

WELCOME

PUBLIC HEARING

**SH 7 (Main Street) at Lanana Creek
Bridge Replacement**

CSJ: 0118-08-085

Aug. 1, 2024

Why am I here?

- Learn and ask questions about the proposed project
- Review the proposed design
- Provide comments and feedback

Welcome to the Lufkin District's SH 7 (Main Street) at Lanana Creek Bridge Replacement public hearing. My name is Dane Kerne, and I support the Lufkin District and I would like to also thank you for watching this pre-recorded video presentation that was shared with the public starting on Thursday, August 1st.

The purpose of this public hearing is to present the proposed design of the SH 7 (Main Street) at Lanana Creek Bridge Replacement, the preliminary findings of the environmental technical reports, and to receive your comments on the proposed project.

Safety Minute



We would like to begin this video presentation with a Safety Minute. The safety of the travelling public is at the forefront of all we do at TxDOT. TxDOT created End the Streak campaign to raise awareness about the long streak of traffic deaths in Texas since Nov. 7, 2000, and how this impacts everyone in Texas. We encourage you to check the txdot.gov website, search #EndTheStreakTX for more information.

Environmental Policy Act

- 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 (FHWA) reviewed and approved documents prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act, known as NEPA; however, TxDOT has assumed responsibility from FHWA for reviewing and approving certain assigned NEPA environmental documents pursuant to 23 U.S.C 327 and the latest memorandum of understanding dated December 9, 2019.

Public Hearing Notice Advertisement

- TxDOT Website – Online Notice: July 1, 2024
 - <https://www.txdot.gov/projects/hearings-meetings/lufkin/2024/sh7-main-st-at-lanana-creek-bridge-replacement-080124.html>
 - Search: "SH 7 at Lanana"
- Tyler Morning Telegraph: June 30, 2024, July 12, 2024, and July 19, 2024
- Lufkin Daily News and The Daily Sentinel: July 10, 2024
- Eastex Bilingual Services: July 17, 2024
- Letters mailed to adjacent property owners: July 2, 2024

The Notices of this public hearing were advertised by the methods noted on this slide.

[Pause briefly to allow the audience to read the slide.]

Category 6 Funds: Structures Replacement & Rehabilitation

- Managed by TxDOT's Bridge Division (BRG)
- BRG conducts program call annually to select and fund projects under the following three funding programs:
 - Highway Bridge Program (HBP)
 - Bridge Maintenance and Improvement Program (BMIP)
 - Bridge System Safety Program (BSSP)
- Lanana Creek bridge was funded under HBP for construction in 2026
- HBP is specifically for the replacement or rehabilitation of existing On-system and Off-system bridges located on public highways, roads, and streets that inspections have determined to be in poor or fair condition
- Projects funded by HBP must remove the bridge's deficiency classification

The Bridge Division is responsible for the management of Category 6: Structure Replacement and Rehabilitation funding, which addresses the specific purpose of replacing or rehabilitating poor and fair bridges. Category 6 funds are distributed based on eligibility criteria and on a statewide basis. Category 6 consists of three funding programs: Highway Bridge Program (HBP), Bridge Maintenance and Improvement Program (BMIP), and Bridge System Safety Program (BSSP).

The Bridge Division conducts annual program calls for each of these funding programs. Districts are responsible for evaluating their bridges to determine which bridges meet eligibility requirements to submit for funding consideration.

In 2018, the Bridge Division selected and funded the SH 7 at Lanana Creek bridge under the Highway Bridge Program for construction in 2026. This program is specifically for the replacement or rehabilitation of existing On-system and Off-system bridges located on public highways, roads, and streets that inspections have determined to be in poor or fair condition.

The outcome of projects funded by HBP must remove the bridge's deficiency classification.

