

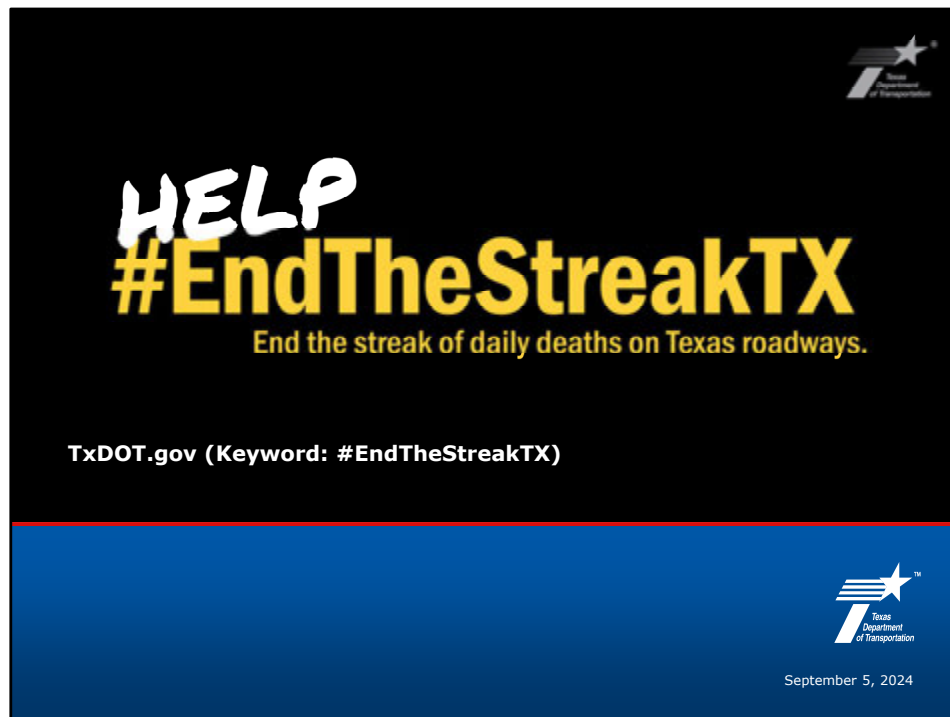
US 59/US 259 North Nacogdoches (Future I-69) Public Hearing




Welcome to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) virtual public hearing for US 59/US 259 North Nacogdoches (Future I-69). We appreciate your interest in the project and thank each of you for your participation.

This is a pre-recorded presentation. During the video, you may pause the presentation and navigate forward or backward using your video player. The comment process for the virtual public hearing will be described near the end of this presentation.

You may also view the virtual public hearing page by visiting txdot.gov, keyword search "US 59/US 259 North." There, you can find materials outlining how to comment and view maps, handouts and exhibits that were available at the in-person hearing.



November 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on roadways in Texas. That means for over two decades, at least one person has died every single day. We all have a part to play to change that. This message is that reminder – to End the Streak of deaths on Texas highways. We need drivers and passengers to act more responsibly and help us reach our goal of zero deaths by 2050. Texans can play a major role in ending fatal crashes with a few simple driving habits: wear seatbelts, drive the speed limit, put away the phone and other distractions, and never drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs. So please do your part and share this message with your friends and family.



