

El Paso Annual Bicycle Public Hearing

SCRIPT - English

Welcome to the Texas Department of Transportation (or TxDOT) El Paso District's Annual Bicycle Public Hearing. I'm the District Engineer Tomas Trevino.

Thank you for your interest, we appreciate your time.

This guided virtual experience includes details on District transportation projects, programs, and policies affecting bicycle use on the state highway system. It also provides you the opportunity to give us feedback – virtually, written, or recorded.

Marty Boyd, Director of Advanced Transportation Planning for our District will be serving as the public hearing officer.

Thank you, Tomas.

In accordance with Title 43 of the Texas Administrative Code, §25.55, the TxDOT El Paso District is partnering with the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization to offer this public hearing.

Thank you for your interest in TxDOT and the El Paso MPO's bicycle projects. We encourage you to leave comments and appreciate your feedback on these projects and the region's bicycle program. We value your time.

I will turn this video over to Mr. Eduardo Calvo, Executive Director of the El Paso MPO, for an introduction in Spanish.

Gracias Marty.

Bienvenido a la Audiencia Pública Anual de Bicicletas del Departamento de Transporte de Texas Distrito de El Paso. Mi nombre es Eduardo Calvo, Director Ejecutivo de la Organización de Planeación Metropolitana (MPO) de El Paso.

En acuerdo con el Título 43 del Código Administrativo de Texas, §25.55, TxDOT Distrito de El Paso en colaboración con la Organización de Planeación Metropolitana de El Paso (o MPO) para ofrecer una audiencia pública sobre los proyectos, programas y políticas de transporte del distrito que afectan el uso de bicicletas en el sistema estatal de carreteras.

El propósito de la audiencia es proporcionar información sobre proyectos de transporte que podrían afectar el uso de bicicletas, planes, políticas y programas para TxDOT Distrito de El Paso y el MPO de El Paso y recibir comentarios del público.

Gracias por su interés en los proyectos de bicicletas de TxDOT y El Paso MPO. Agradecemos sus comentarios sobre estos proyectos y el programa de bicicletas de la región.

STATION 1: WELCOME and NAVIGATION

Jennifer/Lauren:

Thank you for the introduction Eduardo and Marty. I am Jennifer Wright, the El Paso District's Public Affairs Officer.

Before we get to the details of the hearing, I will provide instructions to help you find your way through the virtual public hearing room. This is Station 1, the Sign-in Station. First and foremost, if you are uncomfortable with this format or if you have any trouble using this room, please hit the HELP button below. There is a phone number you can call to get assistance with accessing the room and materials.

As you enter the room you will see a table straight in front of you. To the left of the table is a welcome board, and to the right is a board that explains a bit about how TxDOT is operating during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Under each board are two icons. If you click the icon on the left that looks like an eye, it will zoom in to that item so that you can see it better. This will work for any board, handout, or exhibit in the room. Once you are finished reviewing that item, just click the "X" in the upper right hand corner of the window to close it. The next icon to the right is a down arrow. If you click this icon you can download this item to your personal computer or device. Again, this applies to any exhibit or form in the room. Once you download the item, you can print or save it.

Now let's look at the table. As mentioned before, this is Station 1 – the Sign-in Station. The piece of paper on the table is an electronic sign-in sheet. Please click on the pen icon to open the sign in sheet. We encourage all participants to please sign in.

Moving to the very top right corner of your screen you should see a location map of the room. If you don't see a rectangular map, click on the top right map icon. The blue dot indicates which station you are in. You can click on the station number at any of the stations to jump to that station. This will follow you as you move around the room. On the very top left corner of the screen is a "Welcome" window with an arrow pointing down. Click the arrow to provide the different station numbers and what they include.

Next, look at the very bottom of the screen. There are five icons that will help you navigate the room and get more information. The far left icon is the letter "i" – this will give similar instructions on how to navigate the room. The next icon is a "+" symbol that enables you to

zoom in on the station and the final icon is a “-” symbol that enables you to zoom out. Finally, right above this row of icons is a “play” and/or “pause” icon that will enable you to play or pause each station’s talking points. You can pause and play as many times as you like, and you can revisit any station as many times as you like. To go to the next station or revisit the last station, click on the arrow icons to the right and left edges of the screen.

As mentioned earlier, we have also included a HELP button you can click any time. We have also included a COMMENT button in the bottom right of each station. Click on this button to leave a comment at any time during the hearing.

Now let’s get started! There are nine stations in the room. This is Station 1. If you think of the room like a clock, the stations are oriented clockwise and Station 1 is at 6 o’clock.

To go to the next station, look for the flashing blue arrow, click the arrow on the right side of the screen, or go up to the map in the upper right-hand corner of the screen and click the next station number. Or, you can use the room map to navigate to any station.

Please click on Station 2, which provides an overview of all the projects included in this hearing

Board 2:

Given the unique circumstance of the COVID-19 outbreak, along with our commitment to protecting public health during this national emergency, TxDOT and the MPO are conducting this virtual public hearing to avoid in-person contact and large gatherings. At this time, the online format will be in lieu of an in-person public hearing. The virtual hearing will cover the same information that would have shared at an in-person public hearing.

STATION 2: HEARING OVERVIEW

Jennifer/Lauren:

Welcome to Station 2. This station contains two boards.

The board on the left contains a summary of what bike hearings are and why we do them. The board on your right contains a map showing all the projects included in this hearing. Click on either board to hear more details.

