives.

Your input is important to us. If you have comments regarding any of the documents, exhibits, or content you’ve seen today, please submit them using one of the methods listed on the board. For your comment to be included in the official record, it must be submitted on or before October 11, 2021.

Looking at the table, you can click on the pen button on the left to leave an electronic comment or click on the down arrow to download the comment card. You can send this card in via mail or scan and send via email using the information shown on the board on the right. Please download or zoom in to the board for a better view of the information.

The item on the right side of the table is a packet of all meeting materials. Click the down arrow button to download the files to save on your computer.

If you haven’t signed in, please add your contact information to the sign-in sheet at Station 1 to receive updates as they are made available. To view any of the meeting materials you saw here today, simply go to [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) and use the keyword search function at the top right of the webpage. In this box enter the keywords “Arterial 1”.

We thank you for taking the time to participate in this virtual public meeting. Please stay safe and take care.