



**SH 115 North Project
(from SH 128 to SH 349)
Virtual Public Meeting #2 – March 23, 2023
Audio Narration Script**

STATION 1 – WELCOME

Board 1 - Welcome

Welcome to the State Highway 115 North Project virtual public meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information and receive public input about potential improvements to State Highway 115 from State Highway 128 in Andrews County to State Highway 349 in Dawson County.

Please sign in by clicking the pen icon on the right side of the table. Providing your contact information will allow us to keep you informed as the project progresses.

You may view and download the project fact sheet by clicking the “download cloud” icon on the left side of the table.

The virtual meeting room contains several informational stations. A thumbnail for each station is shown at the bottom of your screen.

You can move between stations at any time by clicking the station thumbnails; or you may click the arrows shown at the left or right side of your screen.

At each station, you will see a “magnifying glass” icon below each informational exhibit board. You can click this icon to zoom in and view the exhibit boards in more detail.

To view the virtual meeting with audio narration, press the audio button at each station. You can pause the audio narration at any time.

Board 2 - End the Streak Texas

November 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on roadways in Texas. That means for over 22 years, at least one person has died every single day on Texas roadways. 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 significant 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.

STATION 2 – PROJECT OVERVIEW

Board 3 - Project Overview

At this station, a project overview is provided along with a summary of public outreach activities to date.

This project is located along State Highway 115 from State Highway 128 in Andrews County to State Highway 349 in Dawson County. The proposed project is approximately 55 miles in length. The proposed project is shown in gold on the map.

Proposed improvements would include:

- Widening to a four-lane divided highway, with two lanes in each direction.
- Adding a non-paved depressed median to provide a safe separation buffer between opposing directions of traffic.
- Realigning a 5-mile segment of State Highway 115 at the north end of the project, near Patricia.
- At this time, there are no improvements proposed within the city of Andrews.

Board 4 – Public Outreach Summary

Public input on this project is welcome. So far, comments have generally been in support of the project.

To date we have had:

- A virtual stakeholder meeting with elected and local officials on August 19, 2021; and
- A virtual public meeting on September 29, 2021.

Coordination with stakeholders is ongoing.

STATION 3 – SAFETY AND MOBILITY

Board 5 – Safety and Mobility

Station 3 summarizes traffic volume trends and current safety conditions for the project corridor.

The goal of the project is to improve safety and mobility along State Highway 115 while minimizing impacts to landowners, the community and the environment.

Between 2015 and 2019 there has been a 60 percent increase in traffic volume. Along State Highway 115 between State Highway 128 and State Highway 349 it is anticipated that traffic volume will increase by another 60 percent by 2044. Forty percent of existing traffic volume includes heavy trucks.

Two hundred twenty-four crashes occurred between 2016 and 2020 with fourteen fatalities.

STATION 4 – TYPICAL SECTIONS

Board 6 – Typical Sections

Station 4 illustrates the existing State Highway 115 roadway section and also what the highway would look like with proposed improvements. The existing highway with one lane in each direction would be widened to two lanes in each direction separated by a median as shown in the lower picture.

The improvements, which would require the purchase of additional right of way, would also provide wider shoulders on each side of the highway.

STATION 5 – ALTERNATIVE EVALUATION

Board 7 – Alternative Evaluation Matrix

The Alternative Evaluation Matrix presented in Station 5 presents an analysis of potential impacts from the recommended alternative.

Initially, the project team collected various engineering and environmental constraints data within the project limits to evaluate current conditions. This process will continue throughout the project process as conditions can change during the schematic process. The project team developed preliminary conceptual alignments with widening the highway to one side or the other, both sides of the highway (hybrid), and both sides of the highway with approximately 5 miles on new location at the far north end near the community of Patricia. The project team then weighed impacts of preliminary conceptual alignments to address overall safety and mobility goals for the project, in conjunction with refined constraints data. Through this process, a recommended alternative was identified. The recommended alternative is being presented at this virtual public meeting and is shown in more detail at Stations 6 and 9.

