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Welcome to the Virtual Public Hearing with In-Person Option for the proposed improvements to the Inspiration Road/Military Parkway Loop from Interstate Highway 2 to FM 1016 in the City of Mission, Hidalgo County, Texas. My name is Luana Gonzalez, with L&G Engineering and I am here on behalf of the City of Mission and the Texas Department of Transportation. This presentation has been pre-recorded. We appreciate you taking the time to participate in this virtual public hearing with an in-person option.

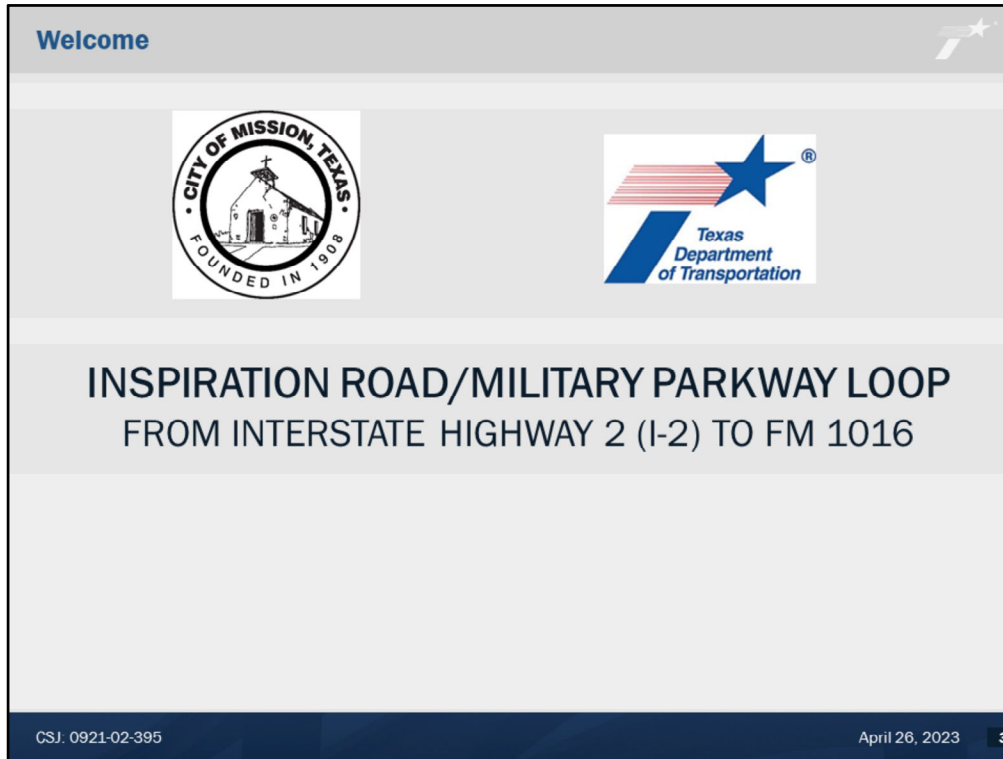
Please note that you can pause this presentation at any time to take more time to view the slides. Thank you for joining us.



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With safety being a priority at TxDOT, I would like to take a moment to share a message.

November 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on roadways in Texas. That means that for over 23 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.



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This is a local government sponsored project being developed by the City of Mission in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation or TxDOT. This project is funded with local, state and federal funds. Because this project has federal funds, TxDOT is required to assess the potential environmental effects of the proposed project in accordance with federal standards. The City of Mission selected L&G Engineering, through the procurement process, to prepare the schematics, environmental documentation, and assist in conducting the public involvement activities. The City of Mission will be responsible for right-of-way acquisition, and to complete the Plans, Specifications, and Estimates for the project. Upon completion of these tasks, the City can receive bids for construction of the proposed project.

Welcome 

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Assignment to TxDOT

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 dated December 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

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The proposed project is anticipated to be programmed with both state and federal funds. Because of this, TxDOT is required to assess the potential environmental effects of the proposed project in accordance with federal standards. The process that is followed is called the National Environmental Policy Act process, otherwise known as NEPA. The NEPA process provides analyses of the potential impacts to the natural and manmade environment and helps the decision maker to make an informed decision on whether to proceed with the project. On December 9, 2019, TxDOT received a signed Memorandum of Understanding from the Federal Highway Administration that permits TxDOT to assume responsibility from the Federal Highway Administration for reviewing and approving certain assigned NEPA projects. This review and approval process applies to this project.

