



VIRTUAL/IN-PERSON PUBLIC MEETING SCRIPT
FM 730
State Highway (SH) 114 to SH 199
CSJs: 0312-04-036 & 0312-05-033
Tarrant and Wise Counties, Texas
October 24, 2023

MR. RICARDO GONZALEZ, P.E., TxDOT DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

SLIDE 1 – Title

Welcome to the Texas Department of Transportation’s prerecorded 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, and 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. This is followed by an explanation of how to provide comments for the proposed project and the adjournment.

SLIDE 2 – Welcome

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 improvements is valuable and will help benefit the community and shape the final project recommendations.

The virtual public materials and project information can be found at www.txdot.gov by typing the project keyword in the search box in the upper right-hand corner. After the project information is presented, we would appreciate your feedback.

SLIDE 3 – End the Streak TX

November 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on roadways in Texas. That means for over two decades, 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.

MR. RANDALL DILLARD, CONSULTANT TO TxDOT

SLIDE 4 – Virtual Public Meeting Displays

Hello, my name is Randall Dillard, and I am a consultant supporting the TxDOT Fort Worth District with public involvement services.

The information and materials presented in this virtual public meeting are the same as those presented at the in-person option on Tuesday, October 24. The virtual public meeting information and materials will be available for viewing until Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 11:59 p.m.

If you would like to view hard copy materials at the TxDOT Fort Worth District Office, please call Thomas Marquardt at (817) 370-6772 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, to make an appointment.

SLIDE 5 – Virtual Public Meeting Displays

Full versions of the virtual public meeting displays are available for download at www.txdot.gov, keyword search “FM 730.”

SLIDE 6 – Agenda

In this presentation, the following topics will be covered: Public Meeting Purpose, Project Overview, Project Goals and Objectives, Existing and Proposed Typical Sections, Environmental, Right of Way, the Anticipated Schedule and

the Public Comment Process.

SLIDE 7 – Public Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this public meeting is to:

- Present a project update to the public.
- Inform the public of the proposed project design.
- Provide the public with information about the environmental documentation process.
- Offer the public an opportunity to provide input.
- Develop a record of public engagement and collect formal statements.

SLIDE 8 – Project Overview

The project limits are along FM 730 from SH 114 to SH 199 in Wise and Tarrant counties. The project is approximately 13 miles long.

SLIDE 9 – Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives of the FM 730 from SH 114 to SH 199 project include:

- Enhancing safety
- Improving mobility
- Adding bicycle and pedestrian accommodations
- Improving regional connectivity

The improvements include reconstructing and widening the existing two-lane roadway to a four-lane roadway with a curbed center median.

SLIDE 10 – Proposed Improvements – Wise County

The proposed improvements in Wise County would include:

- Reconstructing and widening FM 730 between SH 114 and Briar Road from a two-lane undivided roadway to a four-lane divided roadway to accommodate an ultimate future six-lane divided roadway.
- Realigning FM 730 to the east between SH 114 and County Road 4676.

SLIDE 11 – Proposed Improvements – Tarrant County

The proposed improvements in Tarrant County include:

- Reconstructing and widening of FM 730 between Briar Road and Reno Road from a two-lane undivided to a six-lane divided roadway.
- Reconstructing and widening FM 730 between Reno Road and SH 199 from a four-lane roadway with continuous left-turn lane to a six-lane divided roadway.

SLIDE 12 – Existing Typical Section – Wise County

FM 730 between SH 114 and Briar Road is currently a two-lane highway with 12-foot-wide travel lanes and 10-foot shoulders. There are no sidewalk, bicycle or pedestrian accommodations.

This graphic shows the current configuration of the existing roadway and the 100 feet of existing right of way.

SLIDE 13 – Existing Typical Section – Tarrant County

FM 730 between East Reno Road to SH 199 is currently a four-lane highway with 12-foot-wide travel lanes and 12-foot shoulders. There are no sidewalk, bicycle or pedestrian accommodations.

This graphic shows the current configuration of the existing roadway and the 130 feet of existing right of way.

SLIDE 14 – Proposed Typical Section – Wise County

The proposed improvements to this roadway in Wise County include reconstructing and widening FM 730 to a four-lane divided roadway with 10-foot shared-use paths along each side to increase capacity and safety along the corridor. The ultimate design would allow for six-lanes, three lanes in each direction using the median for the additional two lanes in the future.

This typical section shows the proposed configuration of the roadway with the recommended improvements and the expansion of the right of way. The overall right of way width would be a minimum of 140 feet.

SLIDE 15 – Proposed Typical Section – Tarrant County

The proposed improvements to this roadway in Tarrant County include reconstructing and widening to a six-lane divided roadway with 10-foot shared-use paths along each side to increase capacity and enhance safety along the corridor.

This typical section shows the proposed configuration of the roadway with the recommended improvements and the expansion of the right of way. The overall right of way width would be a minimum of 140 feet.

SLIDE 16 – Environmental Process

The FM 730 project in Wise and Tarrant counties is anticipated to be federally funded. Due to the project receiving federal funds, TxDOT is required to assess the potential environmental effects of the proposed project.