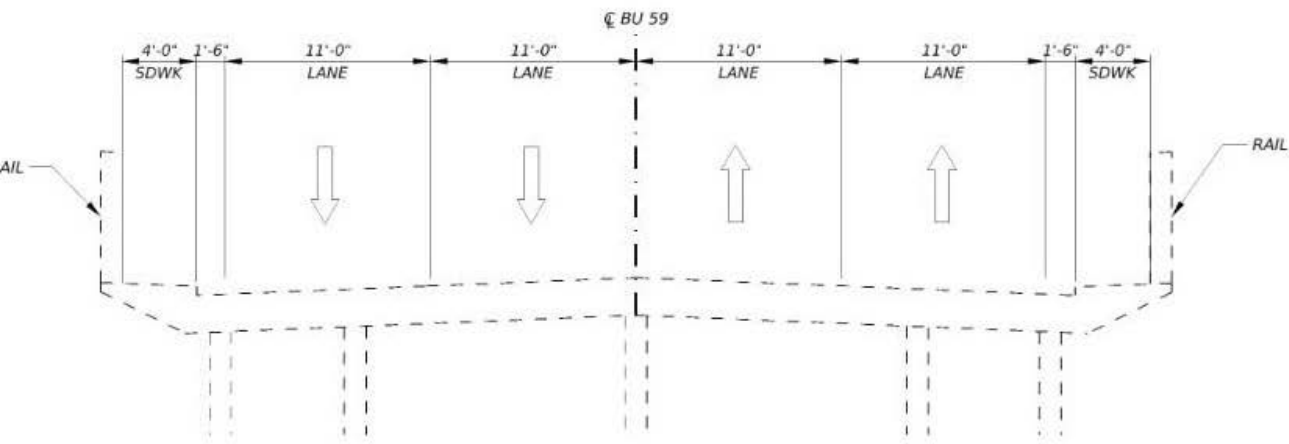
Proposed Project Location

- Location: SH 7 At Lanana Creek
- Limits: From North Lanana Street to University Drive
- Length: 0.146 Miles



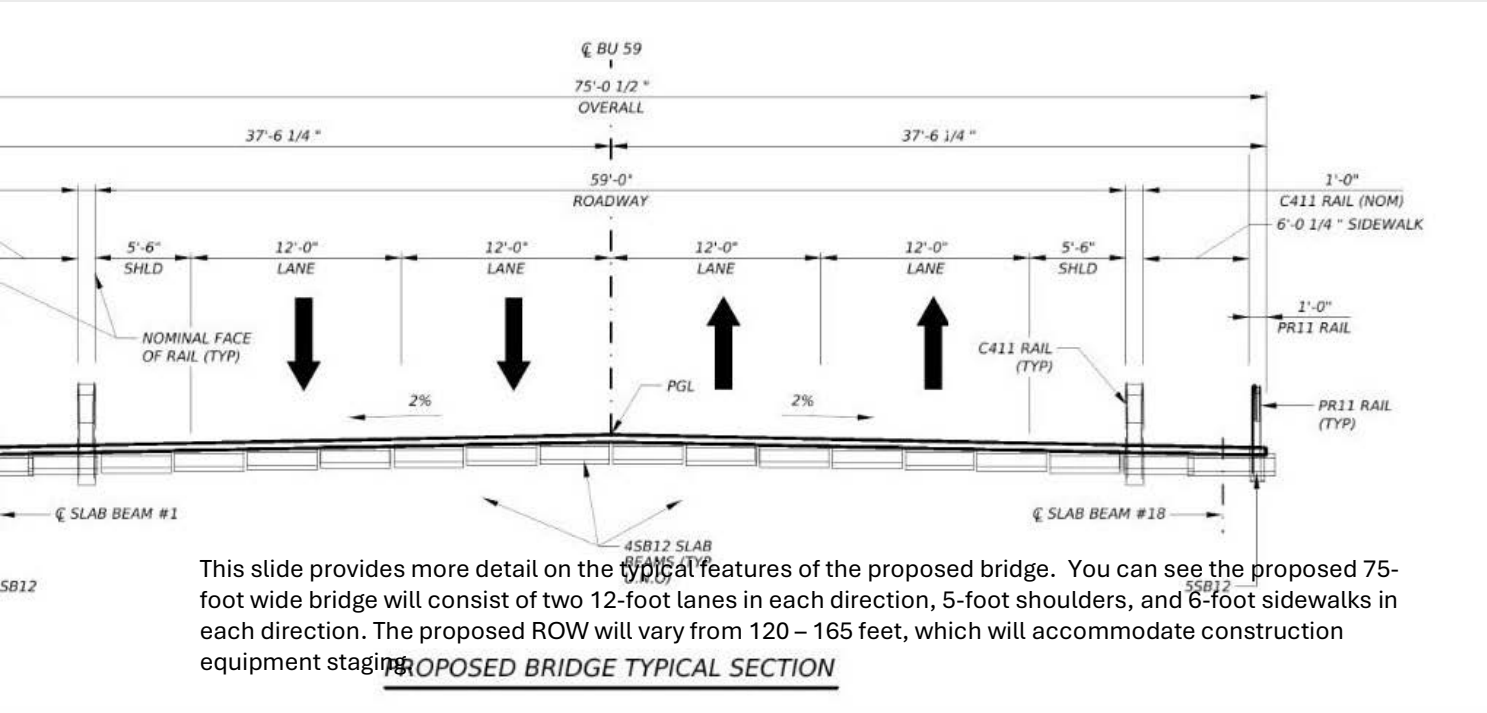
The proposed project limits for the SH 7 Lanana Creek bridge replacement are from Lanana Street to University Drive, a distance of approximately 0.146 miles.