As I mentioned earlier, please feel free to use the room layout map in the upper right-hand corner to go directly to the focus you may be most interested in. Or you are welcome to go through the boards station-by-station. You can click between stations in any order using the room layout map.

The next station will cover projects located in West El Paso.

Board 1:

The Texas Legislature has instituted a requirement that TxDOT must hold a public hearing for projects that add new bike lanes. TxDOT may either conduct public hearings on a project-by-project basis or may choose to conduct a public hearing under 43 TAC 25.55 and cover all upcoming projects that are adding bike lanes in a single hearing.

Due to the large number of ongoing and upcoming projects in the region that include bicycle elements, the TxDOT El Paso District and the El Paso MPO have determined that holding an Annual Bicycle Public Hearing will help with 1) meeting project needs and 2) helping consolidate information for the public to more easily access.

Board 2:

This board shows all of the projects included in this hearing. You can zoom in and out of the map to see each project in better detail. The projects are color-coded by focus area, and the following five stations provide detailed information about each project within these areas.

Station 3 includes projects within West El Paso County,
Station 4 covers Downtown El Paso,
Station 5 covers Northeast El Paso County,
Station 6 covers East El Paso,
and Station 7 covers East El Paso County

STATION 3: WEST EL PASO COUNTY

Welcome to Station 3. This station consists of a board and a television screen. The board on your left contains an overview map and a list of each project located within the West El Paso County Focus Area. You can click on the map to zoom in to see the map in more detail. The television screen on your right contains an interactive map of each project.

STATION 4: DOWNTOWN EL PASO

Welcome to Station 4. This station consists of a board and a television screen. The board on your left contains an overview map and a list of each project located within the Downtown El Paso Focus Area. You can click on the map to zoom in to see the map in more detail. The television screen on your right contains an interactive map of each project.

STATION 5: NORTHEAST EL PASO COUNTY

Welcome to Station 5. This station consists of a board and a television screen. The board on your left contains an overview map and a list of each project located within the Northeast El

Paso County Focus Area. You can click on the map to zoom in to see the map in more detail. The television screen on your right contains an interactive map of each project.

STATION 6: EAST EL PASO

Welcome to Station 6. This station consists of a board and a television screen. The board on your left contains an overview map and a list of each project located within the East El Paso Focus Area. You can click on the map to zoom in to see the map in more detail. The television screen on your right contains an interactive map of each project.

STATION 7: East El Paso County

Welcome to Station 7. This station consists of a board and a television screen. The board on your left contains an overview map and a list of each project located within the East El Paso County Focus Area. You can click on the map to zoom in to see the map in more detail. The television screen on your right contains an interactive map of each project.

STATION 8: STATEWIDE BICYCLE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Welcome to Station 8. This station contains a television screen, which includes a short presentation about TxDOT's statewide efforts to support bicycling from TxDOT's statewide bicycle and pedestrian program manager, Bonnie Sherman. Please click on the screen to watch this presentation.

STATION 9: NEXT STEPS AND COMMENTS – JENNIFER/LAUREN/ADRIANA

Welcome Station 9, which includes next steps and how to leave your comments. The station consists of two boards, a television and a table. The board on the left summarizes next steps in this public hearing process. The board on the right outlines how you can provide comments. On the table is a comment card and a link to download a pdf of the meeting materials. You can click on the pen to submit your comment electronically or you can hit the down arrow to download a comment card that can be submitted by email or mail. Click on the television for additional information on submitting comments from TxDOT El Paso District Bike Coordinator, Adriana Rodriguez.

Board 1:

As part of the environmental process, TxDOT and the project sponsors will review and consider all comments received at this hearing. A hearing summary, including responses to your comments, will be added to TxDOT's website in Spring 2021. Many of these projects are on different timelines. Some will be constructed soon, while others may not be complete

for a year or more. All projects require environmental clearance before they can be constructed.

Looking forward to future projects, TxDOT and the MPO will hold a Public Hearing or Opportunity for a Public Hearing once a year for similar transportation projects, programs, and policies affecting bicycle use in El Paso and surrounding communities. If you would like to get on the mailing list for future hearings, please click on the Television in this station for more details.

TxDOT is committed to the continuing effort to gain public feedback on these bicycle projects, and on the overall bicycle program.

We understand that the comment process is slightly different for this virtual public hearing, therefore we will take a moment to discuss how comments can be submitted.

As shown on the board on the right, comments can be submitted online by using the comment button at the bottom right of this virtual public meeting room. In addition, comments can be emailed to the project at elpasobikehearing@blantonassociates.com, or comment forms can be downloaded and mailed to the address shown on the board.

If you would like to leave a verbal comment regarding the proposed improvements, please call (915) 201-0811 and leave a voice message.

All comments must be received or postmarked by Wednesday January 20, 2021 to be included in the official public hearing record.

For additional information or to be added to the mailing list of individuals or organizations interested in bicycle use of the state system, please contact ME - Adriana Rodriguez, TxDOT El Paso District Bike Coordinator, at (915) 790-4221 or Adriana.Rodriguez@txdot.gov.

All individuals and groups who request to be added to the mailing list will receive notice of public hearing activities related to environmental and public involvement for state projects that might affect bicycle use.

Thank you again for attending the hearing and for your interest and input on TxDOT and the El Paso MPO's bicycle plans.