Virtual Public Hearing with In-Person Option

Pre-Recorded Presentation

US 377 in Hood County
From Holmes Drive to 3,000 Feet North of FM 167 (Fall Creek Highway)
Hood County, Texas

CSJs: 0080-04-081, 0080-03-049, 0080-04-094 and 0080-03-060
Welcome

Ricardo Gonzalez, P.E.
Director of Transportation Planning and Development
Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)
Fort Worth District
End The Streak

HELP
#EndTheStreakTX
End the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways.

TxDOT.gov (Keyword: #EndTheStreakTX)

#EndTheStreakTX Toolkit
Virtual Public Hearing with In-Person Option

IN-PERSON OPTION
Tuesday June 13, 2023
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Lake Granbury Conference Center
621 East Pearl Street, Granbury, TX 76048

The virtual public hearing on the TxDOT website provides the same information as the in-person public hearing:

• Project information
• Estimated timeline
• Process for submitting comments
• Key contacts

Virtual Public Hearing: www.txdot.gov; Keywords - US 377 in Hood County
Virtual Public Hearing with In-Person Option

1. Inform the public of project status and present recommendations

2. Describe the project design and environmental analysis so the public can determine how they may be affected

3. Provide the public the opportunity to provide comments

4. Develop a record of public participation
Virtual Public Hearing with In-Person Option Agenda

1. Project Location, Need and Purpose
2. Existing US 377 Roadway
3. Proposed US 377 Roadway
4. Environmental Process
5. Right of Way
6. Estimated Project Schedule and Cost
7. TxDOT Project Contact Information
Breakout Project Limits:
US 377 from Pirate Drive to Overstreet Blvd. (including SH 144 from Autumn Ridge Drive to FM 51)
Project Need and Purpose

Need
- Inadequate capacity to meet current and projected traffic volumes
- Not up to current design standards

Purpose
- Improve mobility
- Enhance safety
- Add capacity
- Manage congestion
- Improve operational efficiency
Project Objectives

Objectives

- Improve the interchange with SH 144
- Add additional through lanes in each direction (add capacity)
- Improve BU 377 interchanges (north and south)
- Address drainage issues along the corridor
- Provide pedestrian and bicycle accommodations
- Evaluate access management (operational efficiency and safety)
- Accommodate NCTCOG Mobility 2045 and City of Granbury Thoroughfare Plans
Updates Since the November 2022 Public Meeting

The following design changes have been made following the November 2022 virtual public meeting with in-person option:

- Modified various driveways to address access concerns.
- Modified the US 377/FM 51 (Paluxy Road) interchange to reduce right of way needs.
- Added a left/U-turn lane for northbound SH 144 (Morgan Street) at Wright Court to improve access to the west side of the road.
- Widened the pavement on SH 144 (Morgan Street) at Autumn Ridge Drive to accommodate U-turn movements for southbound traffic to better access the east side of the road.
- Added a median opening at the US 377/Shady Grove Drive intersection.
- Realigned the US 377 southbound lanes west of East Pearl Street to avoid impacts to shopping center parking and sewer lift station.
- Relocated the southbound exit ramp at FM 167 (Fall Creek Highway) to allow direct access to Gateway Hills Lane.
The existing highway is a four-lane highway with 12-foot-wide travel lanes (two in each direction) within 120 to 371-foot-wide existing right-of-way.

Medians throughout the corridor vary between a depressed median, raised median and two-way left turn lane.

US 377 from Holmes Drive to the east end of the US 377 bridge over the Brazos River, and from FM 167 (Fall Creek Highway) to 3,000 feet north of FM 167 (Fall Creek Highway) has a depressed median.
**Existing US 377 Roadway – Typical Section with Raised Median**

- US 377 from the east end of the US 377 bridge over the Brazos River to east of Whitehead Drive has a raised median
• US 377 from east of Whitehead Drive to FM 167 (Fall Creek Highway) has a center two-way left turn lane
The US 377 Project would increase the existing four-lane roadway to a six-lane (three lanes in each direction) divided urban highway.

Between FM 51 (Paluxy Road) and Holmes Drive, US 377 would remain a four-lane highway and would be converted from a rural highway to an urban highway.

Includes improvements to cross street intersections, interchanges, ramps and driveway connections, as well as bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.
Proposed US 377/SH 144 Interchange – Breakout Project

US 377 at SH 144
Diverging Diamond Interchange

June 13, 2023 Public Hearing

Please visit https://www.txdot.gov and search keywords “US 377 in Hood County” to view animation.
Drainage Improvements

Objectives

- Improve US 377 drainage system to current TxDOT design criteria
- Convert from open drainage ditches to enclosed urban storm drains under US 377
Utility Adjustments

- Utility adjustments and relocations throughout the corridor would be required prior to construction.