Typical Section



This slide illustrates the existing bridge's lane widths and configurations. The current bridge has four 11-foot wide lanes with curb and gutter and two 4-foot sidewalks. The existing Right-of-Way (ROW) varies from 60 – 70 feet.

ed Typical Section



Project Overview

- Construct new bridge
- Constructing 6-foot-wide sidewalks through project limits, including new access ramp to Lanana Creek Trail
- Realignment of Rulfs St to provide improved sight distance
- Approximately 2.27 acres of additional right-of-way which includes six non-residential displacements and property from Lanana Creek Trail and Master Gardeners Demonstration Garden
- SH 7 (Main Street) and Lanana Creek Trail at the bridge will be closed during construction which is estimated to be nine months
- Estimated construction cost is \$4.8 Million and anticipated to begin in 2026

The proposed project would involve constructing a new bridge.

Sidewalks will also be added to Main Street throughout the project limits, including a new access ramp for the Lanana Creek Trail.

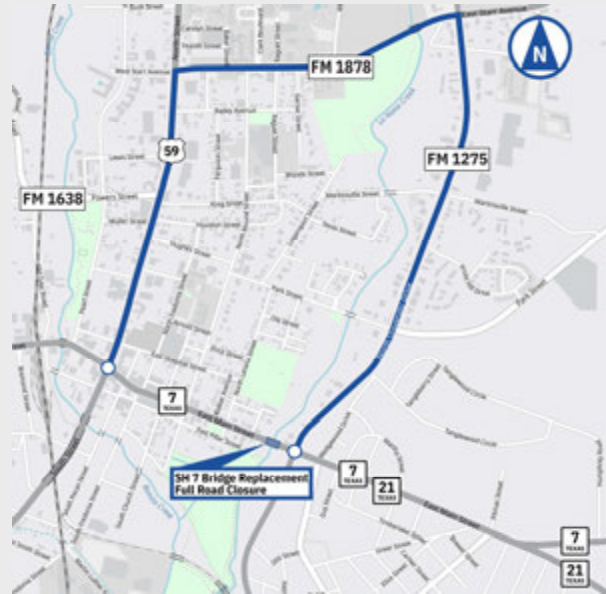
Due to potential sight distance issues, Rulfs Street will be realigned to the west to increase the distance between the intersection and proposed bridge.

The proposed project, subject to final design considerations, will require approximately 2.27 acres of additional right of way and displace 6 non-residential structures. Additional right-of-way would be needed from Lanana Creek Trail and The Master Gardeners Demonstration Garden.

