Virtual Public Hearing

US 81/US 287 Intersection Improvement Project

From north of CR 4228 to
south of NRS Ranch Road
Wise County

Virtual Public Hearing with In-Person Option

May 26, 2022

Welcome

Ricardo Gonzalez, P.E.
Director of Transportation Planning and Development

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)
Fort Worth District

Agenda

1. Public Hearing Purpose
2. Project Overview
3. Environmental Overview
4. Right of Way
5. Public Comment Process
6. Adjournment

Public Hearing Displays are available at the following locations:

In-Person Public Hearing	Virtual Option	Decatur Area Office
Thursday, May 26, 2022 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. **Decatur Conference Center** Chisholm Suites 2010 W. US Hwy 380 Decatur, TX 76234	Available at **www.TxDOT.gov** from Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 5 p.m. until Friday, June 10, 2022, at 11:59 p.m.	By appointment, Monday – Friday **TxDOT Decatur Area Office** 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. 1710 W US 380 Decatur, TX 76234

In-person viewing at the Decatur Area Office will be by appointment only. Please call (940) 626-3400 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, to make an appointment. Materials will be available until Friday, June 10, 2022.

If you need this presentation translated to any other language, please contact:

Si usted necesita esta presentación traducida a cualquier otro idioma, por favor pónganse en contacto con:

Dr. Francis A. Smith, P.E., Project Manager
(817) 370 - 6708
Francis.Smith@txdot.gov

Virtual Public Hearing Purpose

- Inform the public about project status and present recommendations.
- Describe the project design and environmental analysis so the public can determine how they may be affected.
- Provide the public the opportunity to provide comments.
- Develop a record of public engagement and collect formal statements.

We Request Your Feedback

Please submit your comments regarding the proposed project presented in this virtual public hearing with in-person option by using one of the four methods below by June 10, 2022.

Comment Form

Fill out a comment form and drop it in the comment box tonight or mail it back.

Email Us

Francis.Smith@TxDOT.gov

Mail in Comments

TxDOT Forth Worth Office
Carl L. Johnson, P.E.
District Engineer
2501 S.W. Loop 820
Fort Worth, TX 76133

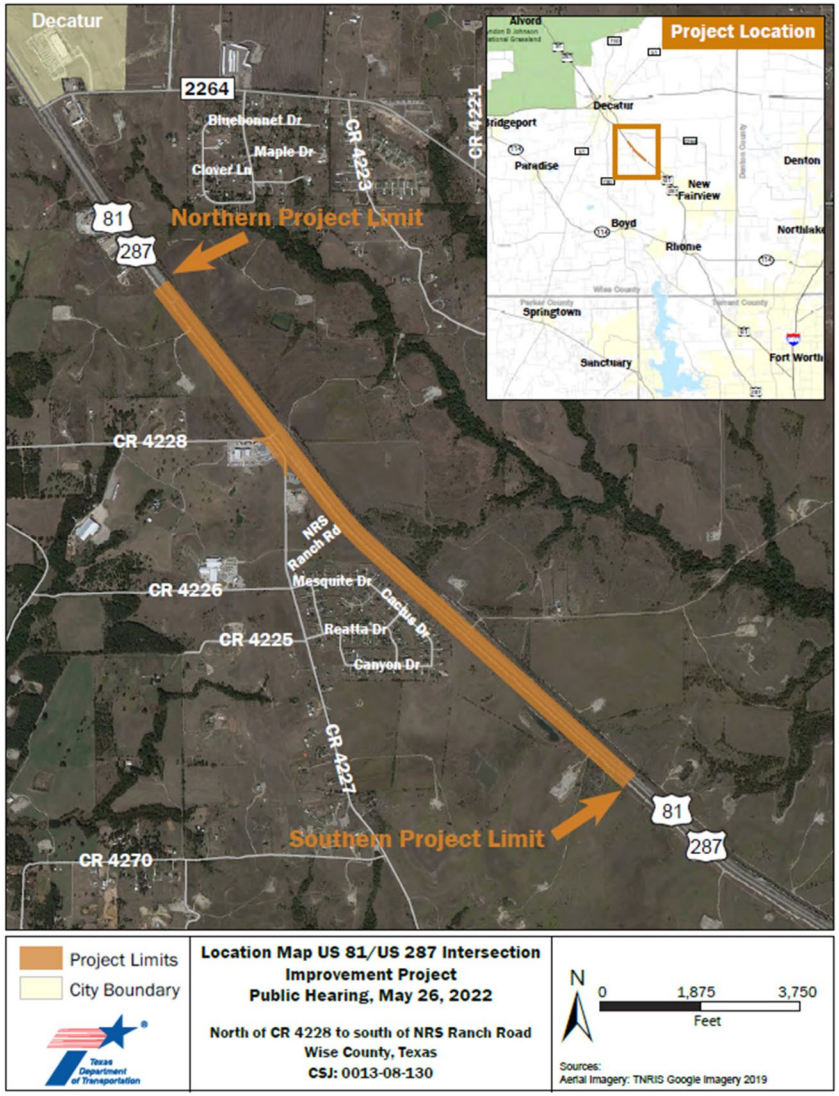
Verbal Testimony

Call (940) 799-9077 project hotline to record verbal testimony up to three minutes

For general questions about the presentation or the project, please contact TxDOT Project Manager, Dr. Francis A. Smith, P.E. at Francis.Smith@TxDOT.gov or call at (817) 370-6708 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

