



Introduction & Welcome Station

Welcome to the virtual public meeting for the proposed SH 107 Widening project. My name is Octavio Saenz and I am the Public Information Officer for the Texas Department of Transportation (or TxDOT) Pharr District. I would like to welcome and thank you for taking the time to view this virtual presentation for the proposed widening of SH 107 from SH 495 to FM 2220.

[Repeat same paragraph in Spanish and say (in Spanish) to click the “En Español” option for a virtual room in Spanish. Repeat in English for Spanish room.]

Given the unique circumstance of the COVID-19 outbreak, along with our commitment to protecting public health during this national emergency, TxDOT is conducting this virtual public meeting to avoid in-person contact, if desired. TxDOT is also providing an in-person option for individuals who would like to participate in-person instead of online. Please see the notice (provided on the table) for more information on the in-person option. However, note that the in-person option will only be provided on January 26, 2021, by appointment only. The presentation will cover the same information that will be shared at the in-person public meeting. Station 7 describes the methods for submitting comments, but comments can be submitted at any point during the virtual public meeting through the comment button at the bottom right of your screen.

This virtual public meeting is being held to receive and consider comments from the public regarding the SH 107 Widening project from SH 495 to FM 2220.

The meeting will provide:

- An overview of the proposed project
- The project’s need and purpose
- Proposed roadway and pedestrian and cyclist improvements
- The project schedule, and
- An opportunity for the public to comment and provide input on the proposed improvements

Station 1 – Welcome and Sign-in

Before we get to the details, I will provide instructions to help you find your way through the virtual public meeting room. This is Station 1, the Sign-in Station. First and foremost, if you are uncomfortable with this format or if you have any trouble using this room, please hit the help button below. There is a phone number you can call to get assistance with accessing the room and materials. So, as you enter the room you will see a table and boards. Under each board there are two buttons. If you click the button on the left that looks like an eye, it will zoom in to that item so that you can see it better. This will work for any board, handout, or exhibit in the room. Once you are finished reviewing it, just click the “X” in the upper right-hand corner of the window to close it. The next button to the right is a down arrow. If you click this button you can download this item to your personal computer or device. Again, this applies to any exhibit or form in our room. Once you download the item, you can print or save it.

Now let’s look at the table. As mentioned before, this is Station 1 – the Sign-in Station. The far-left piece of paper on the table is a virtual sign-in sheet. Please click on the pen button to open the sign in sheet. We encourage all participants to please sign in. The second paper from the left is copy of the SH 107 Proposed Project Notice. Again, if you click on the eye button you can look at the item in detail. If you want to download it, click on the down arrow button.

Moving to the very top right corner of your screen you should see a location map of the room. If you don’t see a rectangular map, click on the top right map button. The light-yellow shading indicates which station you are in. You can click on the station number at any of the stations to jump to that station. This will follow you as you move around the room. On the very top left corner of the screen is a “Welcome” button with an arrow pointing down. Click this button to provide the different station numbers and what they include. Next, look at the very bottom of the screen. There are several buttons that will help you navigate the room and get more information. The far-left button is an “i” – this will give similar instructions on how to navigate the room. If you click on the second button, which is a location symbol, it will take you to a map of the general project area. The next button is a “+” that enables you to zoom in on the station and the final button is a “-” that enables you to zoom out. As

mentioned earlier, we have included a HELP button you can click any time. We have also included a COMMENT Button in the bottom right of each station. Click on this button to leave a comment. Finally, right above this row of buttons is a “play” and/or “pause” button that will enable you to play or pause each station’s talking points. You can pause and play as many times as you like, and you can revisit any station as many times as you like. To go to the next station or revisit the last station, click on the arrow buttons to the right and left edges of the screen.

Now let’s get started! There are six additional stations in the room. This is Station 1. If you think of the room like a clock, the stations are oriented clockwise, and Station 1 is at 6 o’clock. Of special interest is our last station, Station 7. Once you have heard all of the talking points and looked at the boards and plots at each station, we would like you to comment on what you have seen. Also, in station 7 is a link to right-of-way acquisition materials. Currently, we are not proposing new right-of-way from any properties, but we are providing the link for your information.

To go to the next station, look for the flashing blue arrow and click the arrow on the left side of the screen, click the arrow on the right side of the screen, or go up to the map in the upper right-hand corner of the screen and click the next station number.

Now let’s look at the other elements in this station.

The board on the left is a welcome board.

