



PUBLIC HEARING

FM 156

From: US 81/US 287

To: McLeroy Boulevard/Watauga Road

Tarrant County

Tuesday, May 29, 2018

CSJs: 0718-02-045

Project Partners

- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)
- Tarrant County
- City of Fort Worth
- City of Saginaw
- City of Blue Mound

Public Hearing Agenda

Welcome & Introductions	Mr. John Cordary, P.E.
Public Hearing Purpose	Mr. John Cordary, P.E.
Project Design	Mr. Nick Spencer, P.E.
Environmental	Mr. Curtis Hanan, P.E.
Right of Way	Mr. Kelly Price
15-minute Recess	
Opportunity for Statements	Mr. John Cordary, P.E.
Adjournment	Mr. John Cordary, P.E.

Public Hearing Purpose

- Provide a project update to the public.
- Inform the public of project design.
- Provide the public with the Environmental Documentation.
- Give the public an opportunity to provide input.
- Develop a record of public engagement and collect formal statements.

Public Hearing Notices

- A notice of this public hearing was published in the *Star-Telegram* on Sunday, May 13, 2018.
- The public hearing notice was also posted on the TxDOT Fort Worth District Webpage.
- Adjoining property owners and elected and public officials were mailed individual notices.

Public Comments

■ Verbal comments:

- Fill out a form at the registration desk.
- Verbal Comments accepted after 15-minute recess.
- Remarks are limited to 3 minutes.

■ Written statements:

- Must be received on or by Wednesday, June 13, 2018, and can be submitted by:
 - Place comment forms in a comments box near registration tables.
 - Mail to the address on the comment form.
 - You may include charts, graphs and other exhibits (must be in hard copy format).

- The FM 156 corridor was originally constructed in the late-1940s as a rural roadway.
- The existing FM 156 facility has not been updated to current roadway design standards for urban areas.

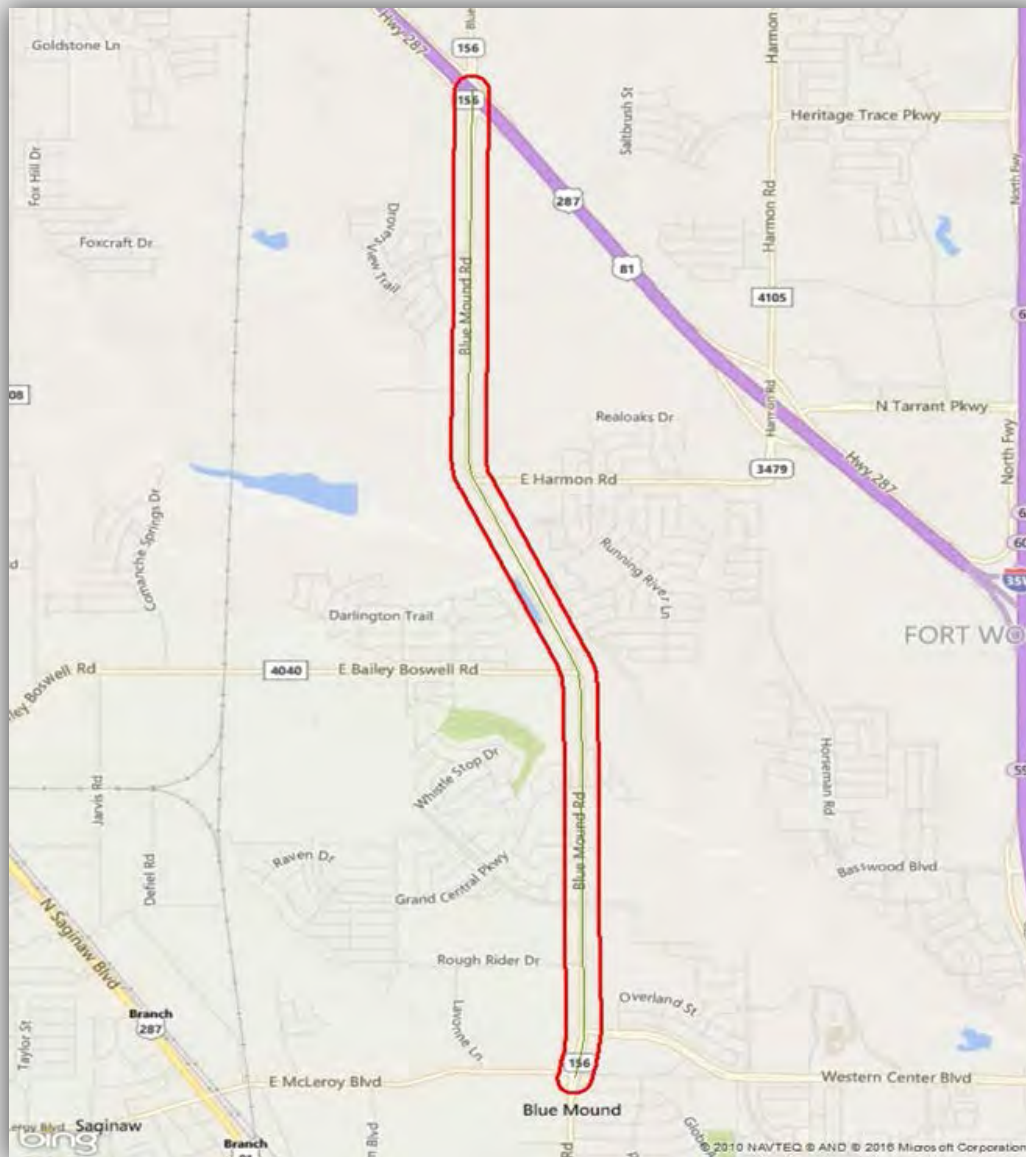
- **Goals of the proposed project:**
 - ✓ Complete the reconstruction of FM 156 to a 4-lane divided facility to provide better mobility.
 - ✓ Manage traffic congestion to meet current and projected travel demands and improve regional mobility.
 - ✓ Improve traffic operations and safety by addressing operational and design deficiencies of existing facilities.

