

Virtual Public Meeting

Seminole Relief Route

Gaines County, Texas
CSJ: 0228-02-049

Thursday, Feb. 11, 2021

Welcome to the Texas Department of Transportation virtual public meeting presentation for the Seminole Relief Route study. TxDOT is proposing to improve safety and mobility through the city of Seminole.

Seminole is a major hub located in the Permian Basin and along a vital transportation corridor that provides connectivity and access to the area's energy sector. This region also has a large agriculture industry that contributes to the traffic traveling through Seminole. Due to the amount of semi-truck traffic through the city, the roadway width and congestion at the US 62/385/180 intersection is currently an issue. Therefore, TxDOT is conducting a study intended to improve mobility and ease congestion at the US 62/385/180 intersection in downtown Seminole.

Virtual Public Meeting in Response to Public Health

TxDOT changed the traditional “in-person” public meeting to an online format in response to the COVID-19 outbreak

The virtual public meeting and information on the TxDOT website provides the same information as an in-person meeting would include:

- Project information
- Pre-recorded presentation
- Proposed design
- Estimated project timeline
- Process for submitting comments
- Key contacts

Share Facts About COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

FACT 1 Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.
People of Asian descent, including Chinese Americans, are not more likely to get COVID-19 than any other American. Help stop fear by letting people know that being of Asian descent does not increase the chance of getting or spreading COVID-19.

FACT 2 Some people are at increased risk of getting COVID-19.
People who have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or people who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread are at an increased risk of exposure.

FACT 3 Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.
For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.

FACT 4 You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:
• Fever
• Cough
• Shortness of breath
Seek medical advice if you
• Develop symptoms
AND
• Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

FACT 5 There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.
• Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
• Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
• Stay home when you are sick.
• Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

Given the unique circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, along with TxDOT’s commitment to protecting public health during this national emergency, TxDOT is conducting this virtual public meeting to prevent the spreading of COVID-19. At this time, the online format will be in-lieu of an in-person public meeting.

The presentation will cover the same information the Lubbock District would have shared at an in-person public meeting. However, the comment process will be different, which will be explained shortly. All project information can be found on the TxDOT website at www.txdot.gov, keyword search “Seminole Relief Route.”

Virtual Public Meeting - Welcome



US 62/385/180 Intersection



The Honorable John Belcher
Mayor of Seminole



English



Spanish

Seminole Relief Route Survey



US 62/385 (Main St.)



Kylan Francis, P.E.
Director TP&D

TxDOT would like to welcome you and thank you for watching this virtual public meeting presentation that is being shared with the public today, Thursday, February 11, 2021. The Honorable John Belcher is the mayor of Seminole. Kylan Francis is the director of transportation, planning, and development for the TxDOT Lubbock District and is the primary contact for this project.

Please listen now to this short message from the mayor of Seminole, the Honorable John Belcher... [PLAY AUDIO FILE HERE]

A survey is available online for you to give your opinion on which option you think would work best for Seminole. Visit TxDOT.gov and keyword search "Seminole Relief Route" to take the survey.

TxDOT encourages you to review the materials posted on the virtual public meeting web page and provide written comments. Comments must be received or postmarked by Friday, Feb. 26, 2021, to be included in the virtual public meeting summary report. You can submit written comments in the following ways:

Virtual Public Meeting Agenda



- 1 Welcome
- 2 Project Overview
- 3 Environmental Overview
- 4 Project Schedule and Next Steps
- 5 Public Comment Process
- 6 Adjourn

During this virtual public meeting, we will be covering the following areas:

- Project overview
- Environmental overview
- Project schedule and next steps
- The public comment process – and this will be a little different than our in-person public meetings.....more information on that later – and then
- Adjournment

National Environmental 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

Prior to December 16, 2014 the Federal Highway Administration, otherwise known as FHWA, reviewed and approved documents prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act, known as NEPA. However on December 16, 2014, the Texas Department of Transportation assumed responsibility from the FHWA for reviewing and approving certain assigned NEPA environmental documents. This memorandum of understanding was renewed on December 9, 2019. This review and approval process applies to this proposed project.