- The adjustments and relocation of any utilities would be managed so that no substantial interruptions would occur.
National Environment Policy Act (NEPA)

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 FHWA and TxDOT.
Environmental Process – Overview

- Documentation supporting a Categorical Exclusion (CE) determination is being prepared in accordance with NEPA
- Environmental resources evaluated and impacts addressed for the proposed project include the following:
  - Air Quality
  - Biological Resources
  - Farmlands
  - Community Impacts
  - Archeological Resources
  - Historical Resources
  - Hazardous Materials
  - Traffic Noise
  - Water Resources
  - Waters of the U.S./Wetlands

- A virtual public meeting was conducted on May 4, 2021
- A virtual public meeting with in-person option was conducted on November 17, 2022
Environmental Process – Resource Impacts Summary

Biological Resources:

- Habitat direct impacts (excluding Urban):
  - 0.15 acre of Agriculture
  - 9.09 acres of Crosstimbers Woodland and Forest
  - 1.76 acres of Disturbed Prairie
  - 3.43 acres of Floodplain
  - 4.3 acres of Riparian

- Wildlife:
  - Federal threatened species that may be affected:
    - Monarch Butterfly (currently a candidate species)
  - State threatened species that may be impacted:
    - Brazos Heelsplitter; Brazos Water Snake; Texas Horned Lizard
  - 21 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) may be impacted
Environmental Process – Resource Impacts Summary

Hazardous Materials:

- Determined 36 hazardous material sites are of low to moderate risk to the proposed project, with only one being considered a moderate risk.

- These sites primarily consist of:
  - Gas Stations
  - Automotive Dealerships and Facilities
  - Dry Cleaning Facilities
  - Petroleum Storage Tanks
  - Stockpiles
  - Previous Spills

- A Phase II Environmental Site Assessment will be conducted on the moderate risk site prior to construction.
Environmental Process – Resource Impacts Summary

Water Resources:

- **Type:**
  - 1 Perennial Stream (Brazos River)
  - 4 Intermittent Stream Crossings (of Lambert Branch, Rucker Creek, Lick Branch)
  - 9 Ephemeral Stream Crossings (of Lambert Branch, Rucker Creek, McCarthy Branch, Lick Branch)

- **Impacts:**
  - Permanent Stream Impacts - 0.25 Acres

- Nationwide Permit 14 without Pre-Construction Notification to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Environmental Process – Resource Impacts Summary

Historic Resources:

- A reconnaissance-level survey for historic-age above-ground resources was completed in accordance with TxDOT and FHWA guidelines

- 79 historic-age resources were identified in the project's Area of Potential Effects; all but one were determined not to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)
  - The Elizabeth Crockett Centennial Marker is an NHRP-eligible structure that would be relocated as a result of the proposed project
  - Because the marker would be relocated to a location similar in character and function to its original location, and the marker would retain its physical integrity, the NRHP-eligibility of the marker would be maintained
  - No effects to historic resources are anticipated
Environmental Process – Resource Impacts Summary

Traffic Noise:

- A traffic noise analysis was completed in accordance with TxDOT and FHWA guidelines
- 194 noise receiver locations were modeled
- 22 noise receiver locations are expected to be impacted in accordance with FHWA criterion
- Noise abatement, in the form of traffic noise walls, was evaluated for noise reduction effectiveness to impacted receivers
  - One traffic noise barrier was determined to be both feasible and reasonable; therefore, this traffic noise barrier is proposed for incorporation into the proposed project. Final approval is subject to a traffic noise workshop.
Environmental Process – Resource Impacts Summary

No Impacts:

- Air Quality
- Archeological Resources
- Community Cohesion
- Environmental Justice or Limited English Proficiency Communities
Right of Way

- Approximately 25.2 acres of new right of way and 3.7 acres of permanent drainage easements would be required.
  - Note: Right of way needs are subject to change pending further design refinements.

- Five commercial structures may potentially be displaced, and one historical marker is proposed to be relocated within TxDOT right-of-way.

- All right of way acquisition would be completed in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act.
Right of Way

• Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act of 1970:
  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.

• 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,
  handicaps or national origin.
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 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 brochures are available on the TxDOT website:
  
Estimated Cost and Schedule

Estimated Construction Cost

- $365 Million

Estimated Project Schedule*

- Public Hearing ............................................................... June 13, 2023
- Schematic Approval ............................................................ Fall 2023
- Environmental Clearance .................................................. Fall 2023
- Right of Way Acquisition Completed .................................. Spring 2026
- Utility Adjustments Completed ........................................... Spring 2026
- Let for Construction ......................................................... Fall 2026

*Projected date for start of construction is based on availability of funding. The proposed project may be constructed in phases subject to funding availability.
Public Hearing Materials

The public hearing materials are available for viewing until **Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at 11:59 p.m.** To view the virtual public hearing, visit [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) and in the “Search TxDOT” box in the upper-right hand corner, enter “US 377 in Hood County.”

If you have questions or comments throughout project development, please contact the TxDOT Project Manager during regular office hours:

Dr. Francis Smith, P.E.

Phone: (817) 370-6708

Email Address: Francis.Smith@txdot.gov
How to Submit Comments

Please submit your comments regarding this project by using any of the four methods below by Wednesday, June 28, 2023.

Comment Online
Click the “Submit Your Comment” link on the website www.txdot.gov & Search Keyword “US 377 in Hood County”

Email Us
Francis.Smith@txdot.gov

Mail-in Comments
TxDOT Fort Worth District Office
Attn: Dr. Francis Smith, PE
2501 SW Loop 820
Fort Worth, TX 76133
(817) 370-6708

Leave a Voicemail Comment
(512) 593-2272

Questions about the project? Please contact TxDOT Project Manager,
Dr. Francis Smith, P.E. at Francis.Smith@txdot.gov
Thank you for your interest in the

US 377 in Hood County Project

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