The board in the center describes TxDOT’s MOU with FHWA.

Prior to Dec 16, 2014, the Federal Highway Administration, or FHWA, reviewed and approved documents prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA; however, on December 16, 2014 TxDOT assumed responsibility from FHWA for reviewing and approving certain assigned NEPA documents. This Memorandum of Understanding was renewed on December 9, 2019. This review and approval process applies to this project.

The board on the right explains TxDOT’s response to public health. Given to the COVID-19 outbreak, TxDOT has changed the in-person public meeting to a virtual format. In addition, TxDOT is providing an in person option by appointment only.

Board 1 – Welcome



WELCOME
SH 107 - Widening

Virtual Public Meeting

Hidalgo County, Texas
TxDOT Pharr District
CSJs: 0528-01-112, etc.

January 25 - February 10, 2021

Board 3 – Virtual Public Meeting and Response to Public Health

Virtual Public Meeting in Response to Public Health

Given the COVID-19 outbreak TxDOT changed the in-person public meeting to a virtual format. In addition, TxDOT is providing an in-person option by appointment only:

The virtual public meeting on TxDOT website provides the same information as the in-person meeting:

- Project information
- Estimated timeline
- Process for submitting comments
- Key contacts

Share Facts About COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of germs.

FACT 1 Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

People of Asian descent, including Chinese Americans, are not more likely to get COVID-19 than any other Americans. Help stop fear by letting people know that being of Asian descent does not increase the chance of getting or spreading COVID-19.

FACT 2 Some people are at increased risk of getting COVID-19.

People who have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or people who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread are at an increased risk of exposure.

FACT 3 Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.

FACT 4 You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Seek medical advice if you

- Develop symptoms

AND:

- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

FACT 5 There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.

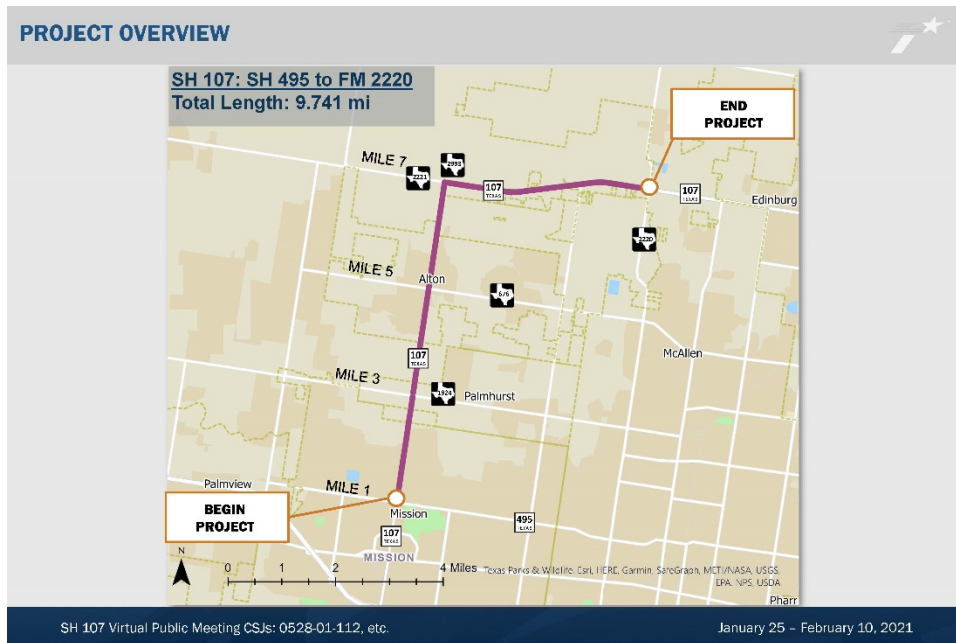
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, going to the bathroom, and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

Station 2 - Project Information

Welcome to the project information station. Please click on any of the boards to learn more about the SH 107 project, data collected, and the purpose and need of the project.