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

The slide features a title bar with the text 'PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA' and a logo on the right. Below the title bar is a list of eight items, each preceded by a blue arrow-shaped icon containing a white number. The items are: 1 Purpose of Public Hearing, 2 Project Limits, 3 Need and Purpose of the Project, 4 Proposed Project Description, 5 Description of Environmental Studies, 6 Right of Way Acquisition Process, 7 Next Steps to Project Development, and 8 How to Provide Comments. At the bottom of the slide, there is a dark blue footer bar containing the text 'CSJ. 0921-02-395' on the left, 'April 26, 2023' in the center, and a small white square with the number '5' on the right.

- 1 Purpose of Public Hearing
- 2 Project Limits
- 3 Need and Purpose of the Project
- 4 Proposed Project Description
- 5 Description of Environmental Studies
- 6 Right of Way Acquisition Process
- 7 Next Steps to Project Development
- 8 How to Provide Comments

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The topics of discussion for this virtual public hearing with in-person option will include the following: the purpose of the public hearing; the project limits; the need for and purpose of the proposed improvements; a description of the proposed project; a description of the environmental studies; a description of the right of way acquisition process; the next steps in project development; and how to provide comments.

Public Hearing Format

This public hearing is being offered in two formats: Virtually and In-Person

The Virtual Public Hearing will provide the same information as the In-Person Public Hearing.

In-Person Public Hearing will be held:

**Wednesday, April 26, 2023
from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
at Leal Elementary School Cafeteria
318 S. Los Ebanos Road
Mission, Texas 78572**


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This public hearing is being offered in two formats: Virtually and In-Person. The Virtual Public Hearing will provide the same information as the In-Person hearing. All project information can be found online at www.missiontexas.us or at www.txdot.gov keyword "Inspiration Road/Military Parkway Loop". The In-Person Public Hearing will be held:

Wednesday, April 26, 2023
from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
at Leal Elementary School Cafeteria
318 S. Los Ebanos Road
Mission, Texas 78572

The public will be able to provide and leave oral comments and/or ask questions during the in-person public hearing.

Purpose of the Public Hearing 

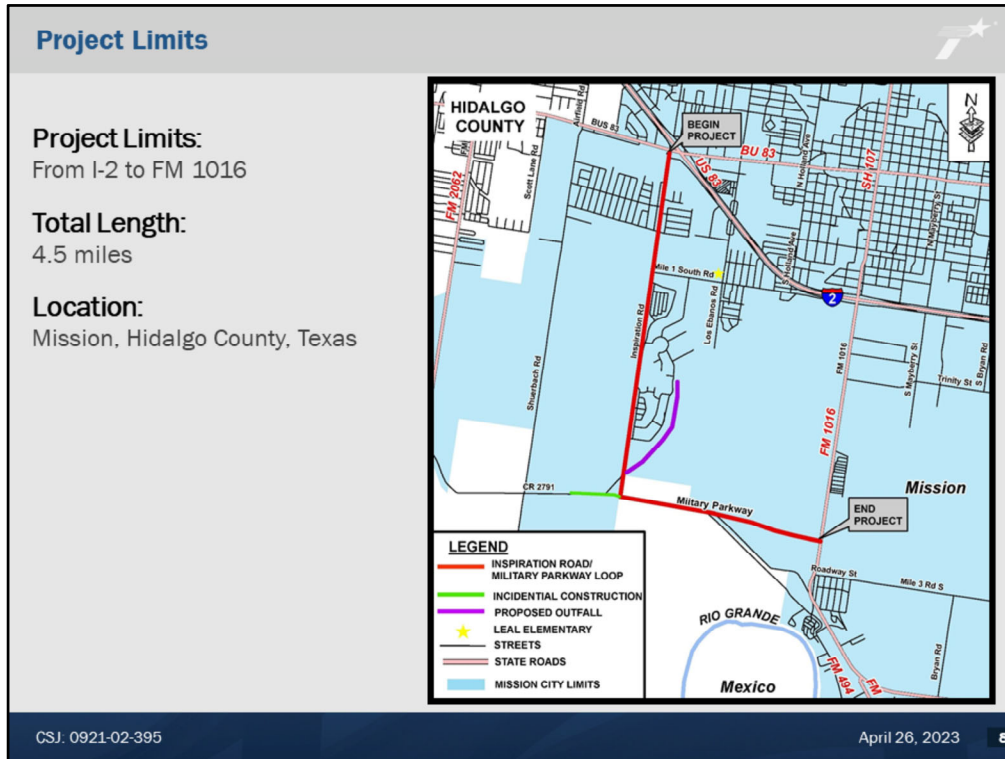
- Encourage and maintain effective communication with the public.
- Provide current information on the project
- Follow an important step in the Environmental Process
- Receive public input and comments

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The purpose of this virtual public hearing with in-person option is to encourage and maintain effective communication with the public and provide project-specific information as it relates to the proposed improvements to Inspiration Road/Military Parkway Loop in the City of Mission, Hidalgo County.

