

Project Fact Sheet

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is considering improvements to SH 18. The SH 18 North project stretches from the New Mexico state line to SL 464, south of Monahans, Texas.

The proposed improvements to this 37-mile segment of SH 18 North would include:

- Widening to a four-lane divided highway with two lanes in each direction as well as both inside and outside shoulders;
- A wide center median and/or barrier; and
- Providing median openings as needed. Median openings will include left turn/deceleration lanes.

Project Goals

The goal of the project is to improve safety and enhance mobility on and near SH 18.

TxDOT will consider a number of factors as the preliminary design for the roadway is developed and refined including:

Safety: From 2016-2019, there were approximately 435 recorded crashes and 13 deaths from crashes on SH 18 North. The most common crashes involved rear-end collisions (32%) or single motor vehicle (25%). Fifty percent of crashes were intersection related.¹

Oil and Gas Activity: The corridor sees a significant amount of commercial vehicle traffic, much of this is associated with the energy sector. Truck traffic varies from 28–33%.²

Traffic: Between 2015 and 2019, traffic along the corridor increased by 90% and is projected to grow by another 65% by 2044. The existing highway system may not be able to meet the future travel demand.²

Growth: Between 2010 and 2020, Ward and Winkler county population grew by 13%. Growth in the area will continue to impact the existing transportation network with increasing traffic volumes.³



Notes: ¹ TxDOT. 2021. Crash Records Information System (C.R.I.S) ² TxDOT Transportation Planning & Programming Division, 2020 ³ Texas Demographic Center. 2020

SH 18 North Project

Much of the SH 18 North corridor has been or is under construction with the addition of a passing lane. TxDOT is proposing additional improvements to the corridor including reconfiguring the roadway to a four-lane divided highway.

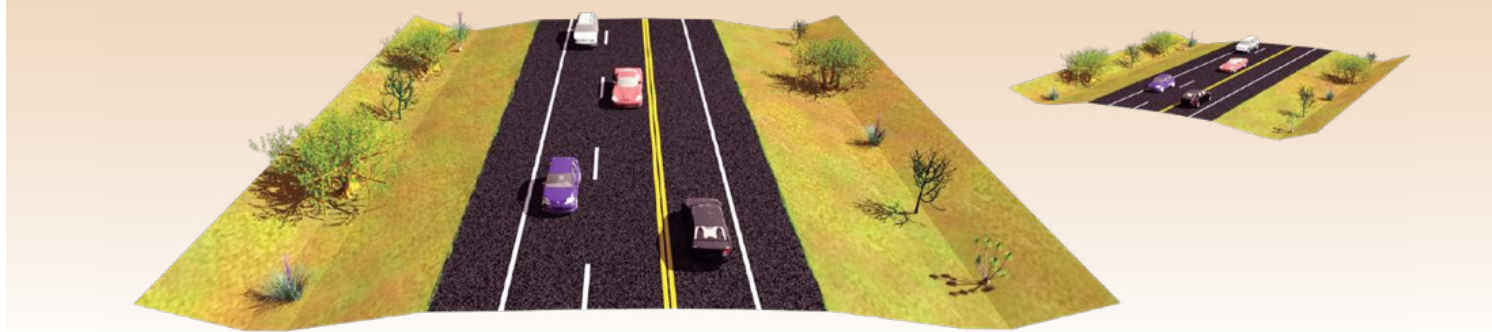


Proposed Project Layout

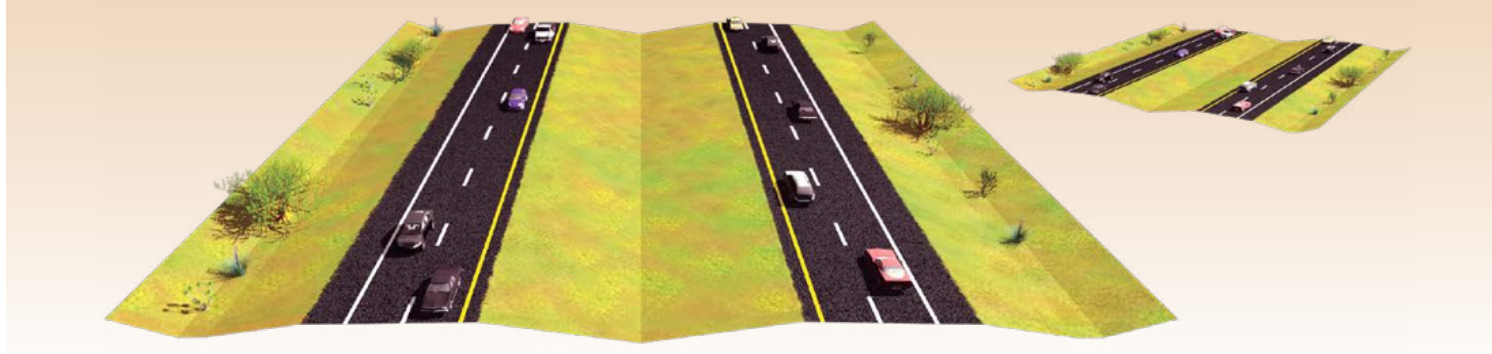
Portions of the existing corridor have recently been constructed and others are planned for construction in 2022. When completed, most of the corridor will include a passing lane alternating between north and southbound.

The proposed project would further reconfigure the roadway into a four-lane divided highway.

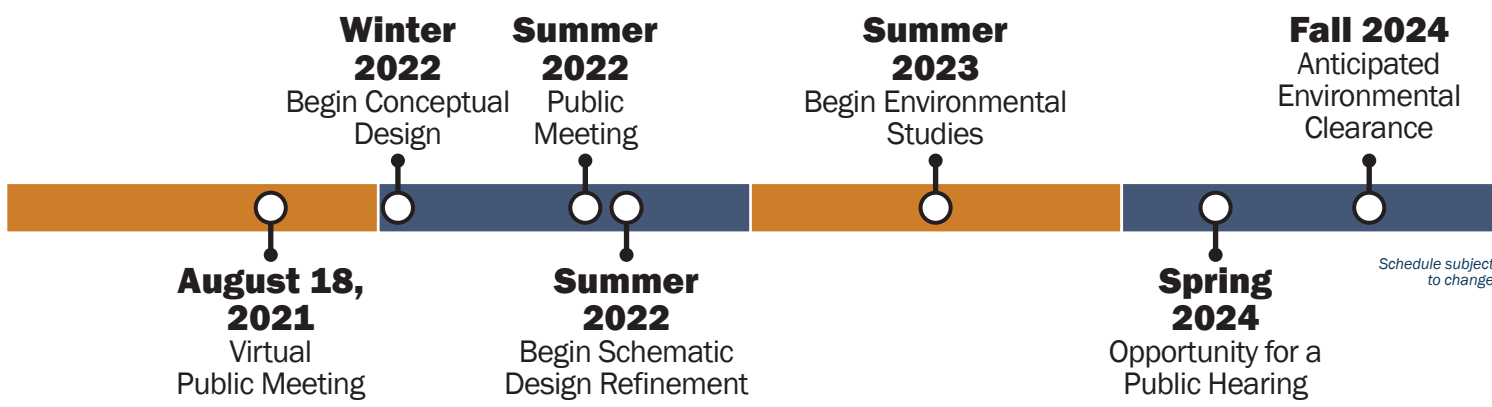
Existing Roadway Section



Proposed Roadway Section – Four-Lane Divided



Schedule



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We welcome your comments throughout the project development process

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