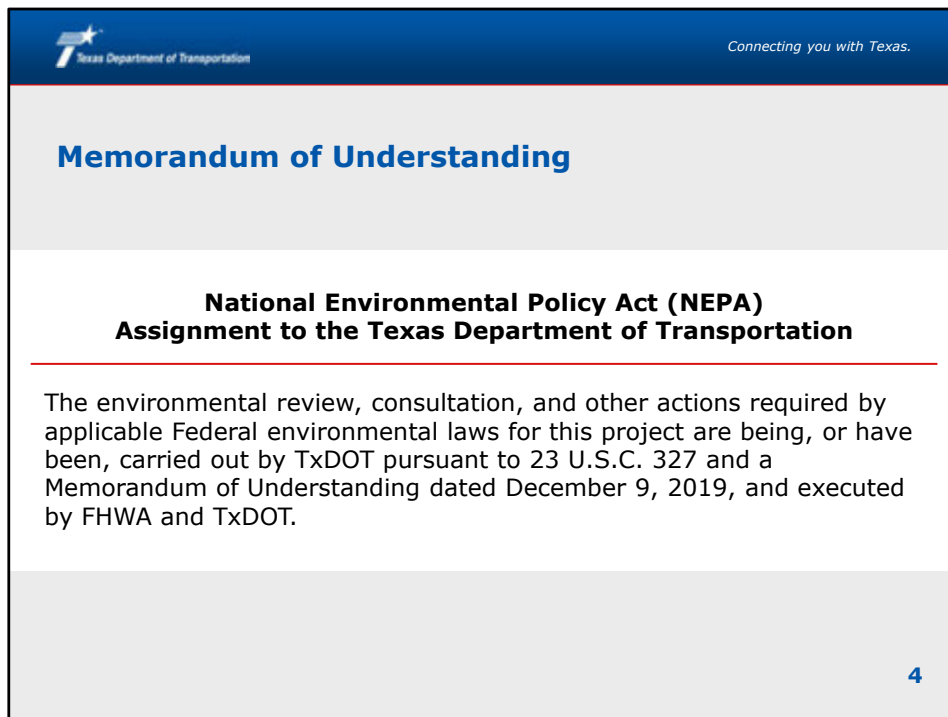
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Public Hearing Questions and Concerns

- Please contact **Rhonda Oaks** at **936-633-4395** should you have:
 - Technical difficulties accessing public hearing information online
 - Requests for special accommodations
 - Language or interpretation needs other than English and Spanish
- Details on how to submit an official comment will be provided later in the presentation.

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If you experience technical difficulties with the public hearing information online, please call Rhonda Oaks, TxDOT Public Involvement Officer, at 936-633-4395. You may also request special accommodation assistance accessing public hearing information and materials, and language interpretation needs other than English and Spanish. The methods for submitting a public comment on the project will be explained at the end of this presentation.



The proposed project would be funded by the Federal Highway Administration and is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act also known as NEPA. NEPA requires federal agencies to evaluate the environmental and related social and economic effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions and to provide opportunities for the public to review and comment on those evaluations.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being 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.

Public Outreach and Notifications

The following public outreach materials and notifications were distributed:

- Guidance materials** such as maps, drawings, environmental reports, and other informational documents were posted to the project webpage on September 5, 2024.
- Approximately **2,400 postcards** were mailed out on August 21, 2024, to mailboxes within the 75964 and 75965 zip codes.
- Social Media posts** were shared on TxDOT's pages between August 22 and September 3, 2024.
- The **notice** for this public hearing was published in English in *The Daily Sentinel* and the *Lufkin Daily News* on August 7 and August 21, 2024 and in Spanish in *La Lengua* on August 14 and August 28, 2024.
- Elected Officials** were sent notifications by mail on August 7, 2024.
- Notices** were mailed directly to adjacent property owners and local schools, emergency services, and neighborhood associations the week of August 5, 2024.

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The following public outreach materials and notifications were distributed:

- Guidance materials such as maps, drawings, environmental reports, and other informational documents were posted to the project webpage on September 5, 2024.
- Social Media posts were made on TxDOT's pages August 22, 2024 – September 3, 2024.
- The Elected Official Letters for this public hearing were sent by mail on August 7, 2024.
- Notices were mailed directly to adjacent property owners and local schools, emergency services, and neighborhood associations the week of August 5, 2024.
- Approximately 2,400 postcards were mailed out on August 21, 2024, to mailboxes within the 75964 and 75965 zip codes.
- The notice for this public hearing was published in English in *The Daily Sentinel* and the *Lufkin Daily News* and in Spanish in *La Lengua* the weeks of July 29, 2024, through August 19, 2024.