Your input and comments are an important part of this process, and we encourage you to provide comments on this project. As I mentioned earlier, your continued participation throughout the planning and development of the project is very important. You are encouraged to talk to your neighbors, refer them to the City of Mission and/or TxDOT, so they can also make comments and be included in this process.



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The Inspiration Road/Military Parkway Loop project is from Interstate Highway 2 to FM 1016 in the City of Mission, Hidalgo County, Texas. A length of approximately 4.5 miles. The map shown here depicts the general location of the project. The project is located in the southern limits of Mission. The improvements would be to widen from a two lane rural roadway to a four lane divided urban roadway.

Project Need and Purpose 


- **Project Need**
 - The increase in population and associated residential and industrial developments have led to increased traffic.
- **Project Purpose**
 - Reduce congestion,
 - Increase safety, and
 - Increase mobility.

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The project is needed because of an increase in population and associated residential and industrial developments in the project area has resulted in congestion and decreased mobility.

The purpose of the project is to reduce congestion and increase safety and mobility.

Project Description 

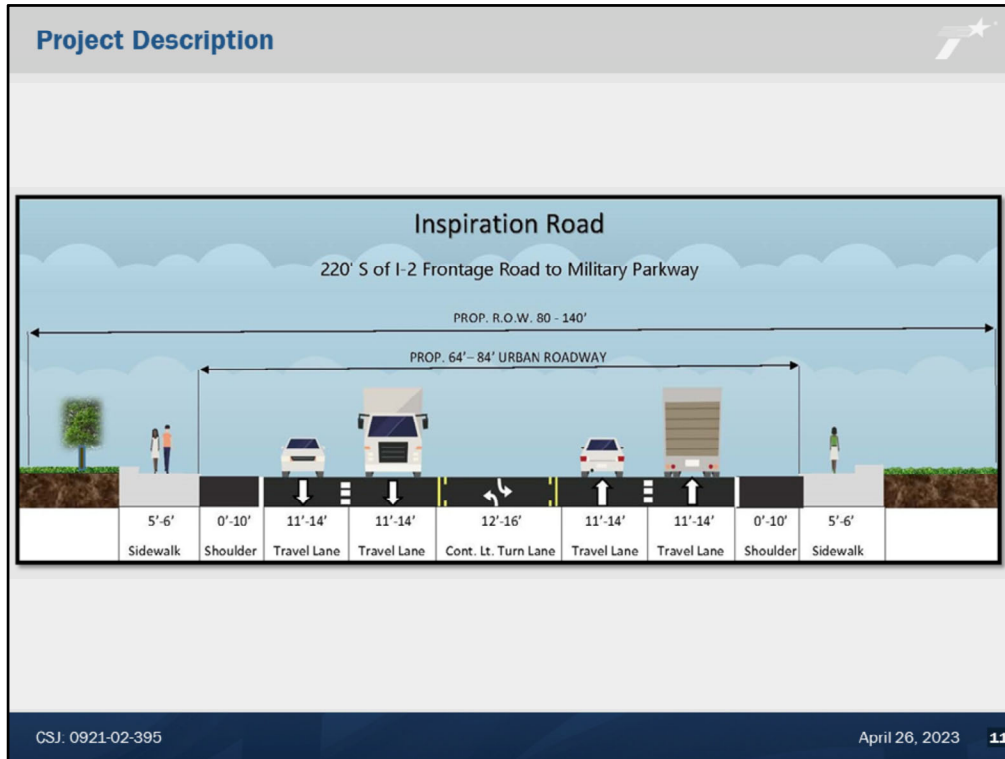
- **Limits**
 - From I-2 to FM 1016
- **Total Length**
 - 4.5 Miles
- **Scope**
 - Widen and reconstruct to an urban divided roadway with 4 travel lanes, a two-way center left turn lane, shoulders and sidewalks.
 - Storm drain system.
 - Regrade an existing outfall and Provide a new outfall.
 - Incidental construction on Military Parkway, west of Inspiration Road.
 - Realign three intersections (CR 2791, Inspiration Road and West Military Road).
 - Provide a transition on Los Ebanos Road Intersection.