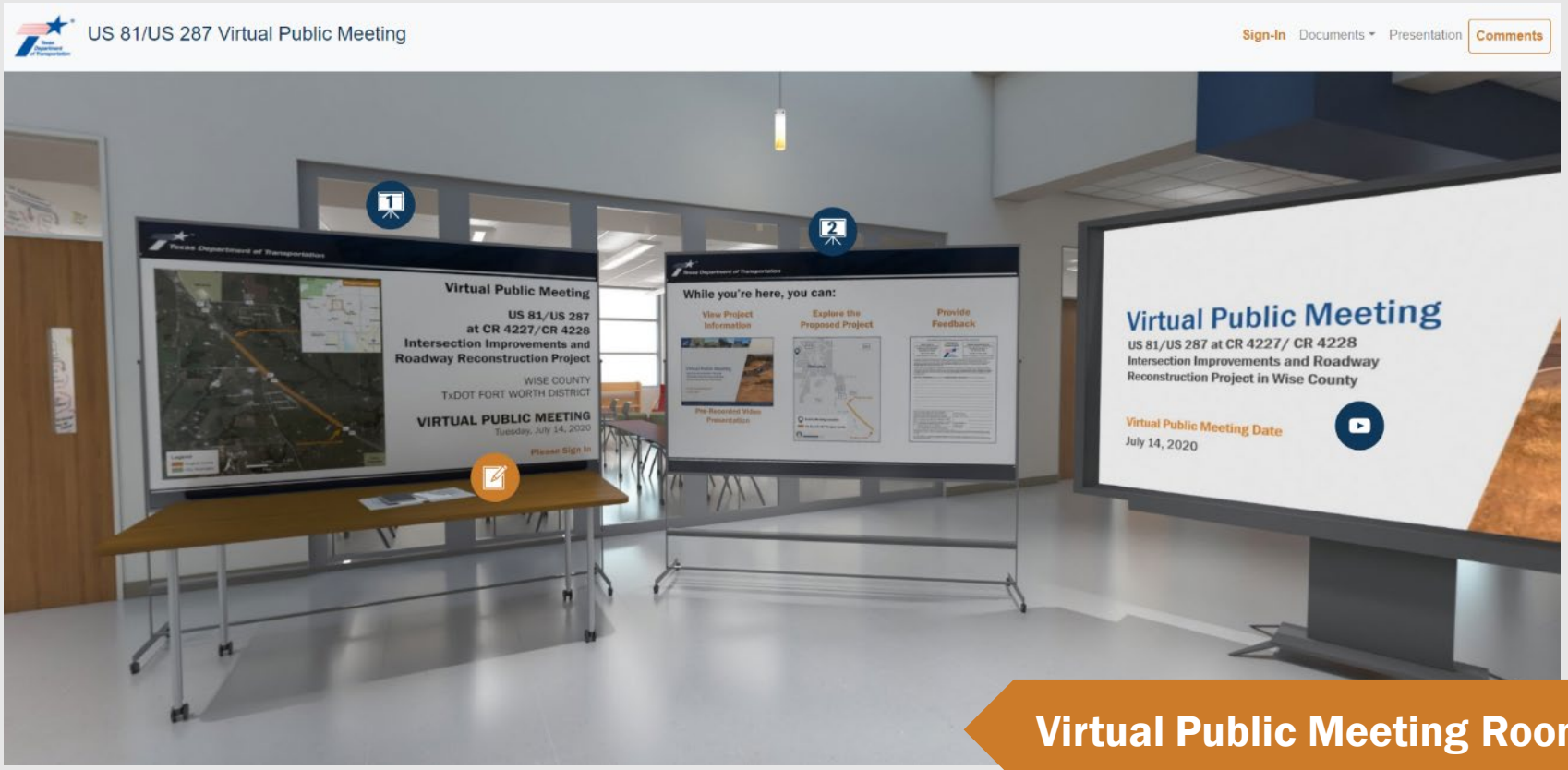
Project Location

- **Project Limits:**
  - From: 0.6 miles north of CR 4228
  - To: 1.36 miles south of NRS Ranch Road
  - Wise County, Texas
  - Project length: approximately 2.404 miles long



Public Involvement

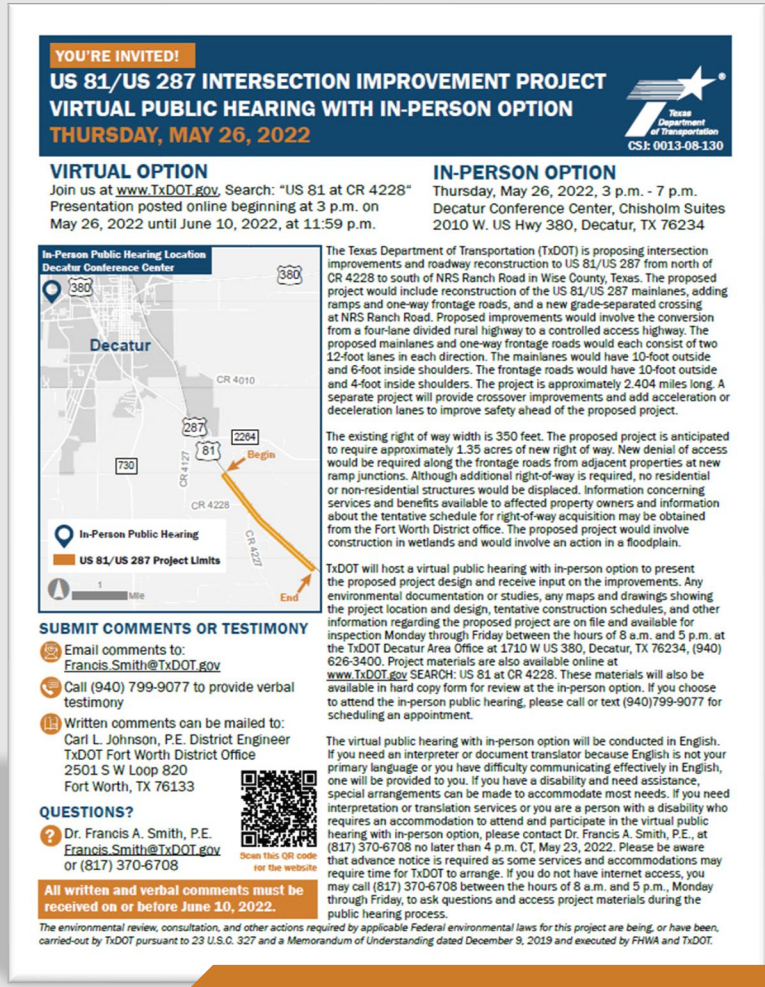
- Virtual Public Meeting was held on July 14, 2020
- Virtual Public Hearing with In-Person Option May 26, 2022



