



STATION 1: WELCOME

Welcome to the second Virtual Public Meeting for the State Highway 302 project. My name is **Todd Thurber** and I am the Project Consultant Engineer for the project, and I will guide you through this interactive public meeting.

If you have questions about using this format, please contact Gilysa Garcia at (432) 203-6153 for assistance.

This virtual public meeting has been designed to mirror a traditional public meeting, while giving you a chance to experience this meeting from the comfort and safety of your own home. You will have the opportunity to learn about the proposed project by reviewing several exhibit boards. Opportunities to provide comments will be available throughout this virtual meeting room.

Let's begin with an orientation of this virtual room format. At the top left of the screen is an orange box with a dropdown menu that provides an outline of the stations in the room. At the top right there is a map of the room. If you do not see a rectangular layout, click the map icon. The numbered stations on this map align with the numbers on the dropdown menu. The blue station numbers highlighted on the map indicate which station you are currently viewing. At any time, you can use this map to move from station to station or orient yourself in the room.

At the bottom of the screen you will see several icons. The first icon to the left, labeled as the letter "i" will give more information about how to navigate around the room and what the different buttons do. The next icon to the right, shown as a "www" will take you to the TxDOT project website which includes all the materials you will see here today in the meeting. The middle icon shows you a map of the project area and where it is in the region. Next you see plus and minus icons that can be used to zoom in and out, respectively, at any time. We have included a HELP button you may click any time. There is a comment icon in the right bottom corner of the screen. You can leave a comment in any station by clicking this button. Also, there is a pause and play button near the bottom of the screen which allows you to play and pause the narration. Finally, to move forward one station, click the arrow on the right-hand side of the screen. To move backward, click the arrow on the left-hand side of the screen. You can view all stations as many times as you'd like as well as replay any narration as many times as you'd like.

Now let's look at Station 1, beginning with the boards. First, we have the welcome board; to zoom in on each board simply click the icon that looks like an eye. Once you are finished viewing an item, just press the "X" in the top right-hand corner to exit. You can also click the icon on the right to download the board and view it as a PDF and then print or save it to your device. You will see the same icons for all exhibits and handouts in the room. The second board in this section talks about ending deaths on Texas highways.

November 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on roadways in Texas. That means for nearly 22 years, 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.

Now, moving down to the table – the first piece paper on the table is where you sign in for the meeting. Please provide your contact information, so that we can keep you informed as the project progresses. We encourage all visitors to sign in. To do



so, just click the pen icon under the box labeled "Sign-In". The second paper to the right is the project fact sheet, which provides the most up to date project information. Click on the down arrow icon to download the project fact sheet.

When you are finished viewing the materials at this station either click the arrows on the right-hand side of the screen or select Station 2 from the map at the top right corner of the screen, in order to advance.

STATION 2: PROJECT BACKGROUND

As we start this next station remember to click on the eye icon beneath each board as I talk about it in order to see the additional information presented on each topic.

Station 2 provides a project overview board and a summary of the public outreach to-date.

The first board provides the project overview with a project location map. The SH 302 corridor, from US Highway 285 in Reeves County to FM 2019 near Notrees in Ector County passes through the communities of Mentone, Kermit and Notrees, as well as Reeves, Loving, Winkler and Ector counties. The proposed project is about 59-miles in length. TxDOT is proposing to widen SH 302 to a four-lane divided highway with two lanes in each direction, a center median, inside and outside shoulders and median openings, as needed. There are also turn lanes at various intersections throughout the entire length of the project. At this time, there are no proposed improvements within Mentone or Kermit.

The second board provides information on previous public outreach performed to date. The first Virtual Public Meeting was conducted on August 31, 2021 and public comments were requested to be received by September 15, 2021. The virtual meeting resulted in approximately 259 people visiting the public meeting either through TxDOT's website or through the virtual public meeting room. Thirteen comments were received during the public meeting. The comments received focused on potential impacts to individual landowners or structures on properties, the proposed and existing right-of-way widths, lighting and landscaping, and drainage. A summary of the first virtual public meeting can be found on TxDOT's website at www.txdot.gov keyword search "SH 302".

Coordination with interested stakeholders is ongoing. TxDOT conducted an initial stakeholder meeting with local officials on May 6, 2021. The purpose of the stakeholder meeting was to inform the stakeholders of the project and ask for any feedback based on their observations and experiences along the corridor.

When you are finished viewing the boards, please advance to Station 3.

STATION 3: TRAFFIC & SAFETY

As we start this next station remember to click on the eye icon beneath each board as I talk about it to see the additional information presented on each topic.

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

This board provides existing traffic volume data along the corridor for the years 2015 through 2019 and the anticipated future traffic volumes along SH 302 for the years 2025 and 2045.

The existing traffic along SH 302 between US Highway 285 to State Highway 115 has doubled in volume between 2015 and 2019. Future traffic volumes along the corridor are expected to increase by 21 percent per year east of SH 115 to 28 percent



per year west of SH 115. A nominal projected growth rate of 2% is anticipated between 2025 and 2045 from US 285 to FM 2019.

Heavy vehicles make up approximately 22 percent of the existing traffic volume, which represents the high freight activity along the project corridor. Between 2015 and 2019, there were 791 crashes reported, of which 29 resulted in a fatality.

Please advance to Station 4 when you are finished viewing this exhibit.

STATION 4: TYPICAL SECTIONS

As we start this next station remember to click on the eye icon beneath each board as I talk about it to see the additional information presented on each topic.

There are two boards at Station 4 that show the existing and proposed typical sections for the project.

