Texas Department of Transportation

WELCOME

US 59 Upgrade Shepherd to Trinity River (Future I-69)

From approximately 0.74 mile south of FM 223 (Church Street) to 0.70 mile north of the Trinity River

San Jacinto and Polk Counties, Texas

VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING WITH IN-PERSON OPTION

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Shepherd High School
1 Pirate Lane, Shepherd, Texas

1. Please sign-in
2. Watch a video presentation
3. View exhibits
4. Ask questions and Provide comments

Public Outreach and Notifications

The following public outreach materials and notifications were distributed for this Public Hearing:

- Notices were mailed directly to adjacent property owners and local stakeholders the week of Nov. 18
- Elected Officials were mailed notifications on Nov. 20
- 3,837 postcards were mailed the week of Dec. 2
- Guidance materials posted to the project webpage on Dec. 19
- Notices published in the Polk County Enterprise on Nov. 24 and in the San Jacinto News-Times and El Perico on Nov. 28
- Emails sent to subscribers the week of Nov. 18 and Dec. 12, and social media was posted the weeks of Dec. 9 and Dec. 16
- Portable changeable message signs posted Dec. 5–19

Project Overview

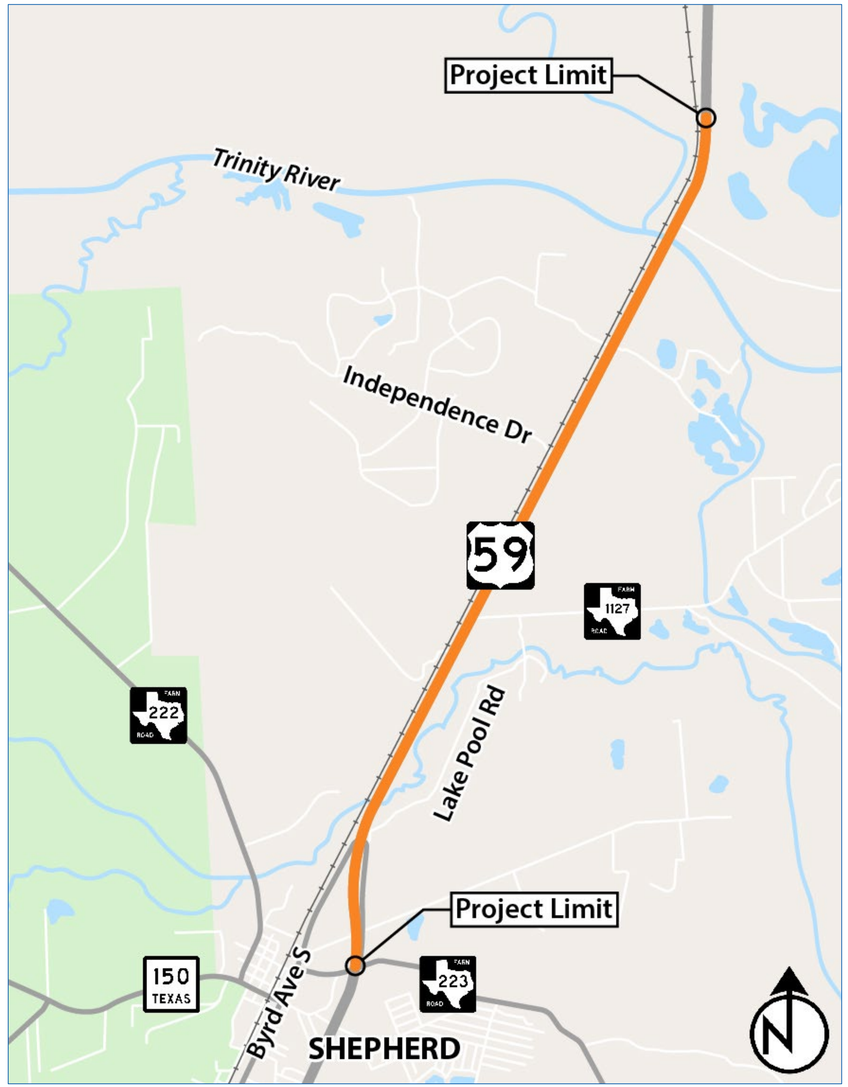
Limits: 0.74 mile south of FM 223 to 0.70 mile north of Trinity River

Location: San Jacinto and Polk counties, Texas

Project Length: Approximately six miles

Estimated Construction Cost:
$279.1 Million
Funding Categories: 4 and 12

Anticipated Construction Letting: 2029



Public Hearing Purpose

1. Inform the public of project status and present the proposed design.
2. Describe the project design and environmental analysis so the public can review potential project impacts.
3. Provide the public the opportunity to provide comments.
4. Develop a record of public participation.