- **Open house/public meeting #1– December 3, 2015.**
 - Displays of overall project area with potential typical section.
 - All attendees received comment forms.
 - Comments were received from 18 people.
 - Feedback from attendees was generally supportive of project.
 - Project design revised to address comments received.

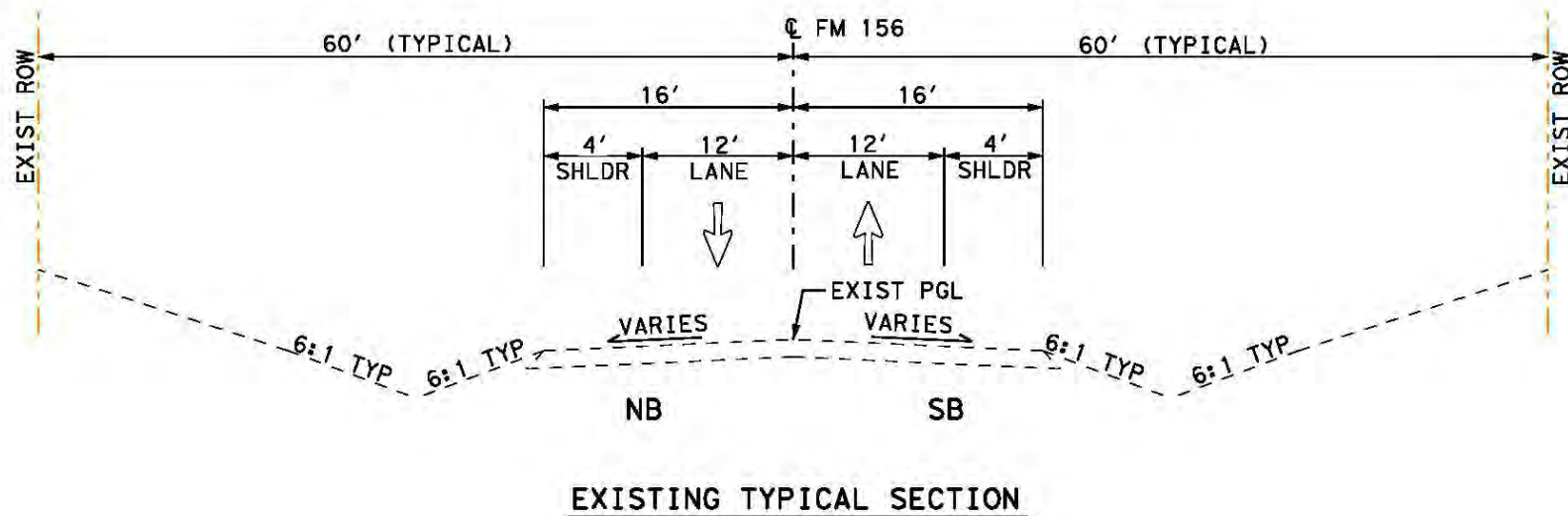
Prior Public Involvement

- **Open house/public meeting #2 – June 21, 2016.**
 - Displays of project design.
 - Feedback from attendees was generally supportive of project.
 - Project design has been revised to address comments received.
- Project has also been identified and specifically listed in Mobility 2040: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas. Public involvement activities were held by NCTCOG for development of this plan.