Board 4 – Project Overview

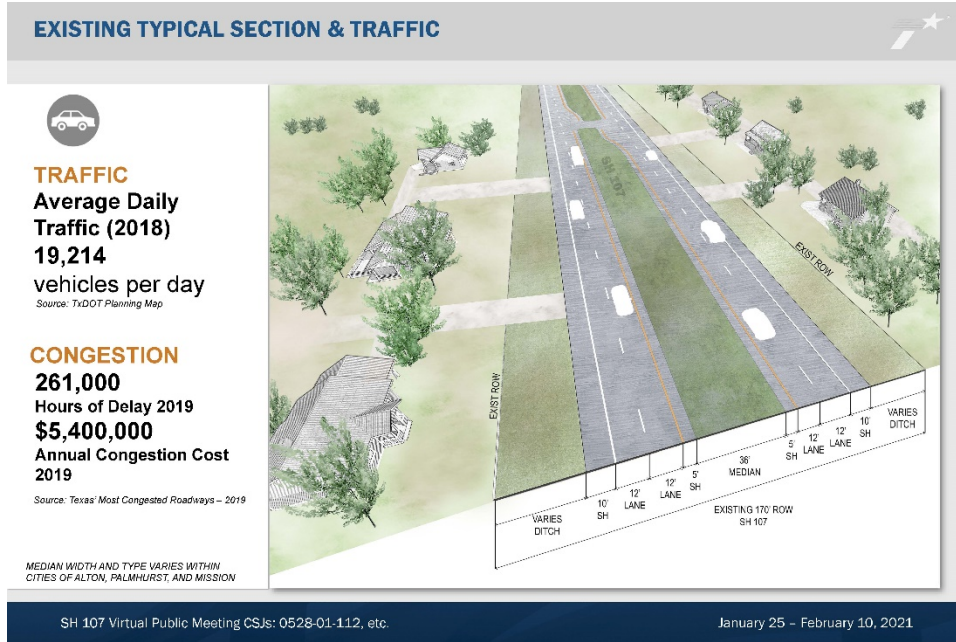


The SH 107 project is approximately 9.7 miles long and goes north from SH 495 to FM 2221 and then travels east to FM 2220. The project includes the cities of Palmhurst, Alton, Mission, and McAllen.

TxDOT is proposing to widen the existing facility and provide a raised median throughout the corridor. The construction of additional sidewalks and a shared use path are also proposed for this project.

Improvements would be done within the existing 170-foot right-of-way and no new right-of-way is anticipated for this project.

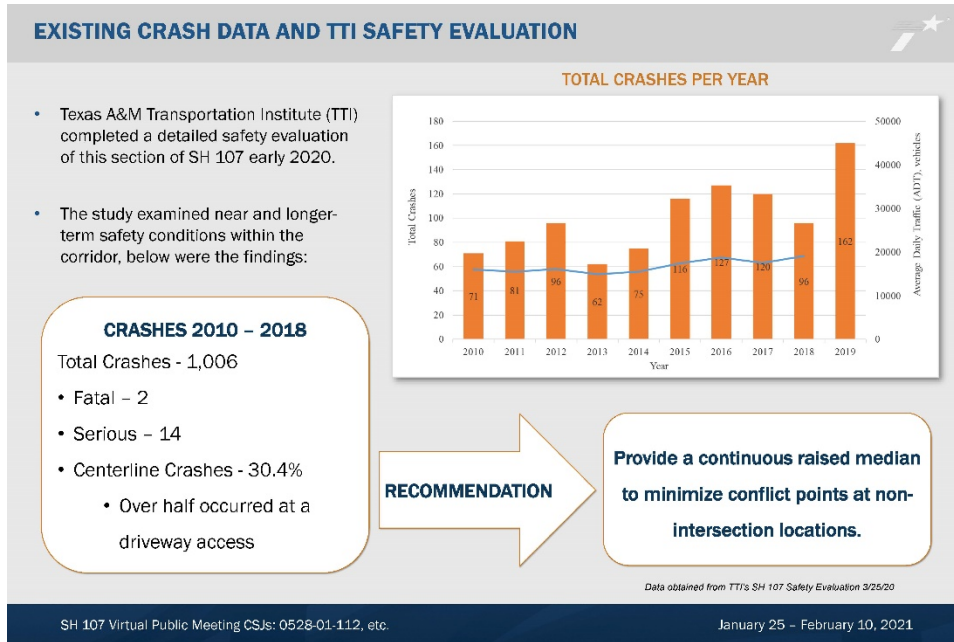
Board 5 – Existing Typical Section & Traffic



Currently SH 107 consists of two travel lanes in each direction. Median width and type varies along the project and consists of a grassy median or no median.

The average daily traffic on SH 107 consists of over 19,000 cars per day and in 2019 drivers experienced a total of 261,000 hours of delay due to congestion.