The National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA process, provides analyses of the potential impacts to the natural and manmade environment and helps the decision maker to make an informed decision on whether or not to proceed with the project.

On December 9, 2019, TxDOT received a signed Memorandum of Understanding from the Federal Highway Administration that permits TxDOT to assume responsibility from the Federal Highway Administration for reviewing and approving certain NEPA projects. This review and approval process applies to this project.

SLIDE 17 – Constraints Map

The maps presented on the next two slides show a detailed view of the environmental constraints along the FM 730 project area. A full version of this map is available for download at www.txdot.gov, keyword search: “FM 730.”

In Boyd, potential environmental concerns depend on the alternative selected. Alternative 1, which follows existing FM 730 through the community, could potentially affect, or be affected by, the presence of service stations and the historic site Masonic Lodge. The other three alternatives pass east of the developed portion of the community and would not have these concerns. From the point south of Boyd where the alternatives join to follow existing FM 730...

SLIDE 18 – Constraints Map

...to the southern terminus of the project in Azle, the only environmental concerns known at this time that depend on the selected alternative relate to hazardous materials sites and one historical marker directly adjacent to one side or the other of FM 730. Some potential community impacts, such as right-of-way acquisition, displacements, and changes to access and travel patterns, cannot be evaluated until an alternative is selected and a design is developed. Potential impacts on water resources, biological resources, cultural resources other than the historical marker, and other environmental features in the various alternatives' respective study areas would be similar regardless of the alternative selected.

Again, a full version of this map is available for download at www.txdot.gov, keyword search: “FM 730.”

SLIDE 19 – Environmental Process

A review of this project's impacts to environmental resources is being conducted, including an evaluation of the following:

- Air Quality
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Accommodations
- Biological Resources
- Community Impacts
- Cultural Resources
- Growth Impacts
- Hazardous Materials
- Indirect and Cumulative impacts
- Right of Way/Easements
- Traffic Noise
- Vegetation and Wildlife and
- Water Resources

The project's environmental review is ongoing, but the project technical reports will be made available to the public once they have been completed.

SLIDE 20 – Right of Way

The amount of right of way needed is not known at this conceptual stage in project development. Potential displacements and property impacts are unknown as well. Right of way impacts will be identified at the next public meeting, tentatively in 2024 once a preferred alignment is identified.

SLIDE 21 – Right of Way

The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act is a law passed in 1970 that was designed to ensure that anyone who owned property needed for a public purpose would be treated fairly. The law establishes guidelines for the acquisition of property and the relocation of displaced individuals and businesses. Additionally, it is the policy of 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, handicap or national origin.

SLIDE 22 – Right of Way

Each impacted property owner is offered “just compensation” for the property needed for the project. To arrive at this value, independent appraisers are hired to prepare detailed appraisals and establish value. After that, a written offer to the property owners is made based on the value determined in the appraisals. Property owners are then given a minimum of 30 days to consider the offer. For further information, TxDOT right of way brochures can be found at the link provided on the screen. The brochures, including two booklets titled "The Purchase of Right of Way," and "Relocation Assistance," are also available upon request. These booklets contain detailed information to inform you of your rights and provide information about TxDOT's right-of-way acquisition procedures.

SLIDE 23 – Anticipated Schedule

Provided here is an estimated schedule for the FM 730 project. The findings from the Environmental Assessment will be presented to the public at a public hearing that is anticipated to be held in the fall of 2024. Environmental clearance is anticipated in spring 2025.

The project is not currently funded for construction, so the construction schedule is undetermined at this time. Please note that the schedule is tentative and is subject to change.

SLIDE 24 – Share Your Input

Your comments about this project are very important to TxDOT and will contribute greatly to its success. TxDOT is committed to continuing our efforts to gain public feedback about this project. Please note that comments can be made throughout the comment period and will be included in the meeting documentation. The Fort Worth District is asking the public to provide their comments in any of the following ways:

1. Emailing your comments to: Thomas.Marquardt@txdot.gov.
2. Filling out a comment card and mailing your comments to the Texas Department of Transportation, Attention: Thomas Marquardt, P.E., at 2501 SW Loop 820, Fort Worth, TX 76133.
3. Comments will also be accepted online by visiting the website www.txdot.gov. Type in “FM 730” in the keyword search at the top right of the TxDOT homepage, then click on the “Submit Your Comment” button on the project webpage.

All of your statements, comments and questions will be given careful consideration before final design features are determined.

The public comment period closes on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 11:59 p.m., which is 15 days from this virtual public meeting. Please ensure that your comment is submitted or postmarked by this date.

The public may also email or call project staff during regular office hours to ask questions about the project at any time in the project development process.

SLIDE 25 – Thank You

Thank you for joining TxDOT's online virtual public meeting for the FM 730 Project. We sincerely appreciate your attendance and interest. Please take a moment to review project materials online. And remember to submit your

comments on or before Wednesday, November 8, 2023. Your questions, comments and concerns will receive careful consideration. Thank you very much, and this concludes the virtual public meeting and presentation.