




**Script:**

Welcome to the Tyler District's Virtual Public meeting that will communicate our revision to the 2023-2026 Rural Transportation Improvement Program.

My name is Adrienne Leach and I am the District Advance Transportation Planning Director for TxDOT's Tyler District.

### Tyler District Boundaries

- On Wednesday, May 25, 2022, a Virtual Public Meeting explained the Rural Transportation Improvement Program and presented the proposed projects.
- The RTIP has been revised for several counties and this virtual public meeting gives the public a chance to provide input.
- Counties affected by the revision area:
  - Cherokee
  - Smith
  - Wood
  - Various



For information on the 2023-2026 Rural TIP and a full list of projects for the Tyler District, click on the link below or visit [txdot.gov](http://txdot.gov) and keyword search the following:  
[Tyler District 2023-2026 Rural Transportation Improvement Program](#)

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**Script:**

We presented our original 4-year program for the time period from 2023 to 2026 on May 25, 2022. The Tyler District includes the eight counties shown in this map. This presentation will describe our revision to the 2023-2026 Rural TIP. These revisions include revising two projects in Cherokee and Smith County and adding two projects in Wood County and in Various Counties in the District.

**Rural Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

**THE RURAL TIP**  
is list of all added capacity and regionally significant projects to be funded within a TxDOT District during the next four years, including those eligible for federal funding.

It can include projects for :



A Rural TIP project is anticipated to be funded within the next 4 years.

It shows regional agreement (community-region-state) on the need of a project.

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## Script:

The Rural Transportation Improvement Program is a list of local projects to be funded in the TxDOT Tyler District over the next 4 years. This means that all projects included in the list are expected to be underway within 4 years following its approval. These are the changes you can expect to go to contract in the near future!

It is multimodal; which means that it can include projects relating to highways, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, transit services, and freight projects as well as the preliminary studies used to define those projects.


Rural TIP is meant to show regional agreement on the need and priority of a transportation project, so all parties involved can be sure they are making the best investment for the community. It is also expected to be consistent with the projects and objectives included in the regional Long Range Transportation Plans, to ensure that all agencies are working towards the same goal.

The Rural TIP is a part of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Because the program its rules are established by Federal law, no project can receive federal funding unless it is listed in the Rural TIP!

**Why is the Rural TIP being revised?** 

- TxDOT Districts submitted Rural TIP projects to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for input
- Upon review, fiscal changes will affect the original projects.
- Changes or constraints can result in:
  - New individual FHWA funded projects
  - Changes in an estimated federal cost exceeding constraint limits
  - Rescheduling the timeline
  - Putting projects on hold
- As part of the ongoing public involvement, TxDOT is providing the Rural TIP changes for public comment.

**The following slide will highlight the projects and schedules that will be affected by the 2023-2026 Rural TIP Revision for the Tyler District.**

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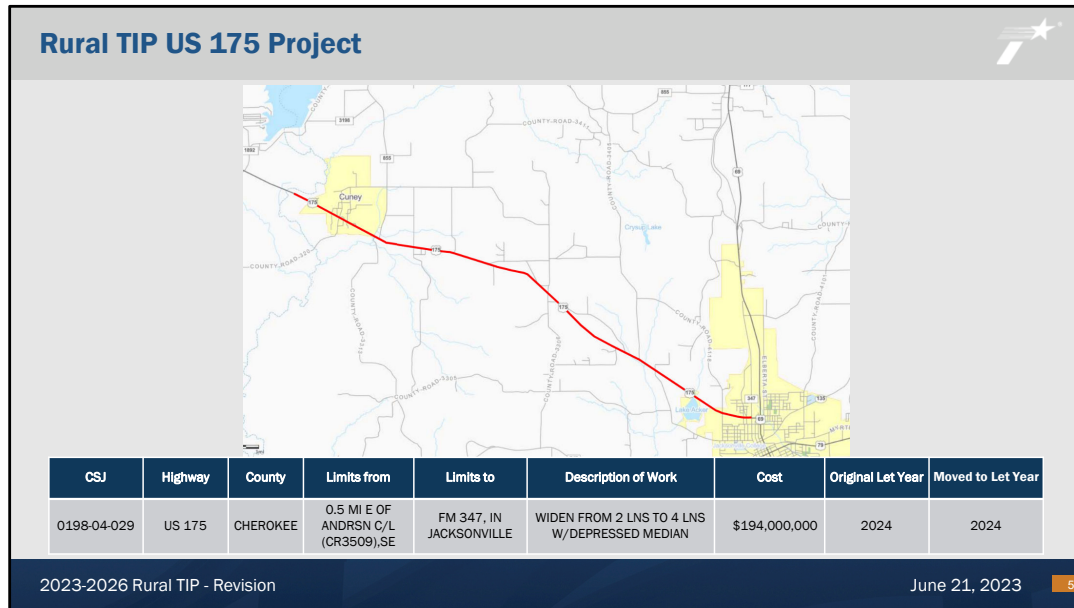
**Script:**

It is important for you to participate because funding secured by this process is intended to address your communities' most immediate needs. By providing comments on the priority of the projects included, you are helping us identify regional priorities.