This virtual public meeting, presented by TxDOT, is being provided to share information and to encourage comments from the public regarding the proposed Seminole Relief Route. Notices for this meeting were published on the TxDOT website Friday, Jan. 22, 2021 and Seminole Sentinel on Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021. The notice was also mailed to local elected public officials. Additional outreach methods for this virtual public meeting included local media and social media.

Seminole Relief Route Location Map



OPTION 3 is the No-Build Option.
This option would rebuild the existing US 62/385 roadway (Main Street) from CR 104 to US 180 (Avenue A)

TxDOT, the City of Seminole, and Gaines County have been studying the different options available for relieving the congestion through Seminole. This study is focused on the need for a route that semi-trucks could utilize to safely and efficiently move through Seminole. The study is analyzing the benefits of utilizing existing roadway as well as adding new routes to maximize the movement of traffic while minimizing the adverse impacts on the city. The existing roadways were evaluated, funding options were explored and all alternatives were considered, including the option to defer the project.

- Option 1 consists of converting the existing US 62/385 into a 3-lane, one-way roadway (northbound), and converting the existing 2nd Street into the other 3-lane, one-way roadway (southbound). This option adds capacity and easier turning movements for semi-trucks.
- Option 2 consists of leaving the existing US 62/385 as is, but adds a truck relief route on the east side of Seminole. The existing 5th Street would be converted into a 3-lane roadway with one lane in each direction and a center left-turn lane. This option will give trucks an easier route to travel through the city.
- Option 3 considered the No Build Option, would make no changes to the network. Option 3 would maintain the current highway with improvements to the pavement, sidewalks and lighting.

You can view the options in more detail on the TxDOT website.

Why is the Project Needed?



Need for the Proposed Project

- Commercial/Agricultural vehicles generate large volume of truck traffic within the city
- Delays at traffic signals due to difficulty turning at US 62/385/180 intersection
- Need to improve safety within the city of Seminole

Purpose of the Proposed Project

- Improve safety and efficiency of travel through Seminole
- Improve turning movements for truck traffic
- Reduce traffic congestion at the US 62/385/180 intersection

Purpose of the Public Meeting

- To inform the public of the status of the project
- To present proposed options and determine the potential to affect lives and property
- To develop a record of public views and opinions to accompany recommendations for the final project

Why is this project needed?

-The need for the proposed project is due to a large volume of commercial and agricultural vehicles traveling through the city. This creates delays for traffic turning at the US 62/385/180 intersection.

-There is a need to improve safety along this segment of US 62/385/180.

The purpose of the proposed project is:

-To improve safety and efficiency of travel through Seminole

-Improve turning movements

-Reduce traffic congestion on US 62/385/180

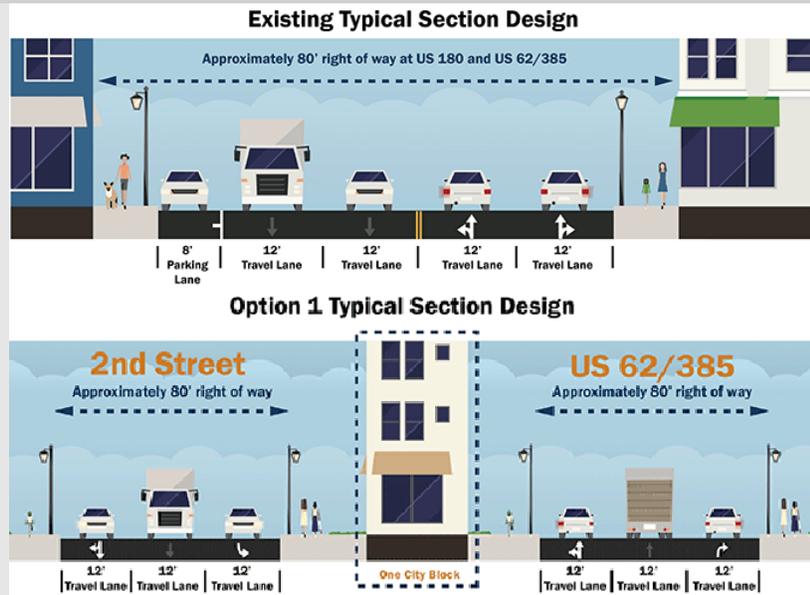
The purpose of the public meeting is:

-To inform the public of the status of planning on the project and present TxDOT's recommendations based on studies performed to date,

-To present a roadway design so the public can determine the project's potential to affect their lives and property, and

-To develop a record of public views and participation to accompany recommendations for subsequent decisions.

