

**Public Meeting  
Center Street (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive)  
From East Bardin Road to Southeast Green Oaks Boulevard  
CSJs: 0902-90-228  
Tarrant County, Texas**

## **Presentation Script**

### **Slide One.**

Welcome to the Texas Department of Transportation's prerecorded virtual public involvement presentation. We appreciate your interest in the project and welcome each of you. Please note that you may pause this presentation at any point to allow more time to view the slides if you are joining us virtually. You may also pause the presentation and navigate forward or backward as needed.

In this presentation, we will cover the public involvement purpose, project overview, environmental, and right-of-way considerations for the proposed Center Street (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive) Extension project.

This presentation is followed by an explanation of how to provide comments for the proposed project.

### **Slide Two.**

My name is Ricardo Gonzalez, and I serve as the Director of Transportation, Planning, and Development for the Fort Worth District of the Texas Department of Transportation, better known as TXDOT. Your input on the proposed Center Street (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive) Extension project is valuable and will help benefit the community and shape the final project recommendations. After the project information is presented, we would appreciate your feedback.

### **Slide Three.**

November 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on roadways in Texas. That means for nearly 22 years, at least one person has died every single day. We all have a part to play to change that. This message is that reminder – to End the Streak of deaths on Texas highways. We need drivers and passengers to act more responsibly and help us reach our goal of zero deaths by 2050. Texans can play a major role in ending fatal crashes with a few simple driving habits: wear seatbelts, drive the speed limit, put away the phone and other distractions, and never drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs. So please do your part and share this message with your friends and family. Thank you and please enjoy the rest of this presentation.

**Slide Four.**

The public materials and project information presented here can be accessed in a few different ways. You can view materials in person at the TxDOT – Fort Worth District office. In-person viewing will be by appointment only. To make an appointment, please call Abeer Rabie, Project Manager, at (817) 370-6640 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m, Monday through Friday.

**Slide Five.**

You can also view public materials and project information online, too.

You can view materials at TxDOT. gov by entering the project keyword “MLK Drive from Bardin to Green Oaks” in the search box.

You may also access the project webpage on the City of Arlington website. The link is listed in the slide for your convenience.

**Slide Six.**

Our agenda for the evening includes a few different topics.

First, I will explain the purpose of this public meeting and the steps we have taken to encourage public involvement in this project.

I will then layout the project overview and focus on environmental components and right-of-way concerns. I’ll end by talking about the anticipated schedule, and how to share your comments. You’ll see numbers to the right of each agenda item. These numbers refer to the slide number that will be displayed for that topic.

**Slide Seven.**

Some of you may have attended previous public meetings conducted by TxDOT, virtual or in-person. For the benefit of those of you who have never attended one, I would like to explain how TxDOT conducts a public meeting.

A public meeting has five essential purposes:

1. to present a project update to the public so those attending can determine the project’s potential to affect their lives and property
2. to inform the public of the details of a project’s design
3. to provide the public with documentation on how a proposed project is anticipated to affect the environment

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4. to offer the public an opportunity to provide input at a stage in the planning process when flexibility to respond to comments still exists and before location and design decisions are finalized
5. and to develop a record of public views and participation to accompany recommendations for subsequent decisions.

Following this meeting, TxDOT will proceed with the preparation of environmental documentation. Your comments will be addressed in this document and will be given full consideration in the preparation of the final recommendation and design for the project.

**Slide Eight.**

To promote the highest level of public involvement possible, TxDOT published public notices in several places, including:

- in the Star-Telegram on Sunday, July 9, 2023
- on the TxDOT website on Friday, July 7, 2023
- and on local municipal websites.

Individual notices were also mailed to affected property owners, elected and public officials, and other project stakeholders.

**Slide Nine.**

This project proposes to extend Center Street (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive) from East Bardin Road to Southeast Green Oaks Boulevard in the City of Arlington in Tarrant County.

**Slide Ten.**

This project would involve new road construction within a total project length of 1.18 miles, extending Center Street (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive) by just under one mile, and extending East Embercrest Drive by approximately one-tenth of a mile.

The entire project area would fall within the City of Arlington in Tarrant County.

**Slide Eleven.**

The changes that would be made to Center Street (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive) include the following specifics.

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There would also be a proposed 115-foot to 120-foot right-of-way with an additional 5 to 80 feet of easement in the stretch north of the point where East Embercrest Drive would connect to Center Street (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive).

A 55-foot to 70-foot right-of-way would be constructed south of the East Embercrest Drive connection point.

The proposed project would include two lanes in each direction with auxiliary lanes. Specifically, the project would include two northbound lanes and two southbound lanes separated by a raised median.

Roadway width in both directions would be 28 feet with a variable width for the central median from 6 to 18 feet.