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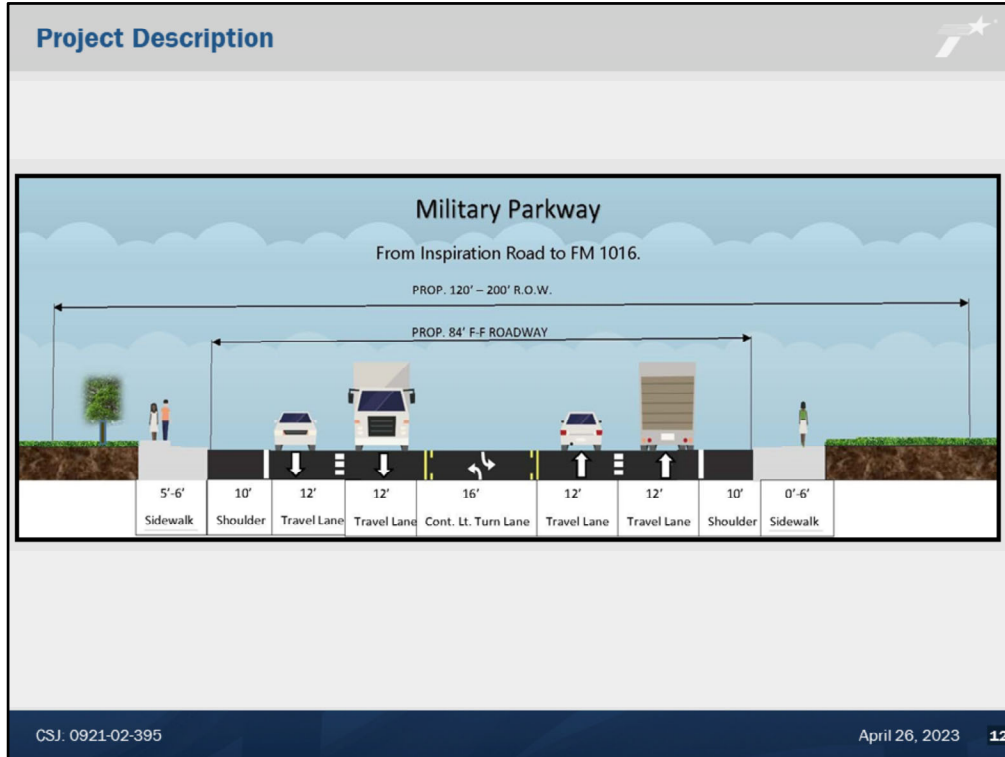
As mentioned earlier the limits of the proposed Inspiration Road/Military Parkway Loop are from I-2 to FM 1016; a length of 4.5 miles.

The scope of the proposed project is to widen and reconstruct the existing two lane rural roadway to an urban divided roadway with four travel lanes, a continuous left turn lane, shoulders and sidewalks. An underground storm drain system would handle storm water runoff from the project. The proposed project would include a new outfall, the regrading of an existing outfall, incidental construction on Military Parkway, west of Inspiration Road, from County Road 2791, to Inspiration Road; three intersections (County Road 2791, Inspiration Road and West Military Road) would be realigned to improve safety, provide direct north-south T-intersections, and eliminate an existing curve; and at the Los Ebanos Road intersection a transition would be provided.



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The proposed improvements along Inspiration Road, from approximately 220 feet south of the I-2 frontage road to Military Parkway, would be to widen the existing two-lane roadway to a four lane divided urban roadway within an existing 60 to 140 foot wide right of way and a proposed right of way of 80 to 140 feet-wide. The proposed roadway would consist of a varying 64 to 84 foot-wide curb and gutter roadway consisting of four 11 to 14-foot-wide travel lanes, two 0 to 10-foot-wide shoulders, a 12 to 16-foot-wide continuous left turn lane, and 5 to 6-foot-wide sidewalks on both sides of the roadway; a length of 2.5 miles.