Seminole Relief Route Typical Sections

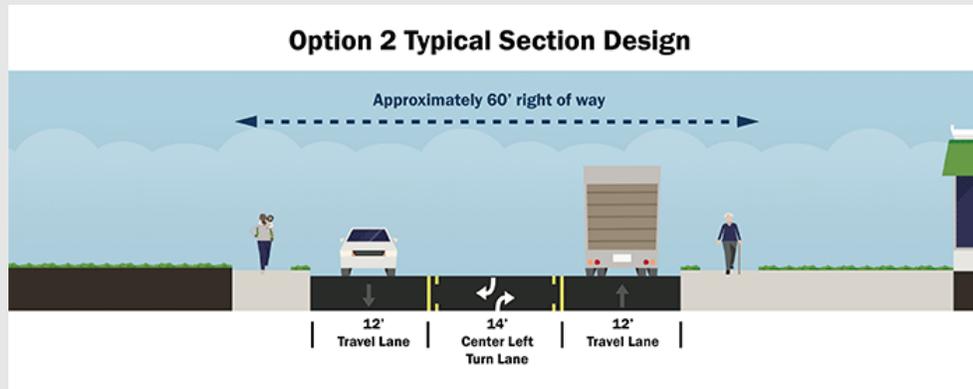


These are the typical sections for the Seminole Relief Route study. The existing US 62/385 and 2nd Street right of way is 80-foot-wide.

Option 1 consists of converting the existing US 62/385 into a 3-lane, one-way roadway (northbound) and converting the existing 2nd Street into the other 3-lane, one-way roadway (southbound). This option adds capacity and easier turning movements for semi-trucks.

For Option 3, the 80-foot right of way width would remain the same as shown in the “Existing Typical Section Design”. TxDOT would rebuild the existing roadway as well as adding or repairing sidewalks and ADA ramps.

Seminole Relief Route Typical Sections



Here is the typical section for the Seminole Relief Route project, Option 2. The existing 5th Street right of way is 60-feet-wide.

Option 2 consists of leaving the existing US 62/385 as is, but adds a truck relief route on the east side of Seminole. The existing 5th Street would be converted into a 3-lane roadway with one lane in each direction and a center left-turn lane. This option will give trucks an easier route to travel through the city.