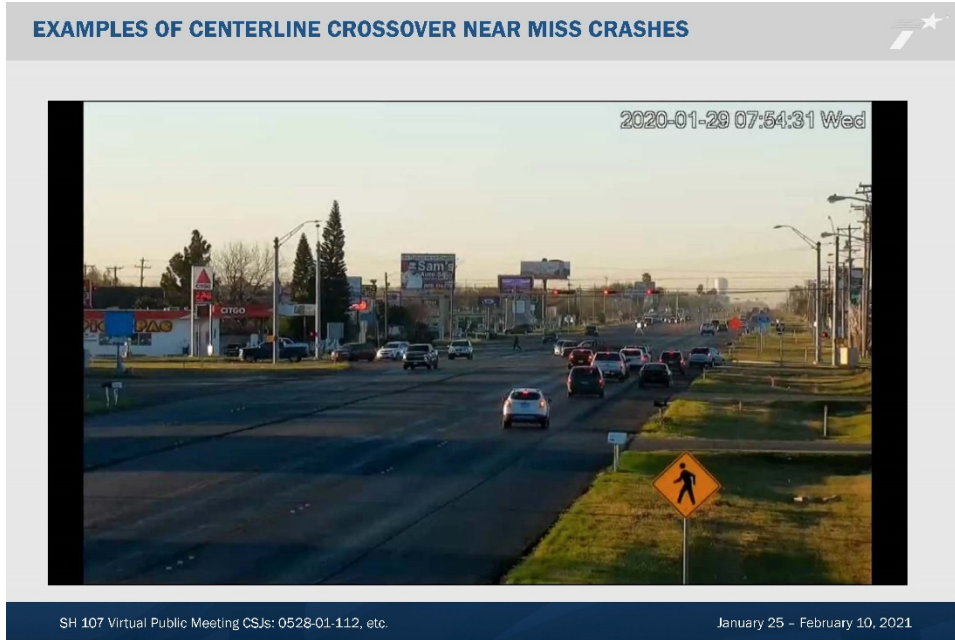
Board 6 – Existing Conditions – Crash Data



The Texas A&M Transportation Institute completed a detailed safety evaluation of this section of SH 107 in early 2020, examining near and longer-term safety conditions within the corridor.

Between 2010 and 2018, this section of SH 107 experienced over 1,000 crashes with two being fatal, 14 serious crashes, and over 30% of total crashes crossing the centerline of the roadway. Of the centerline crashes, over half occurred at a driveway access point. The proposed alternative for this project includes a continuous raised median to minimize conflict points at non-intersection locations.

TV 1 – Existing Conditions – Crash Data



This video of SH 107 shows examples of conflict points and near miss crashes that typically occur each day. Throughout this video, there are multiple instances where drivers turning left out of adjacent driveways interfere with the through traffic lane. The two-way left turn lane further complicates the situation causing an unpredictable travel behavior which results in near miss collisions. Should a raised median be provided, these conflict points would minimize the potential for crashes as well as near miss crashes.

Board 7 – Project Purpose and Need

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT

- The proposed project is needed to:
 - Reduce crash conflict points
 - Address projected increases in traffic volumes
 - Address discontinuous bicycle and pedestrian accommodations
- The purpose of the proposed project is to improve safety, mobility, and provide bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

The project is needed to reduce crash conflict points, to address projected increases in traffic volumes, and to address discontinuous bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