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On Military Parkway, west of Inspiration Road, from County Road 2791 to Inspiration Road, a transition would be provided. From Inspiration Road to FM 1016, Military Parkway would be widened from an existing two-lane roadway to a four lane divided urban roadway within an existing 120 to 150 foot-wide right of way and a proposed right of way of 120 to 200 feet-wide. The proposed roadway would consist of an 84-foot-wide curb and gutter section consisting of four 12-foot-wide travel lanes, one 16-foot-wide continuous left turn lane, two 10-foot-wide shoulders, and a 6-foot-wide sidewalk on both sides of the roadway with the exception of the section of the levees which would include a 5-foot-wide sidewalk along the north side only; a length of two miles.

Environmental Studies


- Environmental technical reports prepared for the proposed project assess potential impacts to the following resources categories:
 - Air Quality
 - Biological Resources, including threatened and endangered species and their habitat
 - Community Impacts
 - Water Resources, including waters of the U.S. and wetlands
 - Cultural Resources, including historic and archeological resources
 - Hazardous Materials
 - Traffic Noise
 - Indirect & Cumulative Impacts
 - Protected Lands

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Since the proposed project would utilize state and federal funds, it is required to adhere to NEPA. As part of the environmental process, technical analyses were completed to document the potential environmental impacts of the project. The resource categories studied include: Air Quality, Biological resources, including threatened and endangered species and their habitat, community impacts; water resources, including waters of the U.S. and wetlands; cultural resources studies, which includes archeological and historical resources; hazardous materials; traffic noise analysis; indirect and cumulative impacts; and park lands protected under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act and Chapter 26 of the Parks and Wildlife Code.

The technical reports and the Draft Environmental Assessment are available for review upon request at the City of Mission offices and TxDOT Pharr District Office. All environmental documentation was developed in accordance with NEPA, TxDOT, and FHWA standards.

Environmental Studies 

- Approximately 39 acres of additional right of way;
 - 19.3 acres for the roadway, and 19.7 acres for the drainage outfall
- Potential displacements include one commercial structure.
- No residential displacements are anticipated.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit is required for impacts to waters of the U.S. including wetlands.

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The proposed project would require approximately 39 acres of new right of way; 19.3 acres for the roadway and 19.7 acres for the drainage outfall. Potential displacements include one commercial structure. No residential displacements are anticipated. Also, the proposed project requires a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit for the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands.

Environmental Studies

Bentsen Palm Community Park

- The project would require approx. 0.4 acres of ROW from the park, 14 palm trees would be relocated and 0.45 miles of the walking trail would be removed and replaced.
- No recreational structures associated with the park would be impacted.
- The palm trees would be relocated within the park and the walking trail would be replaced with sidewalks.
- A *de minimis* determination for this use under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 is anticipated.

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The proposed project would require taking right of way from the Bentsen Palm Community Park. The city owned park is located approximately 0.7 miles south of Mile 1 South Road. The park consists of a 54.298 acre tract of land that includes a two-mile walking trail, baseball/softball fields, basketball/tennis courts, restrooms, playgrounds and a pond with a pier. Approximately 0.4 acres of right of way would be taken from the park, 14 palm trees would be relocated within the park and 0.45 miles of the walking trail would be removed and replaced. No recreational structures associated with the park will be impacted. A *de minimis* determination is anticipated for this use under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 regarding the impacts of the project on the park property. A Section 4(f) *de minimis* finding means that the proposed project would not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes that qualify the park for protection under Section 4(f). The City of Mission and TxDOT will consider comments received during the environmental process before making a final Section 4(f) *de minimis* determination. Public comments on the effects of the proposed project on the activities, features, or attributes of Bentsen Palm Community Park may be submitted as described at the end of this presentation.

Environmental Studies


Mission Hike and Bike Trail

- The proposed project would require the realignment of an approximate ½ mile section of the trail.
- No recreational structures associated with the hike and bike trail would be impacted.
- A *de minimis* determination for this use under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 is anticipated.

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The project would require portions of the City of Mission Hike and Bike Trail to be realigned. The Hike and Bike Trail is an approximate five mile long trail with a parking lot and two pedestrian bridges that begins at Nature Park on FM 1016 and ends near the World Birding Center on FM 2062. A half mile section of the trail would be realigned at the Inspiration Road/Military Parkway intersection then along the irrigation canal. The trail would be made whole. The red line on the map shown here is the proposed alignment. A *de minimis* determination is anticipated for this use under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 regarding the impacts of the project on the hike and bike trail. The City of Mission and TxDOT will consider comments received during the environmental process before making a final Section 4(f) *de minimis* determination. Public comments on the effects of the proposed project on the activities, features, or attributes of Mission Hike and Bike Trail may be submitted as described at the end of this presentation.