Virtual Public Meeting Room

Public Hearing Notices

- Public Hearing notices were published in the following papers:
  - Fort Worth Star-Telegram – May 11, 2022 (English and Spanish)
  - Wise County Messenger – May 11, 2022
- TxDOT webpage (www.TxDOT.gov) – May 9, 2022
- Affected property owners, elected and public officials, and project stakeholders were mailed individual notices on May 6, 2022
- Public Hearing Displays were available for in person viewing at the TxDOT- Decatur Area Office beginning on May 6, 2022



YOU'RE INVITED!

US 81/US 287 INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING WITH IN-PERSON OPTION
THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2022

Texas Department of Transportation
CSJ: 0013-08-130

VIRTUAL OPTION
Join us at www.TxDOT.gov, Search: "US 81 at CR 4228"
Presentation posted online beginning at 3 p.m. on May 26, 2022 until June 10, 2022, at 11:59 p.m.

IN-PERSON OPTION
Thursday, May 26, 2022, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Decatur Conference Center, Chisholm Suites
2010 W. US Hwy 380, Decatur, TX 76234

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing intersection improvements and roadway reconstruction to US 81/US 287 from north of CR 4228 to south of NRS Ranch Road in Wise County, Texas. The proposed project would include reconstruction of the US 81/US 287 mainlanes, adding ramps and one-way frontage roads, and a new grade-separated crossing at NRS Ranch Road. Proposed improvements would involve the conversion from a four-lane divided rural highway to a controlled access highway. The proposed mainlanes and one-way frontage roads would each consist of two 12-foot lanes in each direction. The mainlanes would have 10-foot outside and 6-foot inside shoulders. The frontage roads would have 10-foot outside and 4-foot inside shoulders. The project is approximately 2.404 miles long. A separate project will provide crossover improvements and add acceleration or deceleration lanes to improve safety ahead of the proposed project.

The existing right of way width is 350 feet. The proposed project is anticipated to require approximately 1.35 acres of new right of way. New denial of access would be required along the frontage roads from adjacent properties at new ramp junctions. Although additional right-of-way is required, no residential or non-residential structures would be displaced. Information concerning services and benefits available to affected property owners and information about the tentative schedule for right-of-way acquisition may be obtained from the Fort Worth District office. The proposed project would involve construction in wetlands and would involve an action in a floodplain.

TxDOT will host a virtual public hearing with in-person option to present the proposed project design and receive input on the improvements. Any environmental documentation or studies, any maps and drawings showing the project location and design, tentative construction schedules, and other information regarding the proposed project are on file and available for inspection Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the TxDOT Decatur Area Office at 1710 W US 380, Decatur, TX 76234, (940) 626-3400. Project materials are also available online at www.TxDOT.gov SEARCH: US 81 at CR 4228. These materials will also be available in hard copy form for review at the in-person option. If you choose to attend the in-person public hearing, please call or text (940)799-9077 for scheduling an appointment.

The virtual public hearing with in-person option will be conducted in English. If you need an interpreter or document translator because English is not your primary language or you have difficulty communicating effectively in English, one will be provided to you. If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. If you need interpretation or translation services or you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation to attend and participate in the virtual public hearing with in-person option, please contact Dr. Francis A. Smith, P.E., at (817) 370-6708 no later than 4 p.m. CT, May 23, 2022. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for TxDOT to arrange. If you do not have internet access, you may call (817) 370-6708 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, to ask questions and access project materials during the public hearing process.

SUBMIT COMMENTS OR TESTIMONY

Email comments to:
Francis.Smith@TxDOT.gov

Call (940) 799-9077 to provide verbal testimony

Written comments can be mailed to:
Carl L. Johnson, P.E. District Engineer
TxDOT Fort Worth District Office
2501 S W Loop 820
Fort Worth, TX 76133

QUESTIONS?

Dr. Francis A. Smith, P.E.
Francis.Smith@TxDOT.gov
or (817) 370-6708

Scan this QR code for the website

All written and verbal comments must be received on or before June 10, 2022.

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.

Hearing Notice

Project Purpose and Need

- Enhance safety, improve traffic operation and address congestion
- Maintaining access to the commercial and residential developments on the west side of US 81/US 287