The purpose of this virtual public hearing is to:

1. Inform you about the 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.

This presentation includes information on the purpose of the project; a description of the project including the design, right-of-way requirements, and schedule; and the potential environmental impacts in the area.


We encourage you to submit comments on the project. Please note that discussions with the project staff will not be included in the official record of the public hearing. If you wish to submit a comment to be part of the official record, you must do so in the ways outlined at the end of this presentation. The deadline to submit comments to be included in the meeting summary report is Friday, September 20, 2024.

This public hearing is being held in compliance with both federal and state laws. Documentation of this meeting will be made available for the official record.

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Project Overview

- **Location:** Stallings Drive/Loop 224 to 1.3 miles north of US 259 in Nacogdoches
- **Length:** 3.8 miles
- **Estimated Construction Cost:** \$259.7 million
- **Construction:** Spring 2029



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TxDOT is proposing to upgrade US 59 to interstate standards from Stallings Drive/Loop 224 to 1.3 miles north of US 259 in Nacogdoches County. The proposed project is approximately 3.8 miles long with an estimated construction cost of \$259.7 million dollars. The project is funded through categories 4 and 12 in TxDOT's Unified Transportation Program (UTP) for construction in 2029.



Project Need and Purpose

NEED

US 59 does not meet current interstate standards.

The US 59/US 259 interchange is inadequate for current and future traffic volumes, which results in:

- Traffic congestion
- Reduced mobility
- Increase in traffic crashes



PURPOSE

Bring US 59 and the US 59/US 259 interchange to current interstate standards by:

- Making US 59 a controlled access roadway.
- Reconfiguring the interchange to improve connectivity, reduce congestion, and increase mobility and safety.



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US 59 is:

- a hurricane evacuation route,
- a major freight corridor,
- and part of the I-69 corridor

The proposed project is needed because US 59 within the project limits does not meet current interstate standards and the US 59/US 259 interchange inadequately performs to meet current and future traffic volumes resulting in congestion, reduced mobility, and increased traffic crashes.

The project's purpose is to:

- Bring US 59 and the US 59/US 259 interchange up to current interstate standards by making it a controlled access roadway and reconfiguring the interchange which would improve interchange connectivity, reduce congestion, increase mobility, and enhance safety.



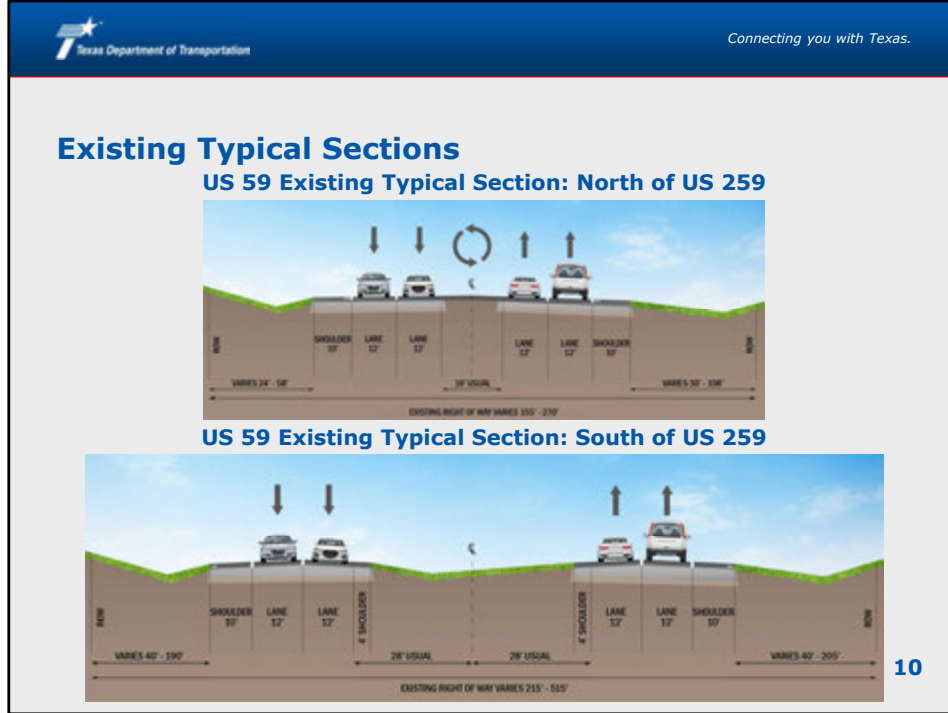
This slide outlines the public engagement TxDOT has completed for the US 59/US 259 North project to date.