Because the bridge will be constructed on existing alignment, SH 7 (Main St) and Lanana Creek Trail within the project limits would be closed during construction. Signed detours will be provided. Construction is anticipated to take approximately nine months.

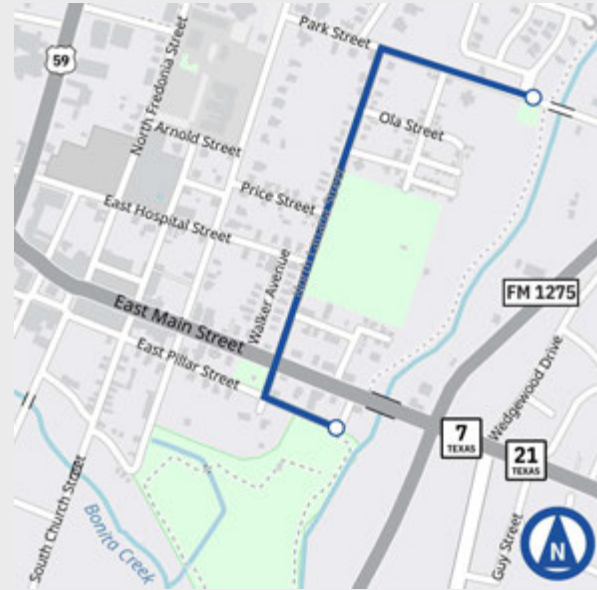
The estimated construction cost of the bridge replacement is \$4.8 million dollars. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2026.

SH 7 (Main Street) Detour Information



This slide provides the proposed detour route. Traffic for SH 7 will be detoured using FM 1275 University Drive, FM 1878 Starr Avenue, and US 59 North Street which is approximately 3.5 miles in length.

Lanana Walking Trail Detour Information



This slide illustrates the proposed detour for the Lanana Creek Trail which would utilize Park Street, North Lanana Street, and East Pilar Street to divert people around the project area.

Environmental Considerations

- Farmlands
- Community Impacts
- Pedestrian and Bicycle
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Water Quality
- Vegetation and Wildlife
- Floodplains
- Waters of the U.S.
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Archeological Resources
- Historical Non- Archeological Properties
- Section 4(f)/6(f) Properties
- Hazardous Materials
- Indirect and Cumulative Effects

As part of the environmental review process natural, cultural and social resources are evaluated for potential impacts of the proposed project.

In the following slides, I will highlight and discuss the resources that were determined to have potential impacts resulting from the proposed project and require further analysis, permits or agency coordination.

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Land use primarily consists of local small businesses and City of Nacogdoches Parks, including the Lanana Creek Trail and the Master Gardeners Demonstration Garden.

Project would require approximately 0.27 acre of permanent right-of-way from the Lanana Creek Trail and 0.35 acre from the Demonstration Garden. Lanana Creek trail would also be temporarily closed during construction.

The proposed project would also include the displacement of 5 commercial structures which include Scotts Auto Service, James Wood Construction, Nacogdoches County Democratic Party Headquarters, and Warrior Brotherhood Motorcycle club. An abandoned commercial structure would also be displaced. TxDOT will work with these property owners to determine if these businesses will relocate.

The proposed project will have temporary impacts to access and travel patterns due to the roadway being closed during construction. The detour length is estimated at 3.5 miles.

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- **Floodplains**

The project area is located within the Floodplain – Regulatory Zone AE. Preliminary coordination with the city’s floodplain administrator has been done. The proposed design has been modeled and hydraulic analysis performed to ensure it would not increase the base flood elevation of the floodway. Further coordination with Nacogdoches floodplain administrator and FEMA, if needed, will be conducted prior to completion of the detailed engineering plans.

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Lanana Creek is considered a potential jurisdictional waters of the U.S.; therefore, any fill or dredge material placed within it will require Section 404 Clean Water Act permitting which is regulated by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Based on the current design, TxDOT anticipates using a non-reporting Nationwide Permit 14 for Linear Transportation.