Purpose and Need

Reduce congestion, improve mobility and enhance safety

Upgrade to interstate highway standards for potential future designation as Interstate 69

Provide more efficient hurricane evacuation route

Public Engagement

April 2023 **Virtual Public Meeting with In-Person Option**

53 in-person attendees and
177 views of the video
- 152 views in English
- 25 views in Spanish

15 comments received

Comment Topics

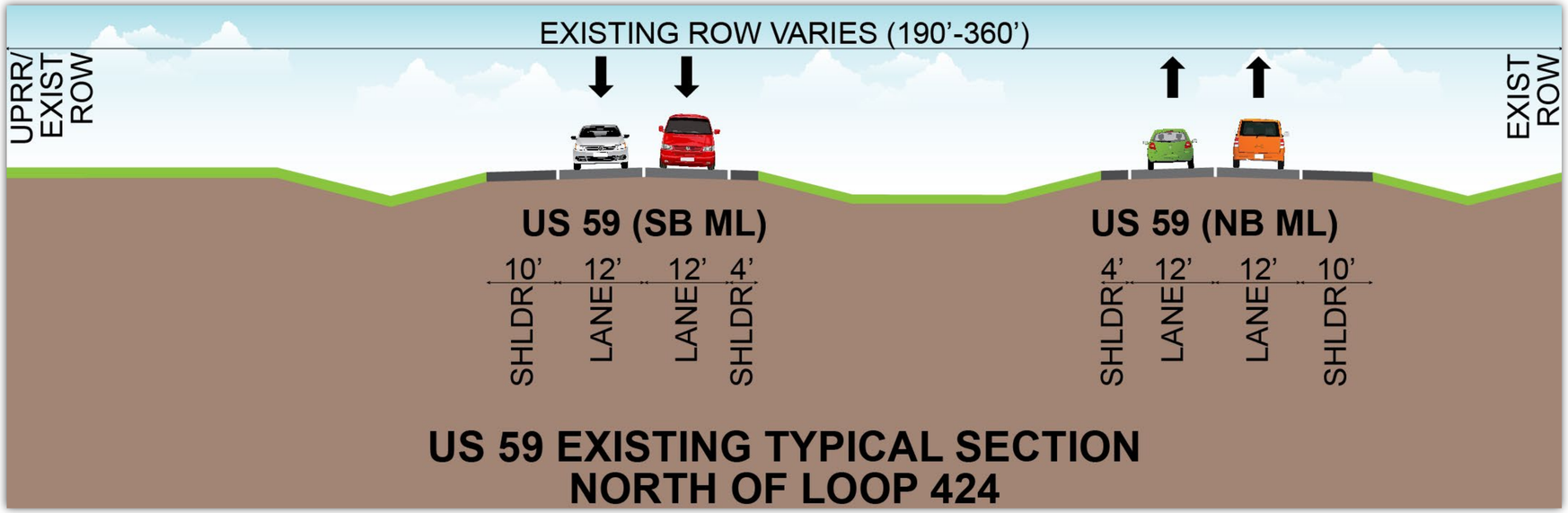
Safety

Traffic

Property Access

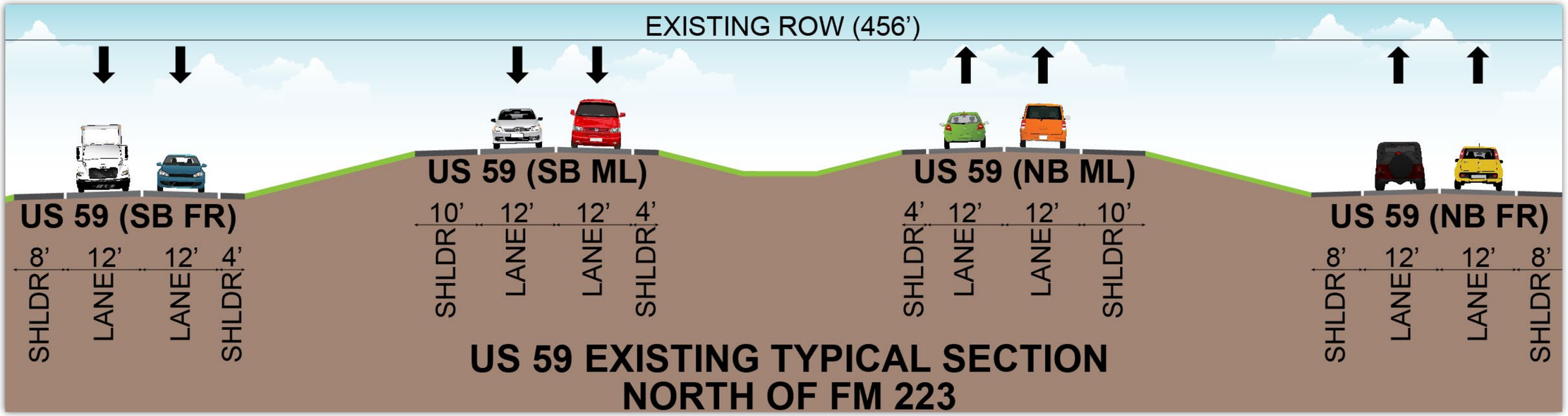
Natural Environment

Existing Typical Section

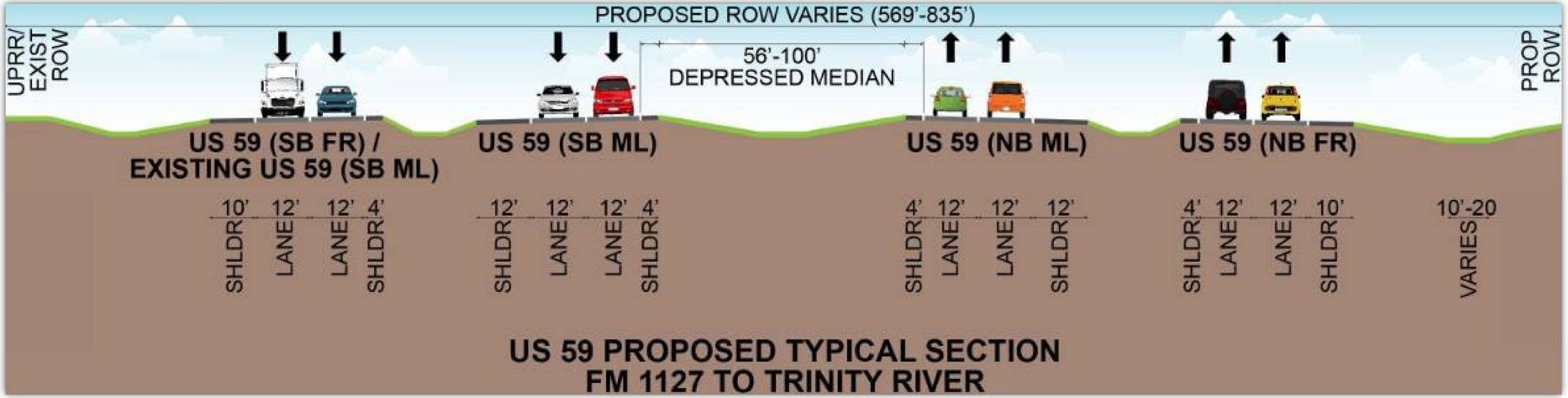


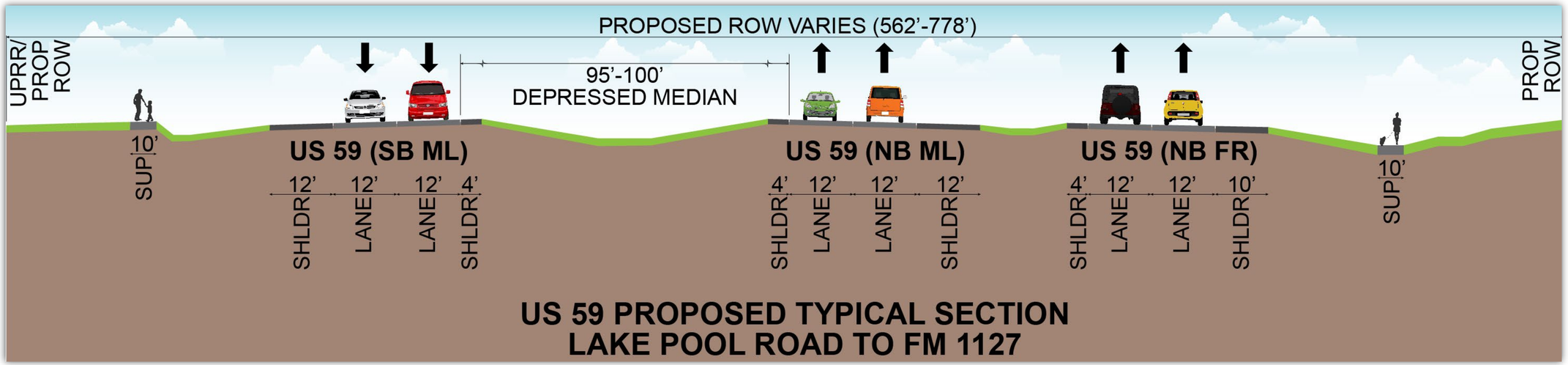
SHLDR = Inside or Outside Shoulder
SB = Southbound
NB = Northbound

*Not to Scale



Proposed Preferred Typical Section





SHLDR = Inside or Outside Shoulder
SB = Southbound
NB = Northbound

ML = Mainlane
FR = Frontage Road

*Not to Scale

Environmental Constraints

An environmental analysis is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The primary purpose of this analysis is to help TxDOT determine how the project would affect environmental resources prior to making decisions and provide the public an opportunity to review and comment on those analyses.