By reviewing the revision for this project and providing input you are: 1) having a regional impact, 2) helping us be more effective with your money, and 3) ensuring that we are investing where we should.

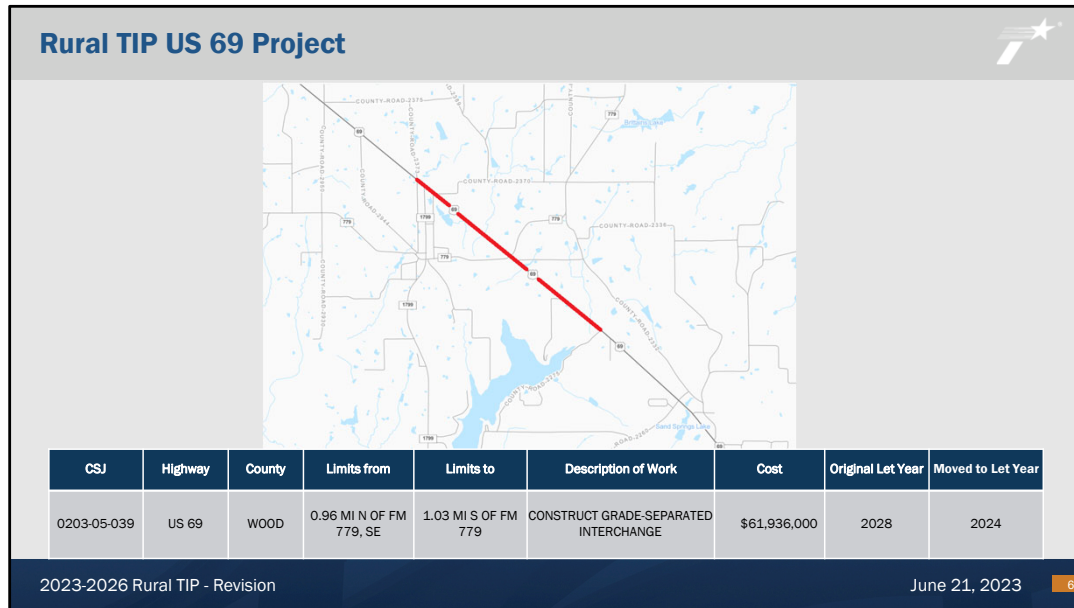
Revisions to the Tyler District 2023-2026 Rural TIP are due to changes in funding and changes in estimated federal costs exceeding constraint limits.

The following slide will highlight the projects and schedules that will be affected by this revision.