Seminole Relief Route Option 1: US 62/385 and 2nd Street

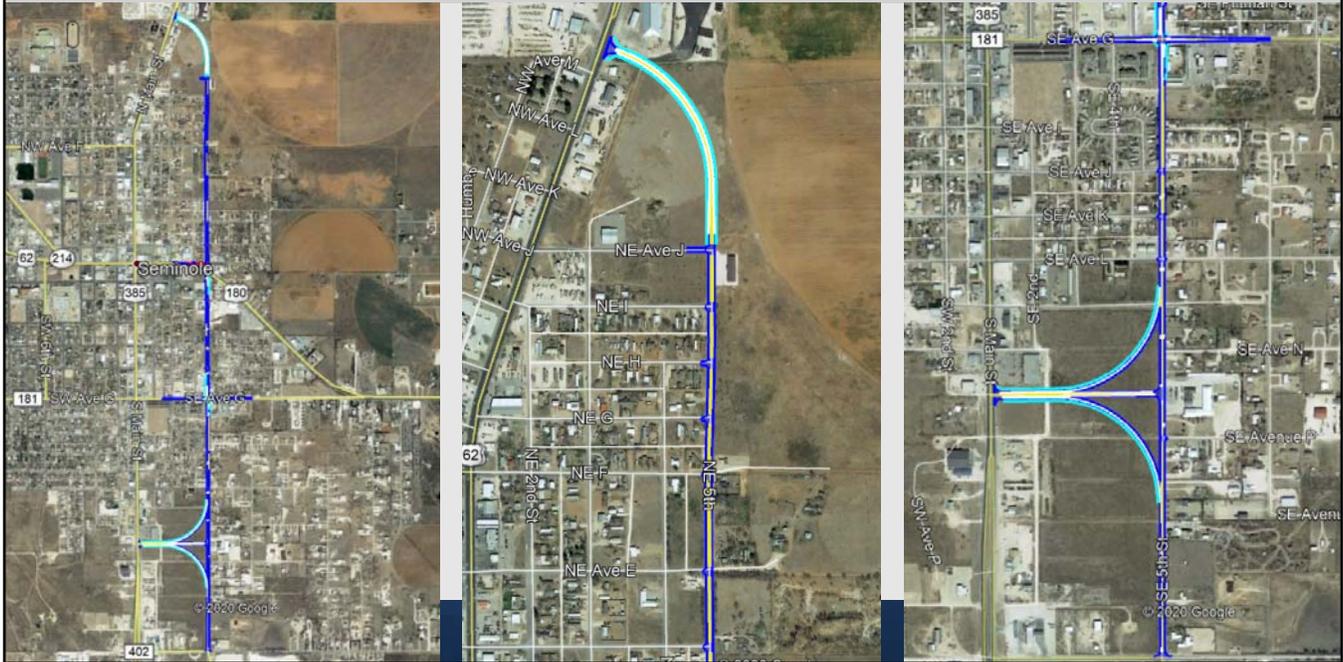


These maps show the project location for Option 1. As you have a chance to review the preliminary design, the turquoise blue line is where the proposed new right of way is to be acquired by TxDOT. Existing roadway is shaded a dark blue.

The map on the left shows the entire length of Option 1. The center map shows the north portion of the project at the tie-in from US 62/385 to 2nd Street. The map on the right shows the southern portion of the project as 2nd Street transitions to connect back to US 385. The red shaded areas are showing where existing connections will be closed.

You can view the design in more detail on the TxDOT meeting web page.

Seminole Relief Route Option 2: 5th Street



These maps show the project location for Option 2. As you have a chance to review the preliminary design, the turquoise blue line is where the proposed new right of way is to be acquired by TxDOT. Existing roadway is shaded dark blue.

The map on the left shows the entire length of Option 2. The center map shows the north portion of the project at the tie-in at US 62/385. The map on the right shows the southern portion of the project and the connections of 5th Street to US 62/385.

You can view the design in more detail on the TxDOT meeting web page.



How to review the preliminary design information

1. Click on the PDF file to view the detailed preliminary design posted on this public meeting website



2. Download Google Earth and then click on the KMZ file to view the detailed preliminary design posted on this public meeting website



Seminole Relief Route
Preliminary Design

These files can be viewed and/or printed depending on your preference.

Because of the requirement for public meetings and hearings to be virtual, reviewing the preliminary design will be different. We have provided a variety of ways to review the preliminary design.

First, you will be able to click on the schematic PDF that contains the detailed preliminary design.

Secondly, you can download Google Earth and the KMZ file to view the detailed preliminary design.

These files can be viewed and/or printed depending on your preference.

Estimated Project Schedule



- Virtual Public Meeting.....February 2021
- Design and Environmental2021-2023
- Right-of-Way Acquisition.....2023-2025
- Begin Construction.....Summer 2025
- Estimated Construction Duration.....24-36 months
- Estimated Construction Cost
 - Option 1.....\$44 million
 - Option 2.....\$21 million
 - Option 3.....\$20 million

Now, let's talk about the schedule. This is the project schedule for the major milestones. Tonight is public meeting. The Design and Environmental are anticipated during 2021 to 2023. After the design and environmental processes are complete, TxDOT will start purchasing the property required to build the preferred option.