Project Description – FM 156

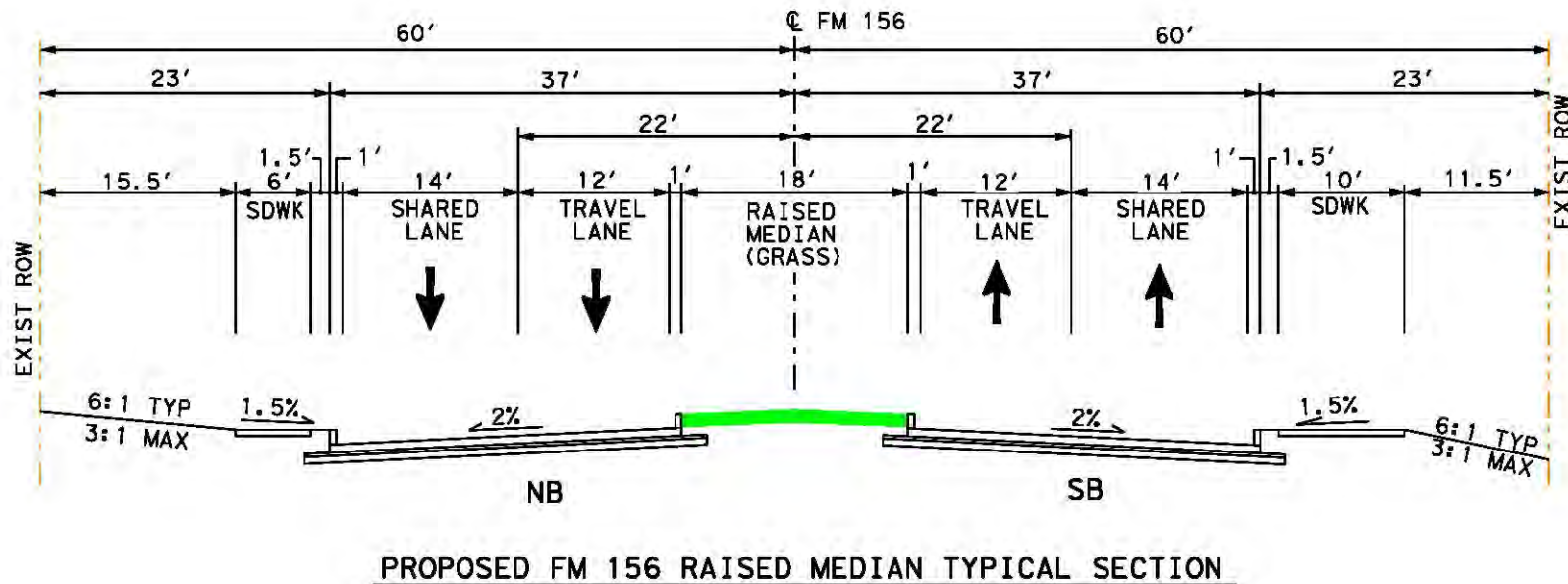


Project Description – Existing FM 156



- One lane in each direction. Left turn lanes at many major intersections.
- Asphalt roadway with roadside ditch drainage.
- Traffic signals at US 81/US 287, U.S. Bureau of Engraving, Harmon Rd, Bailey-Boswell Blvd., Basswood Blvd., Rough Rider Dr., Western Center Blvd., and McLeroy Blvd./Watauga Rd.

Project Description – Proposed FM 156



- Two lanes in each direction with raised median and sidewalks.
- Storm sewer system for drainage.
- In addition to the existing traffic signals, new signals are proposed at Heritage Trace Parkway and Grand Central Parkway.

Project Description – Proposed FM 156 Improvements

- Widen the roadway from a 2-lane asphalt roadway with roadside ditch drainage to a 4-lane divided concrete roadway with storm sewers.
- Left turn lanes for turning movements at major intersections to allow better mobility throughout project, especially during peak hour traffic.
- Raise profile above the 10-year design storm water surface for improved mobility.
- Construct longer bridges or culverts at Big Fossil Creek and its tributaries to facilitate hydrology along and across the roadway.

Project Implementation

- The estimated construction cost of the project improvements is approximately \$53.1 million.
 - Includes federal, state, and local funding sources.
- The project is expected to be awarded for construction later this year, in 2018.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process

- A Categorical Exclusion (CE) is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA.
- The environmental documentation identifies social, economic, and environmental effects of the proposed project.
- Includes an evaluation of the following:
 - Air Quality
 - Cultural Resources
 - Community Impacts
 - Traffic noise
 - Vegetation and Wildlife
 - Hazardous materials
 - Water quality

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 16, 2014, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

NEPA: Right of Way and Easements

- The proposed project follows the existing roadway alignment.
- Would require approximately 0.45 acres of additional right of way.