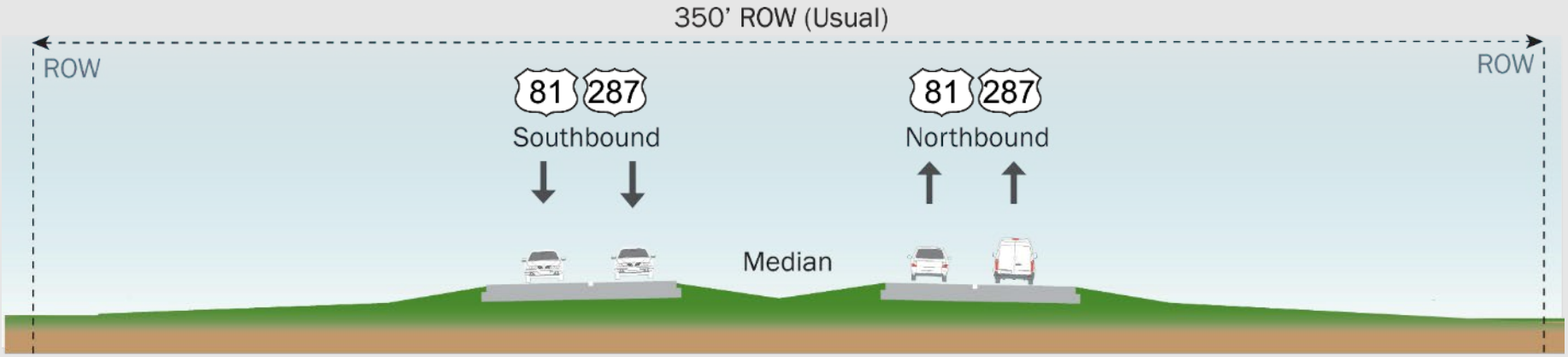
Project Goals

- Improve mobility by adding frontage roads
- Add a grade-separated street crossing to improve access, mobility and enhance safety
  - Construct new interchange:

    The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas. National Roper's Supply (NRS) and residential developments on the west side of US 81/US 287 generate significant traffic with a high percentage of large and/or trailered vehicles. A grade-separated facility would enhance safety for vehicles accessing these developments from US 81/US 287.

Existing Facility – No Build Alternative

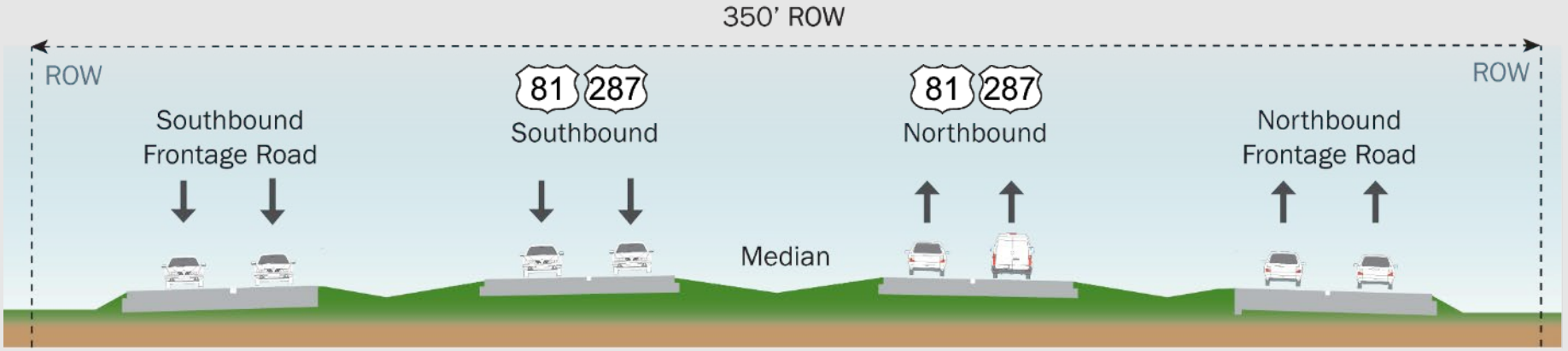
Existing Typical Section



- Four 12-foot general purpose lanes separated by a grass median
- 10 and 4-foot shoulders on the outside and inside, respectively
- Right of way width of 350 feet
- At grade crossing at County Road 4228