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- **Threatened and Endangered Species**
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No Threatened and Endangered Species are expected to occur within the project area. TxDOT will conduct necessary species surveys and any Agency Coordination will occur prior to NEPA clearance.

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TxDOT performed a desktop-based study of available background information, which indicated that further field investigation is warranted. Due to the level of disturbance associated with the survey activities, TxDOT has committed to conduct the required archeological survey when ownership of the property is obtained by the State. This survey and any necessary coordination with the Texas Historical Commission will be completed prior to construction.

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TxDOT historians reviewed the National Register of Historic Places, the list of State Antiquities Landmarks, the list of Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks, and TxDOT files for information related to resources built prior to 1981 within the area of potential Effects, also called A-P-E. They found no historically significant resources previously documented within the A-P-E.

TxDOT submitted a letter to the Nacogdoches County Historical Commission in July 2023 and asked for concurrence of the determinations. The County Historical Commission concurred with TxDOT's determination in September 2023.

TxDOT sent a letter to the City of Nacogdoches who is a certified local government or (CLG) on May 15, 2024. The CLG responded on June 10, 2024, concurring with TxDOT's determination that the historic-age bridge is not eligible. The CLG also shared thoughts and comments from the Nacogdoches Historic Landmark Preservation Committee. On July 5, 2024, the CLG sent another email stating that the historic-age properties are noncontributing properties to the Nacogdoches Downtown Historic District. TxDOT also reviewed the City of Nacogdoches Historic Sites Survey to inform the determination.

Therefore, pursuant to TxDOT's Section 106 Programmatic Agreement and the Memorandum of Understanding or MOU, TxDOT historians determined that there are no historic, non-archeological properties in the A-P-E. In compliance with the Antiquities Code of Texas and the MOU, TxDOT historians determined project activities have no potential for adverse effects. Individual project coordination with the Texas Historical Commission is not required.

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Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act (U.S. DOT ACT) protects publicly owned and accessible parks, recreation areas, and wildlife and waterfowl refuges and historic sites, regardless of ownership and accessibility. *The Lanana Creek Trail and Master Gardener's Demonstration Garden have been determined to meet this criteria. Impacts to these properties include temporary closure of the trail during construction; 0.27 acre of permanent right-of-way from the trail and 0.35 acre of permanent right of way from the Demonstration Garden. Due to the temporary nature of the closure and minimal right of way needed from these properties, TxDOT anticipates a de minimis finding.*

Section 6(f) provides that property acquired or developed with Land and Water Conservation Funds assistance shall be retained and used for public outdoor recreation. Any property so acquired and/or developed shall not be wholly or partly converted to other than public outdoor recreation uses without the approval of NPS pursuant to the LWCF Act and conversion requirements outlined in regulations. There are no Section 6(f) properties within the project area.

Right of Way Acquisition and Relocation

Handouts for Right of Way Acquisition and Relocation:

- State Purchase of Right of Way - information about the right of way acquisition process
- Relocation Assistance - information about the relocation assistance program for residences, tenants, businesses and personal property relocations
- Landowner's Bill of Rights - information prepared by the Office of the Attorney General explaining a property owner's rights in the State of Texas