This board provides a summary of the potential impacts to various environmental and engineering constraints from the recommended alternative in comparison to the three widening alternatives and a no-build alternative. The analysis includes a scoring system where potential impacts were ranked from 1 (or the fewest) to 3 (the most) and also desirability (with 1 being most desirable and 3 being the least desirable). The analysis included whether the alternative met the project goals (of mobility and safety), potential impacts to oil infrastructure, community impacts, structure impacts, cultural resources (including archeological and historic), wetland impacts, and threatened and endangered species habitat. The No-Build Alternative would result in no construction activities within the project corridor; however, it would not meet the goals of the project. In general, all the widening (or Build) alternatives had similar total potential impacts to the analysis metrics. The recommended alternative has the fewest potential impacts which rendered it the most desirable of all alternatives analyzed. The recommended alternative is being presented at this public meeting for public comment and consideration.

STATION 6 – SCHEMATICS

Station 6 presents a portion of the schematic of the recommended alternative. Click the “magnifying glass” icon on top of the table to view the schematic. You can review the schematic in more detail and leave comments through the interactive map at Station 9.

STATION 7 – ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS

Board 8 – Environmental Process

A summary of the environmental process is presented at Station 7.

As this project is being developed, TxDOT is evaluating the potential impacts to the environment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Those evaluations include the study of air quality and traffic noise, historic and archeological resources, social and community impacts, biological resources, hazardous materials, and water resources. Details of the environmental constraints within project limits are included on the interactive map linked on the public meeting page and on the following virtual meeting exhibit.

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 (MOU) dated December 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

STATION 8 – PROJECT COSTS & TIMELINE

Board 9 – Estimated Project Costs

The estimated project costs and anticipated project timeline are highlighted here at Station 8.

The total estimated construction cost for this project is 451 million dollars. Right-of-way acquisition and utility relocations are estimated to cost 45.1 million dollars with a county share of 4.5 million dollars. The estimated costs are subject to change.

Board 10 – Anticipated Project Timeline

This board provides an anticipated timeline for the project. Public input received will help shape the project design. As the project progresses, the project team will continue refining the design and environmental evaluations of the recommended alignment throughout 2023 and into early 2024. The project timeline is subject to change. TxDOT does not currently have funding available for right-of-way acquisition or construction of this project, therefore a timeline for moving forward with these phases has not been determined.

STATION 9 – INTERACTIVE MAP

Board 11 – Interactive Map

To make it easier to view information and to comment on the project, there is an interactive way to comment on the project. Please review the instructions on the exhibit board labeled “Interactive Comment Map.” The board will instruct you to click on the laptop screen located on the table.

After clicking the “Interactive Map” icon, a new window will open, and you will be able to view the project map and provide input and comments at specific locations along State Highway 115. Think of this as a paper map and your comment as a sticky note that can be placed anywhere on the map. Feel free to explore the map and share anything you want us to know about the location or the project. Your input is appreciated and will help make this project better. Thank you again for your input!

STATION 10 – HOW TO COMMENT

Board 12 – How to Comment & Contact Information

TxDOT strives to make it convenient for the public to comment. You can comment on the TxDOT website, on the interactive map, by email, mail or voicemail. Station 10 provides instructions for submitting comments and contact information for the Consultant Project Manager.

For **online comments**, please visit www.txdot.gov and enter the keywords “SH 115 North” to access the online project website for information and submit a comment.

To leave a comment on the **interactive map**, please visit station 9 and click the “Interactive Map” icon.

To provide an **email** comment, please email sh115n@nancyledbetter.com or click the “at” icon on the left side of the table. This will open a draft email from your email account. The State Highway 115 North project email address and subject line are pre-populated. You may enter your comments in the body of the email and click “send” to submit your email comment. Your email will close. You will need to click the blue “x” at the top right of your screen to return to the virtual meeting room.

If you would like to print a hard copy of the comment form and mail it back to the project team, you may do so by clicking the “envelope” icon shown on at this station.

Please send **mailed** comments to:

Nancy Ledbetter & Associates, Inc.

Attention: SH 115 North

P.O. Box 14622

Austin, Texas 78761

In addition, you can leave a **voicemail** comment by dialing (432) 201-2454.

All comments must be received or postmarked by **Friday, April 7, 2023**.

If you have a question about this project, you may contact Brock Miller, the Consultant Project Manager. His contact information is shown here.

If you would like to download the project materials presented at this virtual public meeting, please click the “file folder” icon on the table.

Thank you for your interest in the State Highway 115 North project. We look forward to your input.