Environmental Studies 

IBWC LRGV Flood Control System Levee

- The proposed project would require widening and reconstructing approximately 0.7 miles of the roadway on top of IBWC LRGV Flood Control System levee.
- The widening would occur on the land side.
- A *de minimis* determination for this use under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 has been made.

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The proposed project would require widening and reconstructing approximately 0.7 miles of the roadway on top of the International Boundary and Water Commission or IBWC Lower Rio Grande Valley Flood Control System levee on the land side, away from the levee face and the floodway. This levee was previously determined by IBWC to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or the NRHP in conjunction with the State Historic Preservation Officer. TxDOT historians determined the proposed changes would have “no adverse effect” to the NRHP-eligible flood control system and that it meets the requirements for a Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact finding.

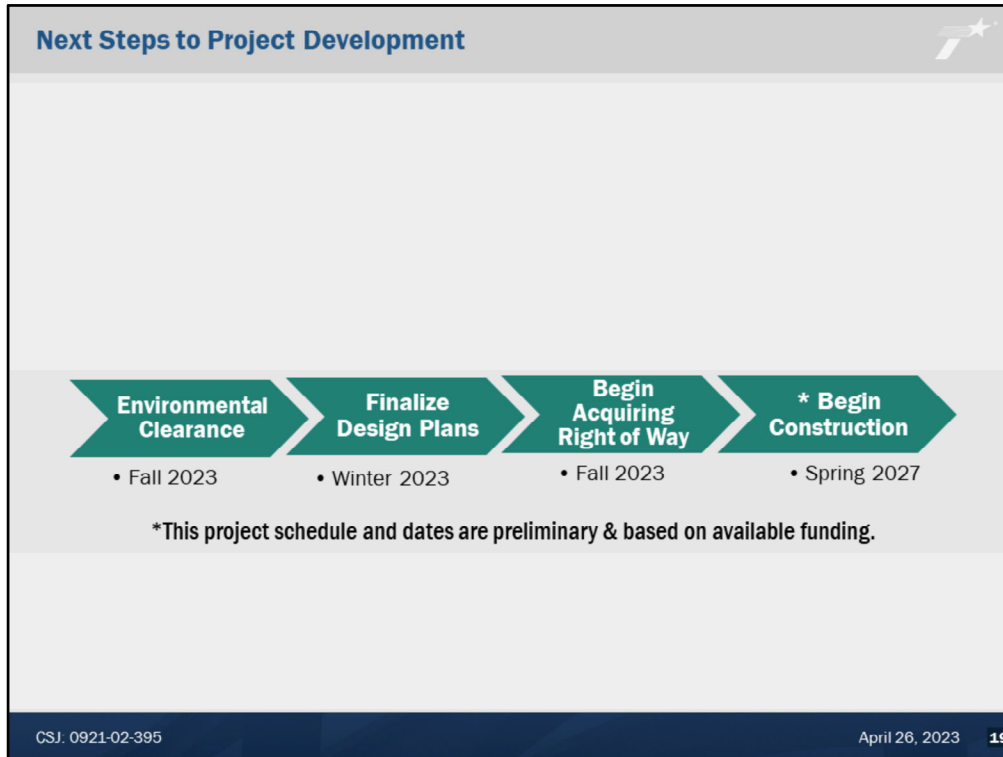
Right of Way Acquisition Process

- Follows federal/state laws and policies
- The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policy Act of 1970 (Uniform Act)
- Right-of-Way Brochures are available on the TxDOT Website:
<https://www.txdot.gov/business/right-of-way/landowner-bill-of-rights.html> or
www.missiontexas.us
- Information about the benefits, services and Right of Way Acquisition schedule can be obtained by calling the City of Mission at (956) 580-8662 or TxDOT District Office at (956) 702-6287.