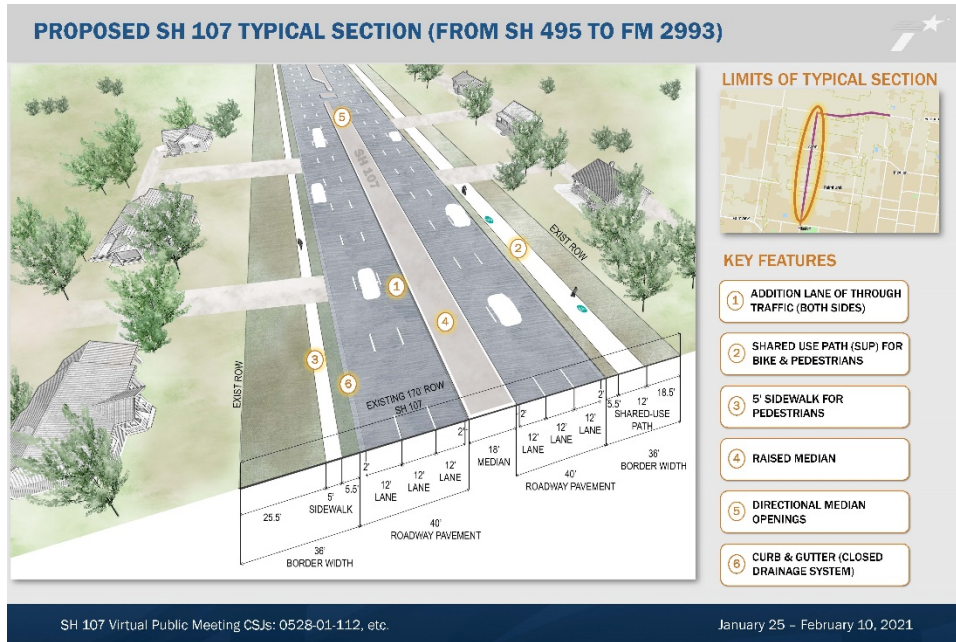
The purpose of the project is to improve safety and mobility by reducing traffic congestion and provide continuous bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.



Station 3 - Proposed Improvements

Welcome to the Proposed SH 107 Improvements Station. This station contains a video presenting four boards divided into two segments. The first two boards describe the proposed improvements for the segment of SH 107 between SH 495 and FM 2993, which is oriented north-south. The second set of boards illustrate and describe the proposed improvements for the east-west segment of SH 107 between FM 2993 and FM 2220. Please click on the play button to view the typical sections video for the proposed SH 107 roadway and intersection improvements.

Board 8 – Proposed SH 107 Typical Section (From SH 495 to FM 2993)

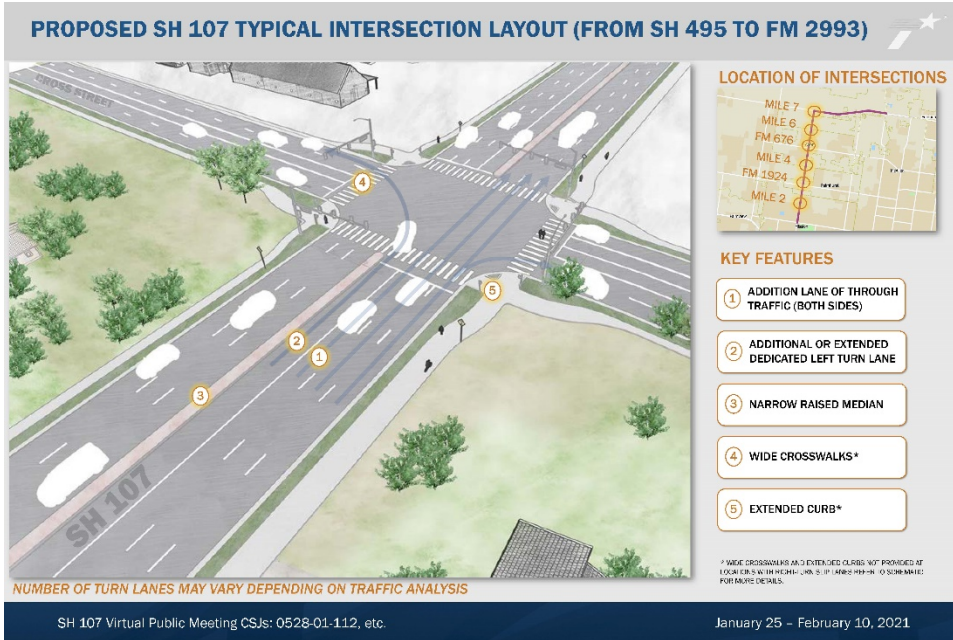


The proposed typical section for SH 107 between SH 495, Mile 1, and FM 2993, Mile 7, would reconstruct and widen within the existing median. No additional right-of-way is currently required. The board illustrates the key proposed features.

1. An additional travel lane on each side for a total of six lanes
2. A 12-foot shared use path, which is described on the bike & pedestrian accommodations board in Station 4
3. A 5-foot sidewalk
4. A raised median
5. Multiple directional median openings, which are described on the directional median openings board, and
6. Curb and gutter

The curb and gutter would be part of an underground drainage system, to capture and drain stormwater run-off from the roadway.