This included both stakeholder and community outreach activities.


Throughout the life of the project, TxDOT has met one-on-one with stakeholders and held Meetings with Affected Property Owners to gather feedback. These stakeholders were representatives of the landowners along the project corridor.

In May of 2022, TxDOT held a virtual public meeting with an in-person option. At the in-person meeting there were 120 attendees, and for the virtual meeting, there were 103 unique visitors to the public meeting webpage, and 108 visitors to the interactive website. In addition, there were 18 total commenters.

In August of 2023, TxDOT held a second virtual public meeting with an in-person option on the project. At the in-person meeting there were 139 attendees, and for the virtual meeting, there were 207 unique visitors to the public meeting webpage, and 206 visitors to the interactive website. In addition, there were 16 total commenters.



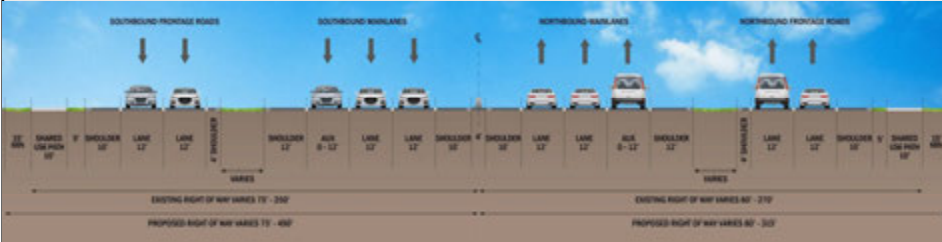
The current roadway is a four-lane roadway that varies between an undivided median with two-way travel lanes, and a divided median. It also includes 10-foot outside shoulders and no pedestrian connectivity.

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Proposed Typical Section

The proposed project would include:

- Construction of concrete barrier-divided mainlanes that consist of four 12-foot-wide travel lanes, two in each direction, and 10-foot-wide inside shoulders and 12-foot-wide outside shoulders.
- One-way frontage roads that consist of two 12-foot-wide travel lanes with a four-foot inside shoulder, a 10-foot outside shoulder.
- A shared use path on US 59 throughout the project limits and six-foot sidewalks on US 259.




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The proposed typical section would include:

- Reconstruction of the US 59 mainlanes to provide four 12-foot travel lanes, two in each direction, 10-foot-wide inside shoulders and 12-foot-wide outside shoulders.
- Control of access to US 59 mainlanes by constructing one-way northbound and southbound frontage roads with entrance and exit ramps. The frontage roads would consist of two 12-foot-wide travel lanes, four-foot inside shoulders, and 10-foot outside shoulders with a 10-foot-wide shared use path.
- Reconfiguring the US 59/US 259 interchange to provide new flyover bridges for northbound US 59 and southbound US 259. Widening along US 259 from US 59 to 1.1 miles north of US 59 and along business 59 from US 59 to 0.4 miles south of US 59 would be necessary to tie-in the proposed flyover bridges and accommodate the new interchange configuration. This work would include the addition of turn lanes, auxiliary lanes, raised medians and six-foot-wide sidewalks.

To view the full detailed design and larger maps, you can visit txdot.gov, keyword search "US 59/US 259 North", to access additional project materials.