The project proposes a 10-foot shared use path with a 5-and-a-half-foot separation between the roadway and the shared use path, which would be located on the east side of the road.

The west side of the road would contain a 5-foot sidewalk with a variable width separation between the roadway and the sidewalk.

The speed limit would be 40 miles per hour.

### **Slide Twelve.**

The project proposes changes to East Embercrest Drive as well.

East Embercrest Drive would connect to the proposed extension of Center Street (Martin Luther King Jr. Drive). This connection would extend the existing layout of one eastbound lane and one westbound lane, and would create a 60-foot right-of-way that would tie into existing pavement.

Pavement would measure 38-feet wide, with a 5-foot separation.

No additional rights-of-way are required, although there would be a temporary construction easement adjacent to the community park, Bob MacFarland Park.

The speed limit would be 35 miles per hour.

### **Slide Thirteen.**

To support the proposed project, environmental reviews have been conducted and will continue to take place. To ensure environmental compliance, TxDOT is coordinating with the Federal Highway Administration and the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

**Slide Fourteen.**

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 the Federal Highway Administration and TxDOT.

**Slide Fifteen.**

As part of the environmental planning process for this project, a report is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, also known as NEPA.

NEPA was signed into law on January 1, 1970, and requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions. The range of actions covered by NEPA is broad and includes: making decisions on permit applications, adopting federal land management actions, and constructing highways and other publicly owned facilities.

The report being prepared in accordance with NEPA is called a Categorical Exclusion, A Categorical Exclusion is a compliance mechanism for transportation projects that do not anticipate significant environmental effects. Such is the case with this project.

A Categorical Exclusion requires an environmental review and is used to document a project and its impacts.

The Categorical Exclusion report proposed for this project would be provided to the public as part of the environmental documentation available for your review, and would include the evaluation of a few different environmental components. These components include: rights-of-way and easements, community impacts, vegetation and wildlife impacts, cultural resources, hazardous materials, traffic noise, and air quality.

**Slide Sixteen.**

Rights-of-way proposed for this project would be organized and acquired by the City of Arlington.

The project would require approximately 8.56 acres of additional right-of-way, all of which are owned by the City of Arlington.

The project would also require approximately 4.43 acres of permanent easements.

**Slide Seventeen.**

When thinking about right-of-way impacts that a project could have on the community, it is important to note the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act of 1970. This Act is a law passed in 1970 that was designed to ensure that anyone who owns property needed for a public purpose would be treated fairly. Toward this end, the law establishes guidelines for the acquisition of property and the relocation of displaced individuals and businesses.

TxDOT clarifies this law further. It is the policy of the TxDOT that individuals impacted by transportation systems expansion shall not be denied benefits, excluded from participation, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination based on the grounds of race, color, sex, age, handicaps, or national origin.

**Slide Eighteen.**

There are a few specific aspects of TxDOT's policy that I want to highlight.

First, each impacted property owner is offered just compensation for the property needed for a project. To arrive at this value, independent appraisers are hired to prepare detailed appraisals and establish value.

Second, a written offer to the property owners is made based on the value determined in the appraisals. Property owners are given a minimum of 30 days to consider the offer.

For more information, I encourage you to check out TxDOT's Right-of-Way Brochures, which can be found on the TxDOT website. The webpage address is listed and linked on the slide for your convenience.

**Slide Nineteen.**

The anticipated schedule includes important project timeframes.

After this Public Meeting, environmental approval would be the next project milestone, which would be anticipated in late 2023.

Right-of-way acquisitions would be expected for Spring 2023, Project Letting would be anticipated by November 2023, and utility adjustments would be made by Summer 2023.

This means construction would begin in early 2024, and end later that year.

**Slide Twenty.**

We welcome public comments and questions about the proposed project. You may submit your input in a few different ways.

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You may email comments to the Project Manager, Abeer Rabie, at [abeer.rabie@txdot.gov](mailto:abeer.rabie@txdot.gov). You may also leave a comment up to three minutes by phone for the Project Manager at (817) 370-6640.

Or you may fill out a comment card in-person or mail it to: Texas Department of Transportation, Attention: Abeer Rabie, Project Manager, 2540 Edgecliff Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76133.

If you prefer to submit comments online, you may visit the project webpage at [TxDOT.gov](http://TxDOT.gov) keyword “MLK Drive from Bardin to Green Oaks.”

The public may call project staff at (817) 370-6640 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or email the Abeer Rabie, Project Manager, at any time in the project development stage.

All comments are welcome and must be received on or before Wednesday, August 9, 2023, to be included in the official meeting documentation.

**Slide Twenty-one.**

Thank you for your participation.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions at any time during the project development process.

This concludes the public meeting presentation.