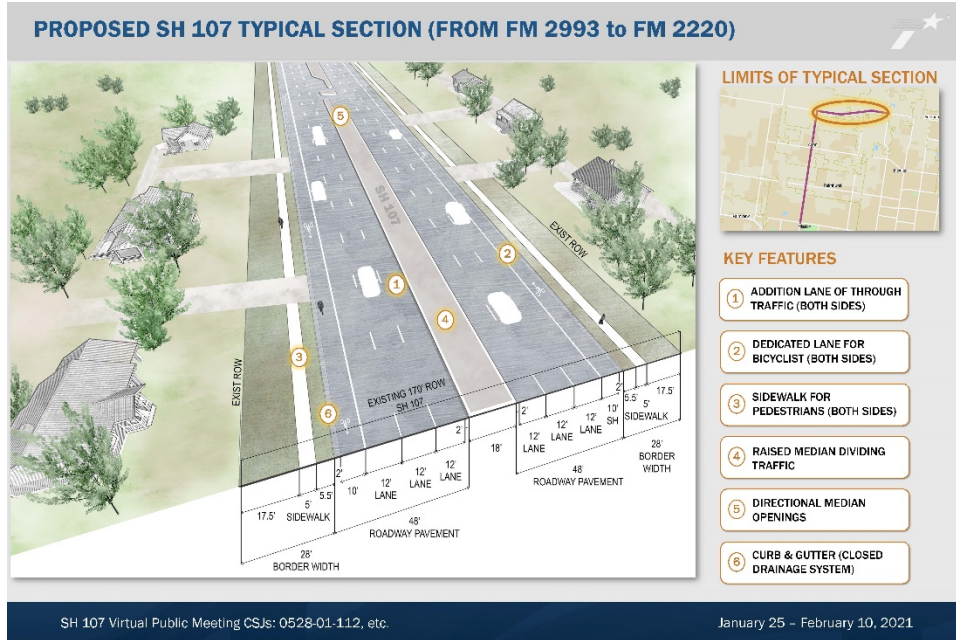
Board 9 – Proposed SH 107 Typical Intersection (From SH 495 to FM 2993)



The proposed typical intersection for SH 107 between SH 495 and FM 2993 would reconstruct existing intersections. No additional right-of-way is currently planned. The board illustrates the key proposed features.

1. An additional travel lane on each side for a total of six lanes
2. Additional or extended dedicated left turn lanes designed to accommodate projected volumes
3. Narrow raised median
4. Wide crosswalks, and
5. Extended curbs to increase pedestrian or cyclist visibility

Board 10 – Proposed SH 107 Typical Section (From FM 2993 to FM 2220)

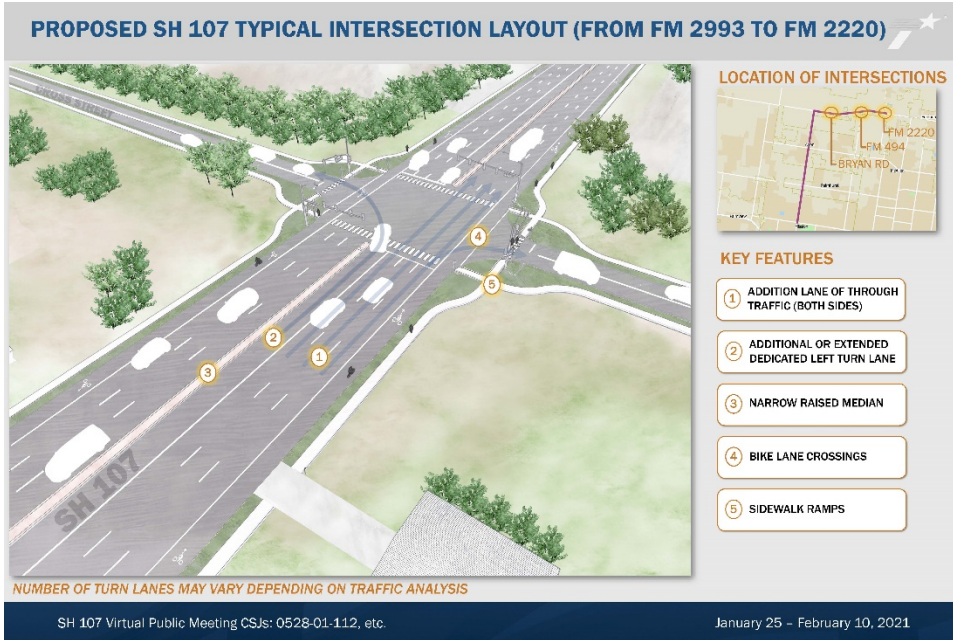


The proposed typical section for SH 107 between FM 2993 and FM 2220, Ware Road, would reconstruct and widen within the existing median. No additional right-of-way is currently planned. The board illustrates the key proposed features.