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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 |  Traffic Noise |  Community Impacts |  Vegetation & Wildlife |
|  Threatened & Endangered Species |  Historical & Archeological Resources |  Hazardous Material Sites |  Land Use & Parkland |

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As mentioned earlier, NEPA requires federal agencies to evaluate the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions, and to provide opportunities for the public to review and comment on those evaluations.

On the slide, we've noted a variety of environmental resources that we are analyzing as part of the NEPA process. As we continue with our environmental analysis, please notify the project team by providing public comment if you see any resources we may have missed as we work to finalize the schematic. Your help in this process will ensure our environmental analysis is thorough and accurate throughout the study area. The following slides summarize potential impacts to resources that required further analysis.



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Environmental Studies – Community Impacts

The proposed project would:


- Improve access by adding frontage roads and an updated interchange at US 59/US 259, and by installing bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout the project.
- Potentially require 28 displacements, including:
 - 15 residences
 - 10 businesses
 - 3 “other”
- Seven (two business and five residential) of the 28 displacements are Environmental Justice (EJ) populations. It was determined that the project would not result in disproportionately high and adverse impacts to EJ populations.

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The project would provide benefits to the community by adding frontage roads and updating the US 59/US 259 interchange, improving access to residents and business owners. The project would also install sidewalks and bike and pedestrian facilities throughout the area for safer and more efficient pedestrian travel.

The additional right of way required for the project could result in 28 displacements including 15 residential, 10 commercial, and three buildings categorized as “other”. Two of these are government-related buildings and one is a non-occupied shed belonging to a residence. TxDOT will work with property owners to determine if the commercial businesses will relocate.

Of the 28 total displacements, seven occur within Environmental Justice populations including two businesses and five residences. It was determined that displacements would not result in disproportionately high and adverse impacts to Environmental Justice populations, including low-income and/or minority populations.



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Environmental Studies – Cultural Resources


In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1969, as amended, the project has considered Archeological and Historic resources.

- Background research by TxDOT cultural resources staff determined the project requires an archeological survey of select areas. In the event archeological resources are encountered, additional investigations may occur, but all field investigations, and any necessary coordination with THC, will be concluded prior to any construction activities.
- TxDOT conducted a reconnaissance survey of historic-age properties within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the project.
 - The survey identified 81 historic age properties (built before 1984). It was determined that none are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
 - TxDOT historians determined project activities have no potential for adverse effects. Individual project coordination with SHPO is not required.

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In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1969, as amended, the project has considered its impacts on Archeological and Historic resources. TxDOT conducted an Archeological Background Study and determined the project requires a survey of select areas. An Archeological survey will be performed once right of way has been purchased for the project.

TxDOT also conducted a reconnaissance survey of historic-age properties within the Area of Potential Effects for the project. The survey identified 81 historic age properties (built before 1984), primarily consisting of residential and commercial properties. It was determined that none of the properties are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. TxDOT historians determined that there are no historic, non-archeological properties in the APE and, in compliance with Section 106, and the Memorandum of Understanding between the State Historic Preservation Office, or SHPO, and TxDOT, the project activities would have no potential for adverse effects and individual project coordination with SHPO is not required.



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Environmental Studies – Water


The project involves construction in 13 streams, 8 wetlands, and 2 on-channel ponds identified as potentially jurisdictional water features. The project would require a Section 404 permit, such as an individual permit or a NWP 14 for linear transportation projects, with pre-construction notification. Upon final design, TxDOT would obtain the required permit from USACE.

The project involves construction within areas of FEMA-designated 100-year floodplain but would not involve a significant encroachment. TxDOT will coordinate with the local floodplain administrator as designs progress.

In compliance with Section 402, the project would comply with TPDES CGP and include an SWP3 in the plans, as well as coordinate with the TCEQ.