Proposed Facility

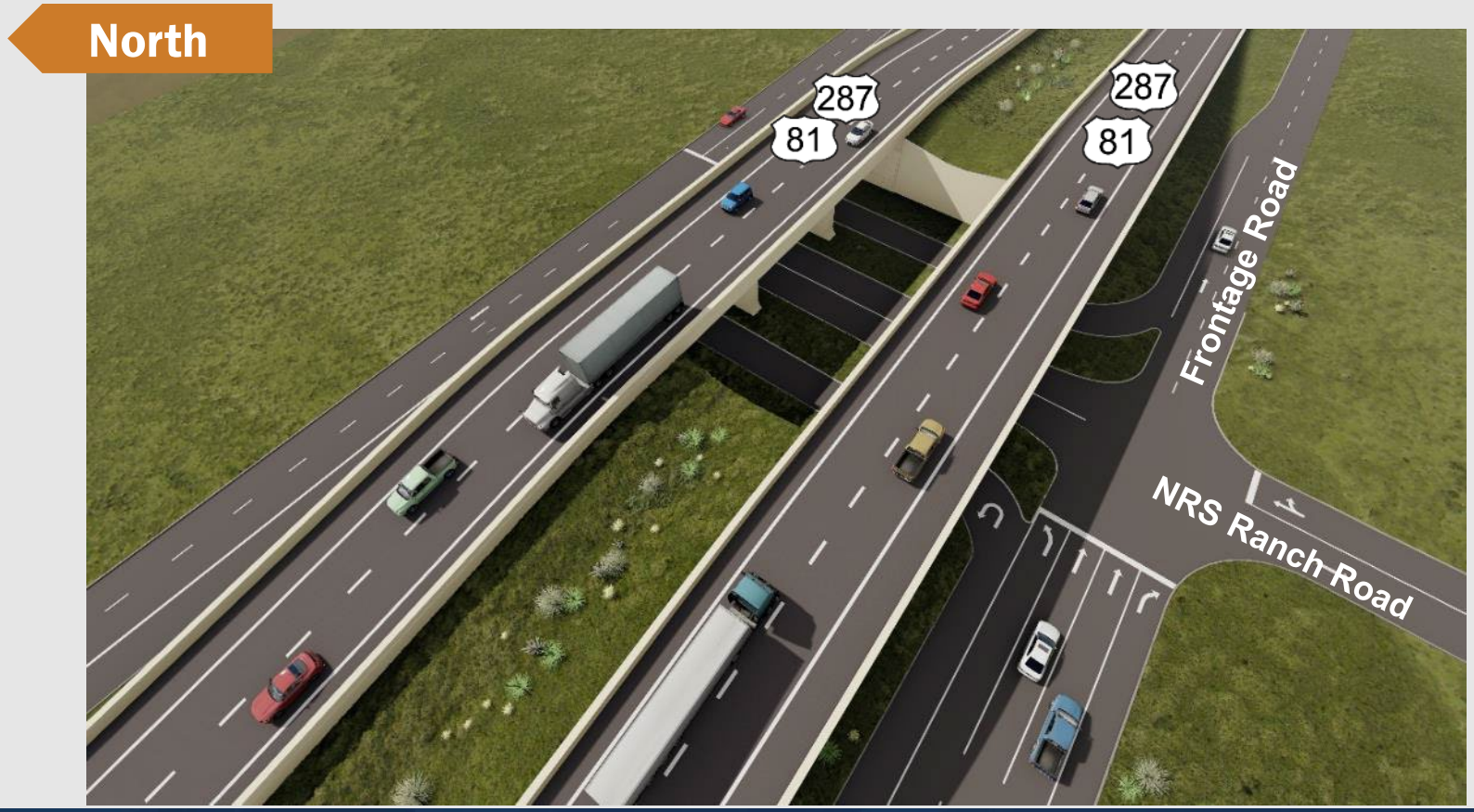
Proposed Typical Section



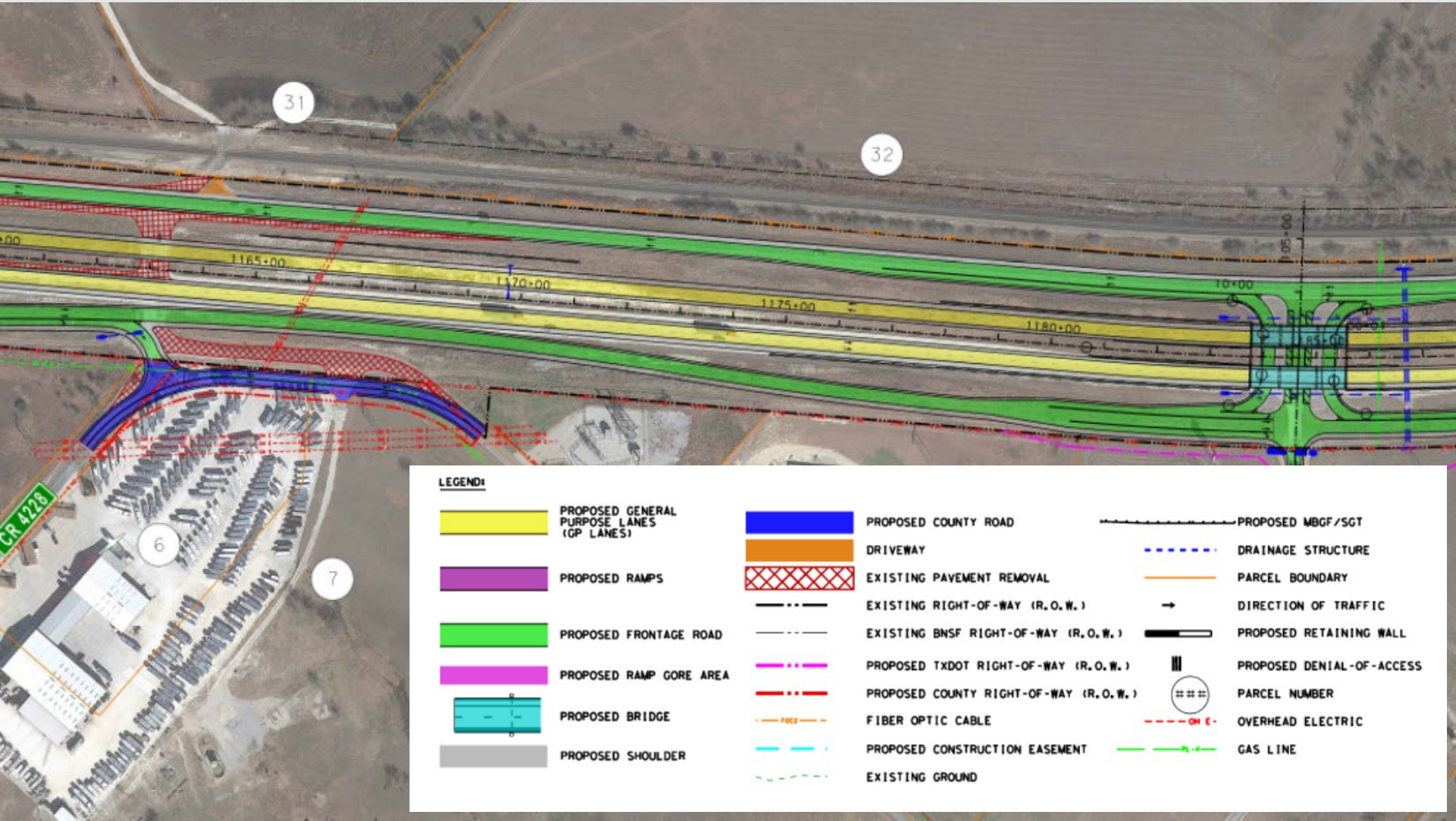
- Four 12-foot general purpose lanes
- The mainlanes would have 10-foot outside and 6-foot inside shoulders
- Provide north and southbound one-way frontage and ramps
- The frontage roads would have 10-foot outside and 4-foot inside shoulders
- Provide new grade-separated crossing at NRS Ranch Road

Proposed Project

The proposed project consists of constructing a grade-separated crossing at NRS Ranch Road, one-way frontage roads, ramps, U-Turns and intersection improvements.