- Would not displace any residences or commercial structures.

NEPA: Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations

- Sidewalks, six feet in width along the east or northbound side of the roadway and 10 feet in width on the southbound side are proposed.
- Wide outside lanes (14 feet in width) are proposed to provide for on-road accommodations for bicyclists.

NEPA: Vegetation and Wildlife

- Permanent vegetation impacts of the proposed project:
 - 1.1 acres of Edwards Plateau Savannah, Woodland, and shrub land
 - 4.8 acres of Riparian
 - 69.3 acres of Urban
- Existing and proposed right of way provides potential suitable habitat for the Western burrowing owl, Plains spotted skunk, Texas garter snake, various mussels, Texas milk vetch, and the Topeka purple-coneflower.
- Proposed project is not expected to result in harm to any threatened or endangered species.

NEPA: Water Resources

- Proposed project crosses the 100-year floodplains of Big Fossil Creek and several other associated tributaries.
- Base flood elevations would not be increased to a level that would violate applicable floodplain regulations.
- Coordination with the local floodplain administrators is required.
- Permanent impacts due to construction are expected to occur at eight of the eleven water crossings within the project limits.
- Waters include Big Fossil Creek and several other associated tributaries.
- A pre-Construction Notification would be required from the United States Army Corps of Engineers.
- A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SW3P) would be implemented.

NEPA: Cultural Resources

- Archeology: Reviews of cultural databases documenting previous archeological surveys indicated no need for further field investigations.
- Historic Properties: Database review and Historic Resources Survey indicated no historic resources would be impacted by the proposed project.
- Does not impact publicly owned lands from parks, recreational area, or wildlife and waterfowl refuge.
 - Would construct the future park entrance to Northwest Community Park across from Harmon Road and the existing driveways within existing right of way.
 - Would reconstruct the existing driveway to Highland Station Park.