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The proposed project involves construction in 13 streams, eight wetlands, and two on-channel ponds identified as potentially jurisdictional water features. The project would require a Section 404 permit, such as an individual permit or an NWP 14 for linear transportation projects, with pre-construction notification. Upon final design, TxDOT would obtain the required permit from USACE. The project involves construction within areas of FEMA-designated 100-year floodplain; however, it would not involve a significant encroachment. TxDOT will coordinate with the local floodplain administrator as designs progress. In compliance with Section 402, the project would comply with TPDES CGP and include an SWP3 in the plans, as well as coordination with the TCEQ.

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Environmental Studies – Threatened & Endangered Species

Suitable habitat is present for:

- Three State-listed Threatened species
 - Swallow-tailed Kite
 - Western Creek Chubsucker
 - Rafinesque’s Big-eared Bat

Any impacts would be minimized with Best Management Practices.

- One Federal Proposed Endangered species, the Tricolored Bat

Effects to this species are currently undetermined. Once a listing decision has been made, additional survey and coordination with TPWD/USFWS may be required.


- One Federal Candidate Species, the Monarch Butterfly

No consultation currently required. Once a listing decision has been made, additional coordination may be required with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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The proposed project contains suitable habitat and may impact three state-listed threatened species. Any impacts would be minimized with Best Management Practices, in accordance with the TxDOT/TPWD Memorandum of Understanding.

Suitable habitat is present for one federal candidate species, the Monarch Butterfly, and one federal proposed endangered species, the Tri-colored Bat. Once these listing decisions have been made, additional survey and coordination may be required with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. A determination for the Tri-colored bat listing is anticipated in fall of 2024. The project would be reevaluated at that time.



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Environmental Studies – Noise Levels

A Traffic Noise Analysis was conducted for the project in accordance with TxDOT's (FHWA approved) Traffic Noise Policy (2019). Field-collected data was compared to existing model data to ensure that the existing model accurately predicts traffic noise based on current conditions.

24 of 38 representative noise receivers modeled would be impacted.

One traffic noise barrier was determined to be reasonable and feasible at the Western Pines RV Park on the US 59 southbound frontage road.

The final decision to construct the proposed traffic noise barrier will not be made until completion of the project design, utility evaluation, and polling of adjacent property owners. People who live in areas affected by traffic noise are notified by mail when noise barriers are proposed for their areas. They are also informed about when and where a noise workshop will be held.

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Existing and predicted traffic noise levels were modeled using the approved Federal Highway Administration, or FHWA, traffic noise modeling software to determine if any of the modeled receivers could have noise impacts above FHWA's actionable levels. Field-collected data was compared to existing model data to ensure that the existing model accurately predicts traffic noise based on current conditions.

Noise abatement measures were considered for each location with predicted actionable noise impacts. As per policy, the following noise abatement measures were considered: traffic management, alteration of horizontal and/or vertical alignments, acquisition of undeveloped property to act as a buffer zone, and the construction of noise barriers. Potential construction of and modeling of noise barriers was the only noise abatement measure found to be practicable for this project. 24 of 38 representative noise receivers modeled would be impacted. One traffic noise barrier was determined to be reasonable and feasible located adjacent to the Western Pines RV Park on the US 59 southbound frontage road.


In order to include noise barriers for a proposed project, noise modeling needs to show, per federal regulations, that noise barriers meet both noise reduction and cost criteria. The final decision to construct the proposed traffic noise barrier will not be made until completion of the project design, utility evaluation, and polling of adjacent property owners. People who live in areas affected by traffic noise are notified by mail when noise barriers are proposed for their areas. They are also informed about when and where a noise workshop will be held.



The project timeline is as follows. Data collection began in fall 2020 where site visits were conducted, the roadway plans were reviewed, as-builts and the right-of-way abstract map were created, and utilities were located. Between 2020 and May 2022, the project team developed alternatives and an environmental constraints report, as well as the evaluation matrix. In addition, the project team solicited input during the first public meeting in May 2022 and the second public meeting in August 2023.


Today, TxDOT is holding this public hearing to present and solicit comments on the schematic and environmental documentation. After analyzing feedback from the hearing, TxDOT will make final revisions and submit the schematic and environmental document for approval from TxDOT Division.