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The Right-of-Way Acquisition Process will follow federal and state laws and policies. The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisitions Policy Act of 1970, known as the Uniform Act, is the federal law that is followed for appraisals, negotiations and relocation of families and/or businesses. Hard copies of the Right of Way Brochures and Property Owner's Bill of Rights will be available at the Right of Way table at the In-Person public hearing and are also available at City of Mission or TxDOT websites. The City of Mission is the agency responsible for acquiring the additional right of way from the individual property owners for the project. TxDOT will ensure that the Local Public Agency acquires all real property in accordance with the provisions of Title III of the Uniform Act and its associated federal regulations (49 CFR Part 24). All negotiations for right of way conducted are subject to this law and these regulations. Relocation booklets, which provide a general overview of the Relocation Assistance Program and outlines the services offered and any payments for which displaced individuals, families, businesses and non-profit organizations may be eligible to receive are available for download on the City of Mission and TxDOT websites at the addresses listed on the screen.



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The Inspiration Road/Military Parkway Loop project is listed in the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program or TIP in FY 2026 for right of way and compensable utilities. The next step in project development is to review and evaluate all the comments received during the comment period. Project development will continue by finalizing the design and obtaining environmental clearance. Environmental clearance is expected to be received by Fall of 2023. The City of Mission has executed an Advanced Funding Agreement with TxDOT. Once environmental clearance is issued and the right of way map is complete the City of Mission would begin acquiring the necessary right of way, with TxDOT oversight. During that time, the project construction plans would be finalized. Once right of way acquisition and design is complete, the project can go to construction. The total project cost is estimated to be \$27,029,683 and slated for construction in Fiscal Year 2027; however, it can be forwarded within the TIP (2023-2026) years.

How to Provide Comments

- Comments must be received or postmarked by Wednesday, May 10, 2023
- Download comment form from:
 - www.missiontexas.us
 - www.txdot.gov keyword: "Inspiration Road/Military Parkway Loop"
- Mail or Drop-off Comments:

City of Mission
Attn: J.P. Terrazas, P.E., RPIC
1201 E. 8th Street
Mission TX 78572
- Email : jpterrazas@missiontexas.us
- Fax: (956) 580-8768
- Voicemail: (956) 565-6458

Scan Me:



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The City of Mission and TxDOT are committed to continuing efforts to gain public feedback on this project. I understand that the comment process is slightly different on this virtual public hearing; therefore, I will take a moment to discuss how comments can be submitted. A comment form can be downloaded and printed from the City of Mission website at www.missiontexas.us or from TxDOT website at www.txdot.gov (keyword: "Inspiration Road/Military Parkway Loop"). Your comments can be submitted by mail, email, fax, or you can leave a voicemail. If you attend the in-person hearing, forms will be provided and the public will be able to provide verbal comments and/or ask questions of staff. Be sure to submit your comments by May 10, 2023, which is 15 days after the posting of this virtual public hearing video presentation. The forms can be mailed to City of Mission, Attn: J.P. Terrazas, P.E., RPIC, 1201 E. 8th Street, Mission TX 78572. Emailed to jpterrazas@missiontexas.us, fax to Attn: JP Terrazas, P.E., RPIC at (956) 580-8768. You can also leave a voicemail at (956) 565-6458. You may also access the project webpage by scanning this QR code with your electronic device. Responses to comments received will be made part of the Public Hearing Summary Report and will be on file and available for inspection at the City of Mission and TxDOT offices; and on the web once they have been prepared. We appreciate your understanding with this comment process.

Important Contacts 

<u>L&G ENGINEERING</u>	<u>CITY OF MISSION</u>
Damien Tijerina, P.E. L&G Project Manager (956) 585-1909 dtijerina@lgenineers.com	J.P. Terrazas, P.E., RPIC City of Mission (956) 580-8662 jpterrazas@missiontexas.us


Any questions are welcome at any time during the project development process between the hours of 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Contacts are listed above.

Websites: www.missiontexas.us o www.txdot.gov palabra clave "Inspiration Road / Military Parkway Loop"

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We encourage the public to stay informed. Schematics will be available on the City of Mission and TxDOT websites to view project information in more detail. The public may call or email project staff during regular office hours at any time during the project development process to ask questions or if you would like additional information. Please contact J.P. Terrazas, P.E., RPIC or Damien Tijerina, P.E., L&G Engineering Project Manager at the numbers listed on the screen.

Adjournment 

Thank you for your participation!

*Please remember to submit your comments by
Wednesday, May 10, 2023*

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We want to thank the Mission Independent School District, and the faculty and staff at Leal Elementary School for allowing us to use their facility for the Inspiration Road/Military Parkway Loop open house, in person option. We appreciate your time today and encourage you to stay engaged. Please remember to submit your comments by Wednesday, May 10, 2023. Thank you for watching and participating in this very important virtual public hearing. This concludes our presentation.