Sample View of Schematic



Full versions of the public hearing displays are available for download at:

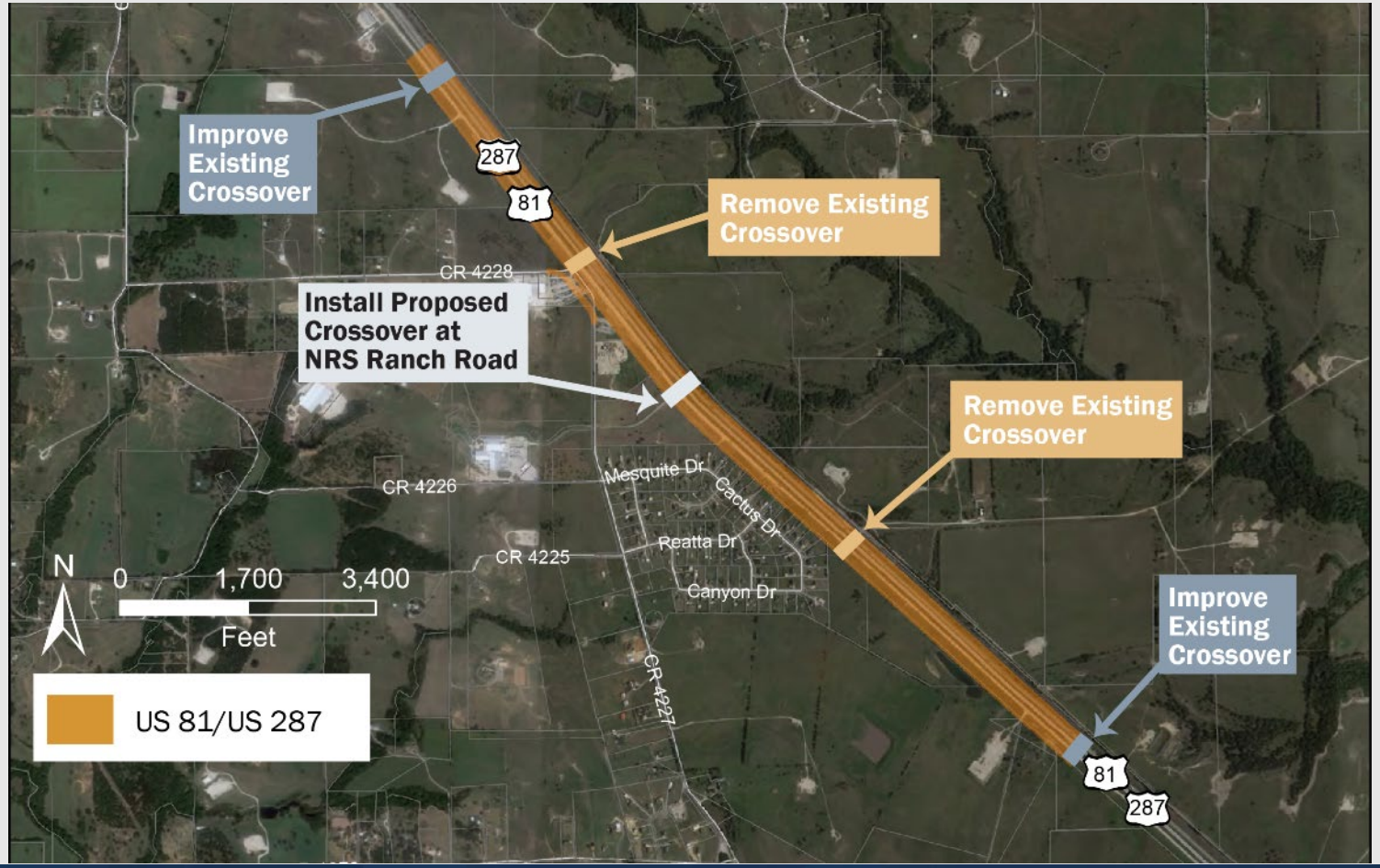
- www.TxDOT.gov,
  search “US 81 at CR 4228”

View in-person at:

- TxDOT Decatur Area Office
  1710 W US 380, Decatur, TX 76234
  From 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. (940) 626-3400 through June 10, 2022

Separate Project – Crossover Improvements (CSJ: 0013-08-140)