- FHWA traffic noise model
 - Analyzed traffic noise levels along the proposed project.
 - Utilized forecasted years 2020 and 2040 traffic data.
 - Considers traffic volumes, types of vehicles and speeds, as well as roadway and terrain features.
 - Six locations identified where noise impacts are projected to approach or exceed the Noise Abatement Criteria.
 - The locations represent 40 impacted single-family residences adjacent to the project.
- Proposed noise-abatement measures must be both feasible and reasonable to be incorporated within the project.

- One noise wall is recommended for further evaluation for incorporation into the project.
 - **Location:** Northbound FM 156 north and south of Grand Central Parkway along the existing right of way.
 - **Length:** 1,100 feet
 - **Height:** 8 feet
- Other noise walls evaluated through the analysis were determined to not be constructible as they would either be located in the 100 year floodplain and floodway or there would not be enough right of way to accommodate relocation of utilities.

- If the noise wall adjacent to the Villages of Chisholm Ridge is determined to be constructible:
 - A noise workshop would be conducted.
 - Abutting property owners would be given the opportunity to participate in these workshops.
 - Would be implemented during construction of the project if a majority of adjacent property owners agree.

Air Quality:

- The project conforms to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and State Transportation Improvement Plan.
- Adverse effects to air quality are not anticipated and mobile source air toxics are expected to decrease in future years.

Hazardous Materials:

- Construction of the proposed project would include drilling of bridge piers, excavation, and other earth moving activities.
- Potential to encounter hazardous materials and substances associated with past human activities.
- No hazardous materials concerns were identified for the proposed activities based on an Initial Site Assessment.

NEPA: Categorical Exclusion Summary

- Based on studies thus far, the environmental investigations indicate the proposed project would have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment.
- Revisions may be made to the environmental documents to update them or to address the needs of the state and federal agencies.
- Revisions may also be made as a result of public comments received tonight or during the comment period.
- After all necessary revisions are provided, a Categorical Exclusion determination is anticipated for this project.

Proposed Right of Way

- Proposed right of way acquisition of 8 parcels.
- Approximately 0.45 acres of right of way
- No Displacements or Relocations.

Proposed Right of Way

- Proposed right of way includes approximately 0.45 acres and is limited to corner clips and right of way widening to maintain turning movement at intersections and buffer zones.
- TxDOT is to proceed with acquisitions after project has been environmentally cleared.

Equal Treatment Policy

- Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act of 1970
 - 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.
- It is the policy of the Texas Department of Transportation 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.

Right of Way Acquisition Process

- Each impacted property owner is offered “just compensation” for the property needed for the project. To arrive at this value, independent appraisers hired to prepare detailed appraisals and establish value.
- A written offer to the property owners is made based on the value determined in the appraisals.
- Property owners given a minimum of 30 days to consider the offer.

Right of Way Acquisition Process

- **Right of Way Brochures:**

- Available on the TxDOT Website:

<http://txdot.gov/inside-txdot/forms-publications/publications/landowner-rights.html>

- Available by contacting our office.

Public Inquiries

The draft environmental documentation and preliminary designs can be viewed here tonight or at the following locations:

TxDOT Fort Worth District Office
2501 SW Loop 820
Fort Worth, TX 76133
(817) 370-6708
(Mr. Joe Slack, P.E.)

TxDOT North Tarrant County Office
2501 W. Euless Blvd
Euless, TX 76040
(817) 399-4300
(Mr. Minh Tran, P.E.)

These materials will be available on TxDOT's Website:

<https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/get-involved/about/hearings-meetings/fort-worth/052918.html>

- 15-Minute Recess.
- Please register your attendance and sign up to speak at one of the registration tables.
- Public comment period will begin following the recess.

Public Comments

- The public comment section of tonight's program allows attendees to officially register their comments on the proposed project.
- Public comments made will not receive a response during this section of the program.
- Please state your full name and address for the record.
- Please limit your comments to 3 MINUTES.

Public Comments

- Written comments must be received or postmarked by:
Wednesday, June 13, 2018

- Please mail written comments to:

Loyl C. Bussell, P.E.

Fort Worth District Engineer

Texas Department of Transportation

2501 SW Loop 820

Fort Worth, Texas 76133

Thank You for Attending