1. An additional travel lane on each side for a total of six lanes
2. A dedicated lane on both sides for bicycles (see Station 4 for more details)
3. A 5-foot sidewalk on both sides
4. A raised median
5. Directional median openings, which is described on the directional median openings board, and
6. Curb and gutter

The curb and gutter would be part of an underground drainage system to capture and drain stormwater run-off from the roadway.

Board 11 – Proposed SH 107 Typical Intersection (From FM 2993 to FM 2220)



The proposed typical intersection for SH 107 between FM 2993 and FM 2220, Ware Road, would reconstruct existing intersections. No additional right-of-way is currently planned. The board illustrates the key proposed features.

1. An additional travel lane on each side for a total of six lanes
2. Additional or extended dedicated left turn lanes designed to accommodate projected volumes
3. A narrow raised median
4. Bike lane crossings (again, see Station 4 for more details)
5. Sidewalk ramps at each corner of the intersection

Station 4 - Additional Proposed Improvements

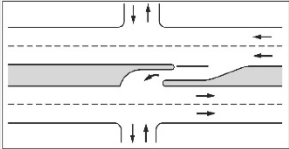
Welcome to the Additional Proposed Improvements Station. The board on the left provides information on the median openings and the board on the right provides additional details on bike and pedestrian accommodations. Click on each for more details.

Board 12 – Directional Median Openings

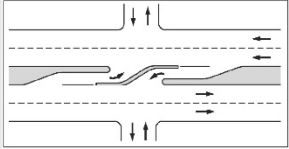
DIRECTIONAL MEDIAN OPENINGS

DIRECTIONAL MEDIAN OPENING

- The reduction and replacement of existing median openings with directional median openings is intended to enhance safety by limiting the number and type of conflict points.
- The directional median opening provides left turning or u-turning movements and restricts left turns from the crossing streets or driveways.




LEFT-TURN
FROM ONE
DIRECTION



LEFT-TURN
FROM TWO
DIRECTIONS

DIRECTIONAL MEDIAN OPENING LOCATIONS



PROPOSED ONE DIRECTION MEDIAN OPENING LOCATION

PROPOSED TWO DIRECTION MEDIAN OPENING LOCATION

INTERSECTION LOCATION

REFER TO THE SOLUTION FOR EXACT LOCATIONS OF THE DIRECTIONAL MEDIAN OPENINGS.

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Based on the findings of the Texas A&M Transportation Institute report, TxDOT is proposing to utilize directional median openings, which are intended to enhance safety by limiting the number and type of conflict points at a crossing.

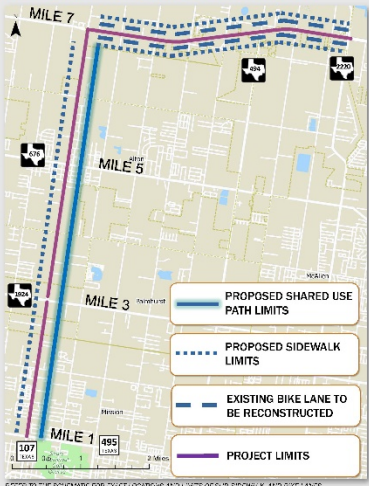
As shown in the images on the bottom left side of the board, the directional median openings provide left turn or u-turn movements for traffic along the mainlanes. Traffic wanting to turn left from a cross street or driveway would have to turn right and then make a u-turn at the next opening.

The image on the right side of the board illustrates the currently proposed intersections as well as the locations of the directional median openings.

Board 13 – Bike & Pedestrian Accommodations

BIKE & PEDESTRIAN ACCOMMODATIONS

BIKE & PEDESTRIAN ACCOMMODATIONS



SIDEWALKS (5 FEET)

- Continuous sidewalks are proposed for the west side of SH 107 between SH 495 and FM 2993 and on the north and south sides of SH 107 between FM 2993 and FM 2220.

BIKE LANES (10 FEET)

- Bike lanes currently exist along SH 107 between FM 2993 and FM 2220. These bike lanes would be reconstructed for the project.