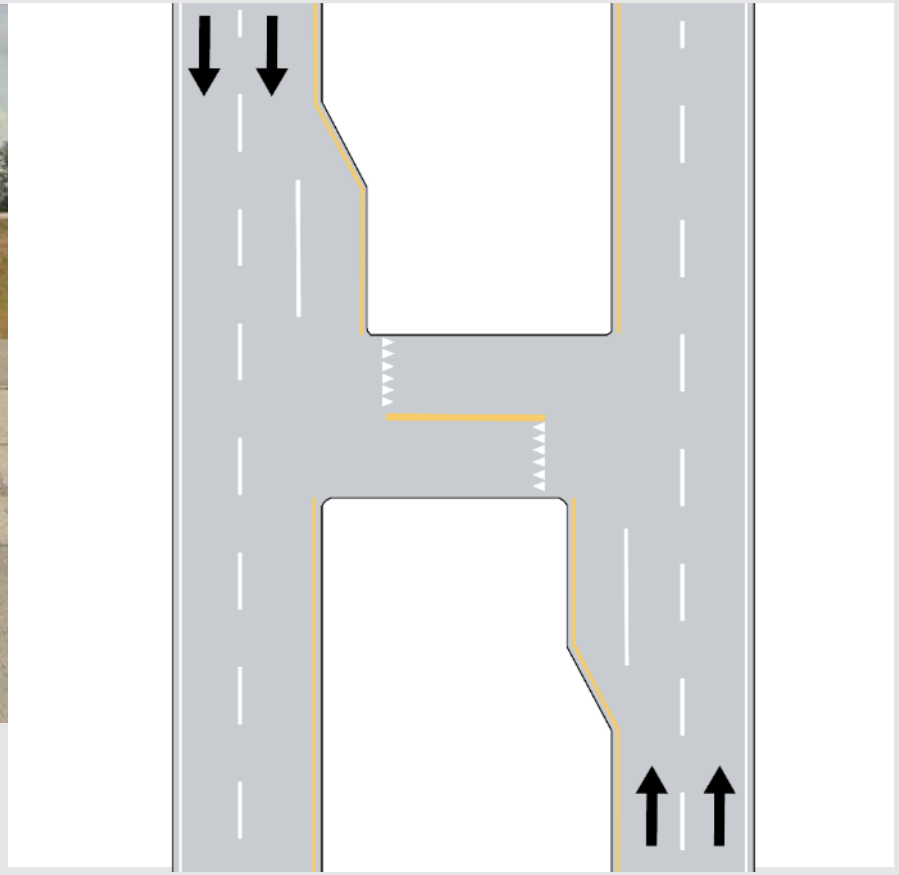
A separate project is proposed, which will implement crossover improvements and add acceleration/deceleration lanes to enhance safety ahead of the proposed project.



Separate Project – Crossover Improvements (CSJ: 0013-08-140)

Existing Crossover at CR 4228 to be removed

Proposed Crossover at NRS Ranch Road



US 81/US 287 Crossover Project Schedule
(CSJ: 0013-08-140)

Final Design	Fall 2022
Construction Begins	Spring 2023

Estimated construction cost (Modifications & Crossover Improvements)	$21 million

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

- A Categorical Exclusion (CE) process is being followed in accordance with NEPA
- Environmental documentation in support of the CE determination is provided to the public
- Includes an evaluation of the following:
  - Right of Way/Easements
  - Bicycle/Pedestrian Accommodations
  - Community Impacts
  - Vegetation and Wildlife
  - Water Resources
  - Cultural Resources
  - Hazardous Materials
  - Traffic Noise
  - Air Quality

Right of Way

- Approximately 1.35 acres of additional right of way is required

Easements

- Approximately 0.48 acres of temporary construction easements
- No drainage easements would be required

Denial of Access

- New denial of access would be required along the southbound exit and entrance ramps where they meet the frontage road

Habitat Impacts

- One acre of riparian vegetation,
- One acre of floodplain,
- 7.8 acres of Edwards plateau savannah, woodland, and shrubland
- 2.9 acres tallgrass prairie, grassland
- Less than one acre of crosstimbers woodland and forest

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

- Woodhouse's toad
- Western burrowing owl
- Eastern spotted skunk
- Western hog-nosed skunk
- Eastern box turtle
- Prairie skink
- Texas garter snake
- Western box turtle
- Western chicken turtle
- Western hognose snake
- Western massasauga
- Comanche Peak prairie clover
- Engelmann's bladderpod
- Osage Plains false foxglove
- Reverchon's scurfpea
- Topeka purple-coneflower
- Turnip-root scurfpea

State Threatened Species

- Texas horned lizard

Federal Candidate Species

- Monarch butterfly

Environmental Process – Water Resources

Name	Type	Acres within project area (all waterbodies and wetlands)	Linear feet within project area (waterbodies only)
Unnamed Tributary to Oliver Creek 1	Intermittent Stream	0.09	370
Unnamed Tributary to Oliver Creek 2	Intermittent Stream	Less than 0.01	36
Unnamed Tributary to Oliver Creek 3	Intermittent Stream	0.09	362
Wetland 1	Emergent Wetland	0.01	-
Wetland 2	Emergent Wetland	0.13	-
Wetland 3	Emergent Wetland	0.02	-

- Impacts to water resources are anticipated to be permitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 14 - Linear Transportation Projects with a Pre-Construction Notification
- Mitigation may be necessary and would be determined during the permitting process
- Final impacts to waterbodies and wetland features will be determined during detailed design (PS&E)

Environmental Process – Traffic Noise

- 5 receivers representing 13 houses within the project limits would be impacted by traffic noise
- Noise abatement measures were considered, including noise walls.
- Only 9 houses would benefit, and the cost reasonableness threshold would be exceeded.
- To be cost-effective, 25 houses would need to benefit; therefore, noise walls are not recommended.
- Noise levels would increase between as much as 210 to 280 feet from the right of way, depending on the location. Details are available as part of the noise report

Environmental Process – Air Quality

- The North Central Texas Council of Governments' (NCTCOG) Congestion Management Process form was completed
  - provides information on alternative strategies for alleviating congestion and enhancing mobility
  - NCTCOG reviewed the form and determined that this project is exempt from CMP

Environmental Process

- No negative impacts to Environmental Justice (EJ) or Limited English Proficiency (LEP) communities are anticipated
- No negative impacts to community facilities are anticipated
- No hazardous material sites were identified
- No cultural resources were identified

Environmental Process – Agency Coordination

- Texas Historical Commission (THC)
- North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)
- Tribal Coordination
- United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) coordination during detailed design (PS&E)