- Water Resources
- Air Quality
- Traffic Noise
- Community Impacts
- Vegetation & Wildlife
- Threatened & Endangered Species
- Indirect & Cumulative Impacts
- Historical & Archeological Resources
- Hazardous Material Sites
- Land Use & Parkland

Environmental Studies

Community Impacts

- Improve access by adding frontage roads, grade separations, and bike/pedestrian facilities.
- 35 potential displacements
  - 12 residential, 18 commercial, 5 “other”
- Impacts to Environmental Justice (EJ) population would not be disproportionately high and adverse.
  - 3 residential and 5 non-residential displacements within EJ census blocks

Water Resources

- Involves construction within water features, including streams, wetlands, and on-channel ponds.
- Project will require a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit issued by the USACE.
- Construction within 100-year FEMA Floodplain.

Cultural Resources

- Intensive archeological surveys with trenching and underwater survey of the Trinity River channel are required.
- Reconnaissance historic resources surveys are required.

Threatened & Endangered Species

- Project analysis of 1 federal threatened species, 1 federal candidate species, 4 proposed federal species, and 11 state threatened or endangered species
  - Minimize impacts through Best Management Practices

Anticipated Project Timeline

WE ARE HERE

2020
Preliminary Data Collection

Spring 2023
Public Meeting

2022-2024
Schematic Design and Environmental Studies

Late 2024
Public Hearing

Early 2025
Environmental Clearance, Schematic Approval, ROW map complete

Early 2025-2028*
ROW Acquisition and Utility Relocation

2029*
Begin Construction

*This timeline is approximate and subject to change

Submit Written Comments and Feedback

We appreciate your feedback! TxDOT is available to answer questions anytime during the project development process. Visit www.TxDOT.gov, keyword search "US 59 Upgrade Shepherd to Trinity River" for additional project information and downloads.

In-Person
Leave written comments at in-person hearing

Mail
TxDOT Lufkin District
Attn: Jennifer Adams - US 59 Shepherd to Trinity River
1805 N. Timberland Dr
Lufkin, TX 75901

Online
TxDOT.gov, search "US 59 Upgrade Shepherd to Trinity River"

Email
Jennifer.Adams@txdot.gov

Voicemail
(936) 205-1795

All comments must be received by Friday, January 10, 2025, to be included in the summary report for this hearing.