Construction is currently scheduled to begin in the summer of 2025. However, if the right-of-way acquisition process takes less time than anticipated, construction could begin earlier.

Construction is anticipated to take 24 to 36 months depending on the option chosen.

The estimated construction cost for Option 1 is \$44 million, Option 2 is \$21 million, and Option 3 is \$20 million.

Environmental Process



- Environmental Documentation is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).



- The environmental documentation identifies social, economic, and environmental effects of the proposed project.



- Includes an evaluation of the following:
 - Biological Resources
 - Cultural Resources
 - Hazardous Materials
 - Historical Resources
 - Traffic Noise
 - Community Impacts

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.

The environmental studies being conducted for this project comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. In addition, 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 United States Code 327 and the Memorandum of Understanding dated Dec. 9, 2019, and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and TxDOT.

The environmental evaluation of potential impacts by the proposed project to the natural and human environment include:

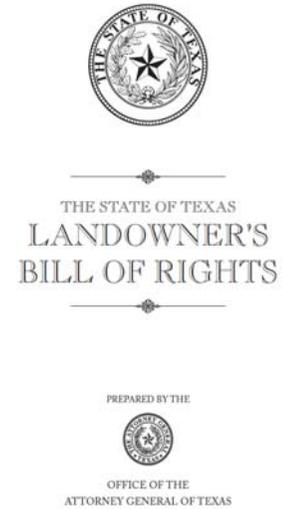
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Hazardous Materials
- Historical Resources
- Traffic Noise
- Community Impacts

Right-of-Way Acquisition Process



Additional right of way is required.

Relocations and displacements are anticipated.



Please visit www.txdot.gov for more information about the Uniform Act, the TxDOT Right-of-Way Acquisition Process, and the State of Texas Landowner's Bill of Rights

The Seminole Relief Route project will require additional right of way. Relocations or displacements are anticipated.

It is also important that you know that you can help make this project a success and how this project might impact you and the rights you have as a property owner in Texas. We invite you to review more information about the Uniform Act, the TxDOT Right-of-Way Acquisition Process and the State of Texas Landowner's Bill of Rights brochures. A link to view or download this brochures has been provided on this public meeting website at www.txdot.gov.

How to Submit Your Written Comments



Mail:
Kylan Francis, P.E.
Director TP&D
135 Slaton Rd.
Lubbock, TX 79404



Email:
kylan.francis@txdot.gov



English



Spanish

Seminole Relief Route Survey



Online:
Visit txdot.gov - Keyword Search: "Seminole Relief Route"

**Comments must be received or postmarked on or before Friday, Feb. 26, 2021
to be included in the public meeting summary report**

TxDOT encourages you to review the materials posted on the virtual public meeting web page and provide written comments. Comments must be received or postmarked by Friday, Feb. 26, 2021, to be included in the virtual public meeting summary report. You can submit written comments in the following ways:

By mail to:
Kylan Francis, P.E.
Director TP&D
135 Slaton Rd.
Lubbock, TX 79404

By Email to kylan.francis@txdot.gov

Or online by visiting www.txdot.gov and keyword search "Seminole Relief Route"

Again – most importantly, please be sure to submit your written comment no later than Friday, Feb. 26, 2021, which is 15 days after the Feb. 11, 2021 meeting date. The responses to your comments submitted during this time will be included in the virtual public meeting summary report, which will be posted on the meeting web page.

Also remember to check out the survey that is available online for you to give your opinion on which option you think would work best for Seminole. Visit TxDOT.gov and keyword search "Seminole Relief Route" to take the survey.



PROJECT CONTACTS:

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Julia.Perschnick@txdot.gov

Call or email these project contacts Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. with any questions at any time in the project development process.

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.

Please don't hesitate to contact Kylan Francis or Julia Perschnick with any questions about the proposed project. It must be noted that comments on the project must be submitted in writing as previously discussed.

In closing, we want to remind everyone that you can call or email these project contacts Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. with any questions at any time in the project development process.

And don't forget to visit the project meeting web page to view additional project information.

This concludes the virtual public meeting presentation. Thank you!