- **The following Environmental Technical Reports can be viewed and downloaded at www.TxDOT.gov. Search "US 81 at CR 4228"**
- **List of Technical Reports:**
  - Wetland Delineation Report
  - Surface Water Analysis Form
  - Species Analysis Form and Spreadsheet
  - Historic Resources Project Coordination Request
  - Archeological Background Study
  - Community Impact Assessment
  - Hazardous Materials Initial Site Assessment
  - Traffic Noise Technical Report
  - Congestion Management Process Form

Categorical Exclusion Summary

- Based on studies thus far, the environmental investigations indicate that 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 during the comment period
- After all necessary revisions are provided, a Categorical Exclusion determination is anticipated for this project

- 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 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

- 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: http://txdot.gov/inside-txdot/formspublications/publications/landowner-rights.html

Denial of Access

- If the appraisal indicates the access denial reaches a level of a material impairment affecting the property's remaining market value, normal acquisition procedures would be followed based on the appraisal value.
- If the appraisal indicates it does not materially impair direct access and/or does not affect the property's market value, acquisition of the access control would not proceed.
- Right of Way Brochures are available on the TxDOT Website: http://txdot.gov/inside-txdot/formspublications/publications/landowner-rights.html

US 81/US 287 Intersection Improvement Project

Public Meeting	July 14, 2020
Schematic Complete	Fall 2022
Public Hearing	May 26, 2022
Environmental Approval	Fall 2022
Final Design	Pending funding availability
Construction Begins	Pending funding availability

Estimated construction cost: $42,200,000

These dates are approximate

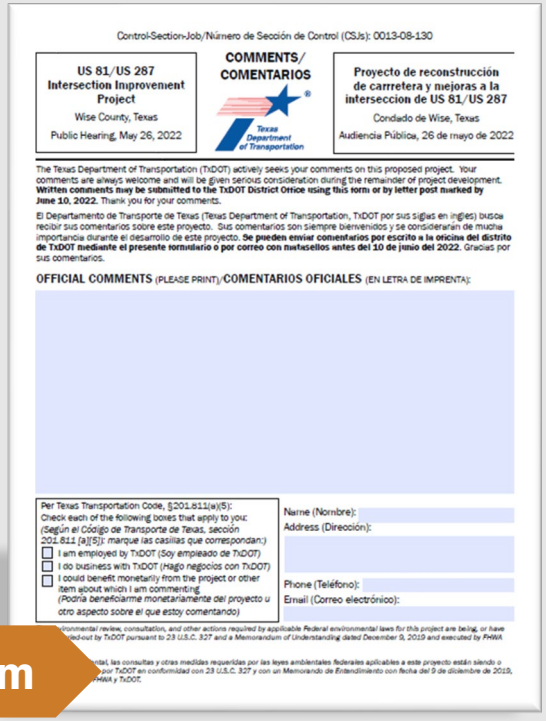
Your Input Matters!

Submit Comments

Submit comments by:

- In-Person Hearing attendees can fill out a comment form and drop it in the box
- Email: Francis.Smith@TxDOT.gov
- Project hotline: (940) 799-9077
- Mail:

  Texas Department of Transportation
  ATTN: Carl L. Johnson, P.E.
  Fort Worth District Engineer
  2501 SW Loop 820
  Fort Worth, TX 76133



Control-Section-Job/Número de Sección de Control (CSJs): 0013-08-130

US 81/US 287 Intersection Improvement Project
Wise County, Texas
Public Hearing, May 26, 2022

COMMENTS/ COMENTARIOS

Texas Department of Transportation

Proyecto de reconstrucción de carrretera y mejoras a la interseccion de US 81/US 287
Condado de Wise, Texas
Audiencia Pública, 26 de mayo de 2022

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) actively seeks your comments on this proposed project. Your comments are always welcome and will be given serious consideration during the remainder of project development. **Written comments may be submitted to the TxDOT District Office using this form or by letter post marked by June 10, 2022.** Thank you for your comments.

El Departamento de Transporte de Texas (Texas Department of Transportation, TxDOT por sus siglas en inglés) busca recibir sus comentarios sobre este proyecto. Sus comentarios son siempre bienvenidos y se considerarán de mucha importancia durante el desarrollo de este proyecto. **Se pueden enviar comentarios por escrito a la oficina del distrito de TxDOT mediante el presente formulario o por correo con matasellos antes del 10 de junio del 2022.** Gracias por sus comentarios.

OFFICIAL COMMENTS (PLEASE PRINT)/COMENTARIOS OFICIALES (EN LETRA DE IMPRENTA):

Per Texas Transportation Code, §201.811(a)(5):
Check each of the following boxes that apply to you:
(Según el Código de Transporte de Texas, sección 201.811 (a)(5)): marque las casillas que correspondan:)

- ☐ I am employed by TxDOT *(Soy empleado de TxDOT)*
- ☐ I do business with TxDOT *(Hago negocios con TxDOT)*
- ☐ I could benefit monetarily from the project or other item about which I am commenting *(Podría beneficiarme monetariamente del proyecto u otro aspecto sobre el que estoy comentando)*

Name (Nombre):
Address (Dirección):
Phone (Teléfono):
Email (Correo electrónico):

Hearing Comment Form

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

While comments are always welcome, they must be received by June 10, 2022, to be included in the official hearing documentation.

Quick Contacts – Engage TxDOT Online

- Contact the Dr. Francis A. Smith, P.E., Project Manager, TxDOT Fort Worth District office with any questions at: (817) 370-6708
- Follow us: Twitter – Fort Worth: https://twitter.com/txdotfortworth
- Like us: TxDOT Facebook: www.facebook.com/TxDOT/

Thank you for watching

Please don’t forget to submit your comments by Friday, June 10, 2022.