SHARED USE PATH (SIDEPATH) (12 FEET)

- A shared use path is a widened sidewalk that is often separated from vehicular traffic and accommodates both pedestrians and bicyclists. The physical separation from vehicles greatly increases comfort and safety for cyclists. A shared use path is currently proposed on the east side of SH 107 between SH 495 and FM 2993.

WE WANT YOUR INPUT:
Do you prefer the shared use path to be on the east side of SH 107?
Or do you prefer the shared use path to be on the west side of SH 107?
Be sure to let us know in your comments!

SH 107 Virtual Public Meeting CSJs: 0528-01-112, etc.
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As shown on the figure on the left, both bike and pedestrian accommodations are being proposed with this project.

Continuous sidewalks are proposed for the west side of SH 107 between SH 495 and FM 2993 and on the north and south sides of SH 107 between FM 2993 and FM 2220.

Bike lanes currently exist along SH 107 between FM 2993 and FM 2220. These bike lanes would be reconstructed for the project

A shared use path is a widened sidewalk that is often separated from vehicular traffic and accommodates both pedestrians and cyclists. The physical separation from vehicles greatly increases comfort and safety for users. A shared use path is currently proposed on the east side of SH 107 between SH 495 and FM 2993, however, we want to hear from you. Do you prefer the shared use path to be on east side of SH 107 or the west side? Let us know in your comments!



Station 5 - Schematics

Table 2/3 - SH 107 between SH 495 and FM 2993

Table 3/4 - SH 107 between FM 2993 and FM 2220

Station 5 consists of four tables. The two tables on the left provide a set of proposed schematics for the segment of SH 107 between SH 495 and FM 2993, which is oriented north-south. The two tables on the right provide a set of proposed schematics for the segment of SH 107 between FM 2993 and FM 2220, which is oriented east-west.

The preliminary schematic provides additional details regarding the design elements of the proposed project. Feel free to click on a roll plot and view its contents. It should be noted that these are preliminary and subject to change.

Station 6 - Project Schedule

Through this public meeting we are requesting input from the public regarding the proposed design for this project. We will review your comments and continue to refine the proposed design and conduct additional environmental studies. Throughout this process, public input will be taken into consideration. Construction is expected to be completed in two segments and to be finished by 2026.

Board 14 – Project Timeline and Next Steps





Station 7 – Comments

Welcome to the comment station, which is the final station. TxDOT is committed to the continuing effort to gain public feedback on this project. We understand that the comment process is slightly different on this virtual public meeting, therefore we will take a moment to discuss how comments can be submitted.

This station consists of one board and one table. The board provides additional information on how to submit your comments, and the table provides three items. On the left is a comment card. You can click on the pen to submit your comment electronically or you can hit the down arrow to download a comment card that can be submitted by email or mail. In the middle of the table is a link to the TxDOT page, which provides access to right-of-way information and right-of-way contact information. No new right-of-way is proposed at this time. On the far right is a link to download all meeting materials including the schematics.

Board 15 – How to Submit Your Comments

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS

All comments must be received or postmarked by **February 10, 2021** to be included in the official meeting documentation.

			
Online	Email Us	Mail-in Comments	Leave a Voicemail
www.txdot.gov Keyword search SH 107	SH107Project@blantonassociates.com	Blanton & Associates, Inc. Attn: SH 107 Pharr 5 Lakeway Centre Court, Ste. 200 Austin, TX 78734	956-332-2570

Additional Questions?
Any questions regarding this project may be made at anytime during the project development process.

Please contact:
Isaac Garza, Project Manager
Phone: 956-702-6248
Email: Isaac.Garza@txdot.gov

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As shown on the board, comments can be submitted online by using the comment button at the bottom right of this virtual public meeting room. In addition, comments can be emailed to the project at SH107Project@blantonassociates.com, or comment forms can be downloaded and mailed to: Blanton & Associates, Inc., Attn: SH 107 Pharr, 5 Lakeway Centre Court, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78734.

If you would like to leave a verbal comment regarding the proposed improvements, please call (956) 332-2570 and leave a voice message.

All comments must be received or postmarked by February 10, 2021 to be included in the official meeting documentation. Please contact Isaac Garza, TxDOT Project Manager at 956.702.6248 or Isaac.Garza@txdot.gov.

Comments can be made regarding the project at any time during the project development process, but will not be included in the official Public Meeting record if not received within the comment period.

Thank you for your time and feedback during this virtual public meeting.