The first board shows the existing typical sections for the Super 2 highway configuration or a passing lane. TxDOT is currently constructing a Super 2 configuration within the project corridor. This typical section consists of two 12-foot-wide travel lanes (one in each direction) with an additional 12-foot-wide passing lane at select locations. The outside shoulders are 10 feet wide and east and westbound travel lanes are separated by a four-foot median. The existing right of way is generally 150 foot wide.

The second board represents the proposed rural typical section for the project. The proposed improvements include a divided roadway with four 12-foot-wide travel lanes (two in each direction), a 4-foot-wide inside shoulder and a 10-foot-wide outside shoulder. Travel lanes would be separated by a proposed median ditch that varies in width. The proposed right of way would generally be 220 feet wide.

Please advance to Station 5 when you are finished looking at these boards.

STATION 5: ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

There is one board at Station 5 that presents an analysis of the potential impacts from the recommended alternative.

Initially the project team collected various engineering and environmental constraints data within a study area surrounding the project limits to evaluate current conditions. This process is dynamic and continues throughout the development of alternatives as conditions can change during the study. Preliminary conceptual alignments were developed that widened the highway to one side or the other, as well as both sides, of the existing highway. The project team then weighed the potential impacts from the preliminary conceptual alignments to address overall safety and mobility goals for the project, in conjunction with refined constraints data. The result of this refinement resulted in a recommended alternative. The recommended alternative is being presented at the 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. 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.

Please advance to Station 6 when you are finished looking at these boards.

STATION 6: SCHEMATIC

Station 6 includes a table showing a portion of the proposed conceptual schematic of the recommended alternative. Click on the eye button on top of the table to visit the TxDOT website in order to view and download the schematic. You can review the schematic in more detail and leave comments through the interactive map at Station 9.

When you are done reviewing the maps, please proceed to Station 7.

STATION 7: ENVIRONMENTAL

Station 7 includes a board summarizing the environmental process.

During the environmental process, documentation of environmental analyses will be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. These analyses will evaluate impacts to air quality, traffic noise, communities, hazardous materials in the area, natural resources including biological and water resources, and cultural resources including archeological and historic resources.

The environmental constraints along the project corridor that will be taken into consideration during the development of the schematic are available for viewing in Station 9 Interactive Comment Map.

When you've finished viewing the environmental board, please move to Station 8.

STATION 8: PROJECT COST AND TIMELINE

There are two boards at Station 8 which show the estimated project costs and anticipated timeline and for the SH 302 project from US 285 to FM 2019. Please note the timeline schedule is subject to change.

The first board describes the estimated construction costs for the project, including right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation costs. The estimated construction cost is 406.7 million dollars. Right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation costs are an additional 40.7 million dollars. Of these estimated costs, approximately 10 percent (4.1 million dollars) will be responsible by the counties within the project limits, which may vary for each county. The estimated costs are subject to change.

The second board describes the current project timeline. Public input received will help shape the project design. As the project design progresses, environmental analyses will be conducted. The first virtual public meeting was conducted on August 31, 2021. The project team began development of the schematic design and environmental data collection in Late 2021. The project schematic development and environmental documentation are anticipated to be finalized by Early 2024. The proposed project will proceed further in the environmental process once funding becomes available.



Once you've had a chance to view this timeline, please move to Station 9.

STATION 9: INTERACTIVE MAP

Welcome to Station 9, which includes our interactive comment map. We are interested in your comments and input throughout this process. Please take a moment to leave your comments within the interactive comment map. On the table to the right is an instructional handout on how to navigate the interactive comment map. To access the map, click on the link to open a separate browser. There you will see an interactive map on the left and comments on the right. You can zoom in and click through the map to see locations, streets, and other project area details. To change the map background, click on the base map gallery button on the left side of the screen, then change the background to aerial imagery, streets, topographic, or other map background options, existing and proposed right of way boundaries, and the schematic layout and lane configuration within the project limits. To leave your own comment please click "Click Here to Submit Comment" on the right side. Drop a point on the map, fill out the form, and once you are done, click "Report It." You can add more than one comment if you wish. Feel free to explore the map and provide comments at your convenience. Once you submit a comment the project team will review prior to posting on the interactive comment map webpage for other members of the public to see. For the comment to be posted please refrain from including any personal information that cannot be made public. Thank you again for your input!

After you have had a chance to view and/or comment on the interactive map, please move to the final station.

STATION 10: COMMENT AND CONTACT INFORMATION

This is the final station of the virtual public meeting. The board provides directions for submitting comments and contact information for the project consultant engineer. If you have specific questions, please contact me, Todd Thurber, the project consultant engineer, using the phone number and email address provided on the board.

If you didn't already do so, please add your contact information to the sign-in sheet at Station 1 in order to receive updates as they are made available. To view any of the meeting materials you saw here today, simply go to www.txdot.gov and use the keyword search function at the top right of the webpage. In this box enter the keywords "SH 302 Virtual Public Meeting".

Your input is important to us. If you have comments regarding any of the documents, exhibits, or content you've seen today, please submit them using one of the methods listed on the board. For your comment to be included in the official record, it must be submitted on or before Monday, February 27, 2023.

Looking at the table, there is a comment card. Click on the pen button to leave an electronic comment or click on the down arrow to download the comment card. You can also send this card in via mail to the address shown on the board behind the table or scan and send via email.

The second item on the table is a packet of all meeting materials. Click the down arrow button to download the files to save on your computer or device.

Thank you today for taking the time to participate in this virtual public meeting, and this concludes the virtual public meeting.