TxDOT anticipates to begin the right-of-way acquisition process, relocation of utilities and development of the detailed engineering plans and estimates in 2024. The right-of-way acquisition process and relocation of utilities is anticipated to take approximately five years. Construction is tentatively scheduled to start in 2029.



Information on Right-of-Way Acquisition

- State Purchase of Right of Way
- Landowner's Bill of Rights
- Relocation Assistance
- Posted on project web page. Go to www.txdot.gov and search "US 59/US 259 North".



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Right of way for this project would be acquired in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Properties Acquisitions Policies Act of 1970, as amended.

TxDOT has three documents which provide additional general information on the right-of-way purchasing process including topics such as appraisal, compensation, and relocation assistance. These documents may be found at the website address shown here.

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.

Hearing Materials

Hearing materials can be viewed by:


- Visiting www.txdot.gov and searching "US 59/US 259 North"
- Scrolling to the bottom of the webpage to the Get Involved Section and click on the link named "Virtual public hearing with in-person option - Thursday, Sept. 5, 2024"

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All the materials for this public hearing are available for viewing and downloading on the US 59/US 259 North Nacogdoches project webpage by navigating to www.txdot.gov and searching "US 59/US 259 North".

Once on the project webpage, scroll down to the "Get Involved" section and click on the link named "Virtual public hearing with in-person option - Thursday, Sept. 5, 2024", to view the following public hearing materials: public hearing notice in English and Spanish, project fact sheet, schematic, newspaper display ads in English and Spanish, this pre-recorded presentation and online comment link.






The video presentation is in English and Spanish. If you need any technical or language assistance, please email us at Rhonda.Oaks@txdot.gov or call Rhonda Oaks, our public information officer, at 936-633-4395.




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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/US 259 North" for additional project information and downloads.

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|--|---|---|---|--|
|  <p>Comment Card Leave written comments at in-person hearing</p> |  <p>Online Comment TxDOT.gov, keyword search "US 59/US 259 North"</p> |  <p>Email Comments Jennifer.Adams@txdot.gov</p> |  <p>Mail-in Comments TxDOT Lufkin District 1805 N. Timberland Drive Lufkin, TX 75901</p> |  <p>Voicemail 936-337-2353</p> |
|--|---|---|---|--|


All comments must be received by Friday, Sep. 20, 2024, to be included in the summary report for this hearing.



Scan the QR code to visit the project page, then click on the "Subscribe to Updates" button to add your email to our project list.

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We appreciate your feedback! TxDOT is available to answer questions anytime during the project development process. Comments are welcome on this project. You can submit comments using the online comment form, found on the project webpage. Also on the project webpage, there is an option to send in email comments. You may mail comments directly to the Lufkin District Office at TxDOT Lufkin District Office, 1805 N. Timberland Drive, Lufkin, TX 75901. In addition, you can leave a voicemail at 936-337-2353. All comments must be received by Friday, September 20, 2024, to be included in the summary report for this hearing. Also, you may click on the "Subscribe to Updates" button to add your email to our project list.



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Contact Information

Contact us anytime during the project development process.

US 59/US 259 North Nacogdoches (Future I-69)
TxDOT Lufkin District Office
1805 N. Timberland Drive
Lufkin, TX 75901
Jennifer Adams, Advance Transportation Planning Director
Email: Jennifer.Adams@txdot.gov
Phone: 936-633-4383

**Reminder: Comment deadline is
Friday, Sep. 20, 2024**

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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. For questions about this project, please contact Jennifer Adams, Advance Transportation Planning Director, using the contact information shown on this slide and in the hearing materials.

Please note that discussions with the project team members will not be included in the official record of the public hearing. If you wish to submit a comment to be part of the summary report for this public hearing, you must do so formally, in the ways outlined in this presentation. The deadline to submit comments to be included in the summary report is Friday, September 20, 2024.



Thank you for participating in this public hearing! This concludes our presentation.