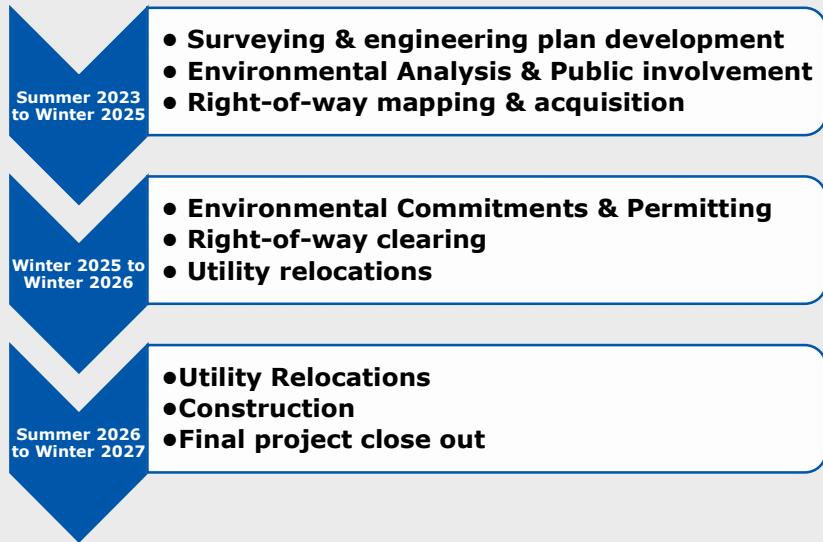
The Texas Department of Transportation will be responsible for acquiring the necessary right of way for this project. Once an approved right of way map is produced, State Certified Appraisers will be hired to appraise the individual parcels. During the appraisal process each landowner will be mailed a letter identifying the appraiser. Also a copy of the Landowners Bill of Rights will be sent certified mail to all affected property owners. The appraiser will contact the landowner to set up an appointment to inspect the property. It is highly recommended that landowners meet with the appraiser. This will allow the landowners to point out improvements such as sprinkler systems, septic systems as well as other property improvements. The landowner can also provide the appraiser information regarding tenants or easement holders. Once the appraisal is completed, the TxDOT representative will make an appointment to meet with the landowner and present a copy of the appraisal and a written offer for the property.

Relocation Assistance

If you are displaced, or have personal property that is displaced by the project, you will be notified of your eligibility for relocation assistance. Relocation eligibility begins upon delivery of the initial written offer to purchase right of way, and no person lawfully occupying real property will be required to move from their home, farm or business without at least 90 days written notice.

Please make sure you pick up the brochure titled State Purchase of Right of Way. It will give you more information about the process we go through to acquire property. They are located at the table as you entered.

Project Development Timeline



TxDOT began surveying, preliminary engineering and environmental analyses in Summer 2023 to get us to our public hearing today. When the comment period of this public hearing closes, TxDOT will review comments and feedback to finalize the design and complete our environmental analysis. Environmental approval is anticipated in Winter 2024 and detailed engineering plans will be completed in Winter 2025.

Right of Way mapping, which is the start of the Right of Way process, has begun. TxDOT anticipates the overall Right of Way process which includes mapping, appraisals, acquisitions, relocations and demolition, to take approximately 2 years and be complete in Winter 2026.

Any environmental commitments and permits that are required prior to construction will be completed by Winter 2026. Utility relocations will begin once the right of way has been cleared and typically takes approximately 1 year to complete.

Construction funding has been allocated and the proposed project is tentatively scheduled to begin in Summer 2026. TxDOT anticipates the construction to be completed in Winter 2027.

Submit Written Comments and Feedback

Visit www.txdot.gov, keyword search "SH 7 at Lanana" for additional project information and downloads.



Comment Card

Leave written comments at in-person event



Online Comment

TxDOT.gov, keyword search "SH 7 at Lanana"



Email Comments

Scott.Wahlberg@txdot.gov



Mail-In Comments

TxDOT Lufkin District
1805 N. Timberland Drive Lufkin, TX 75901



Voicemail

(936) 444-2808

We appreciate your feedback! TxDOT is available to answer questions anytime during the project development process.

All comments must be received by Friday, Aug. 16, 2024, to be included in the meeting summary report.

There are several ways to comment on the proposed project:

Members of the public may call 936-444-2808 to provide verbal testimony immediately following the conclusion of the virtual public hearing presentation;

You may submit your comments in writing. There are comment forms available tonight at the sign-in tables. We have provided comment boxes if you choose to leave your completed comment form tonight or your comments may also be mailed or sent electronically to the addresses shown on the slide and provided to you in your handout.

All comments must be received by August 16th to be included in the summary report.

Both written and verbal comments will be considered equally.

Thank you!

This concludes the video presentation for the Lufkin District's SH 7 (Main Street) At Lanana Creek Bridge Replacement. Thank you for your interest and participation. Please drive safely!