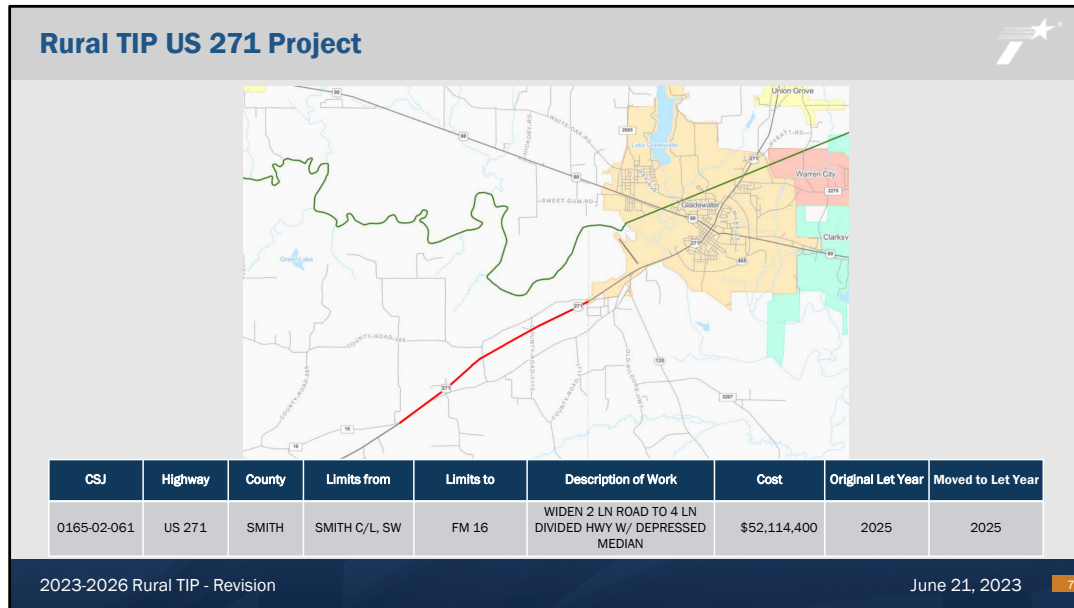
**Script:**

*TxDOT will be widening US 175 from 2 lanes to 4 lanes with depressed medians into Cherokee county. The project limits are from the Neches River east to FM 347 in Jacksonville. The cost estimate will be revised and increased to \$194,000,000 and is scheduled to let in October 2023 which is fiscal year 2024.*



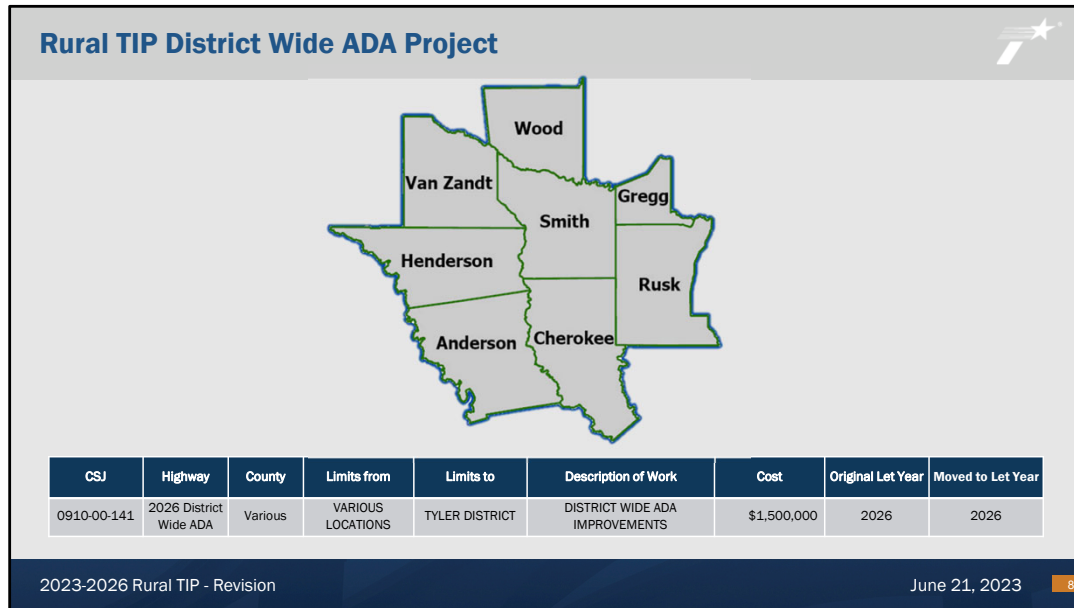
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*This Rural TIP Revision includes adding US 69 at FM 779 in Wood County to the Rural TIP. This project is to construct a grade-separated interchange. Limits for this project extend from 0.96 miles North of FM 779, Southeast to 1.03 miles South of FM 779. The estimated cost is \$61,963,000.*



**Script:**

*The next project to be revised in the Rural TIP is US 271 in Smith County, which will widen the roadway from 2 to 4 lanes with a depressed median. Limits for this project are from the Smith-Gregg county line (outside the City of Gladewater) southeast to FM 16. The estimated cost will be revised and increased to \$52,114,400. This project will run concurrently with the US 271 widening in Gregg County, which is within the Longview MPO boundary. Please refer to the MPO TIP for more details.*



**Script:**

The last project discussed in this Rural TIP Revision is the addition of the fiscal year 2026 District Wide ADA project to the Rural TIP. This project will upgrade and add sidewalk and pedestrian improvements in Various counties and locations in the District. The estimated cost is \$1,500,000.



**Funding**

The Rural TIP is a fiscally constrained list of projects that functions as a budgeting tool for our District.

Funds can come from:

- Federal Government**  
*Through the Federal Highway and Transit Administrations*
- TxDOT**  
*Through its Unified Transportation Program funding categories*
- Local governments**  
*Who may be required to provide matching funds for federal monies*

**“Fiscally constrained TIP” means:**

**It is realistic in terms of the amount of funding available.**

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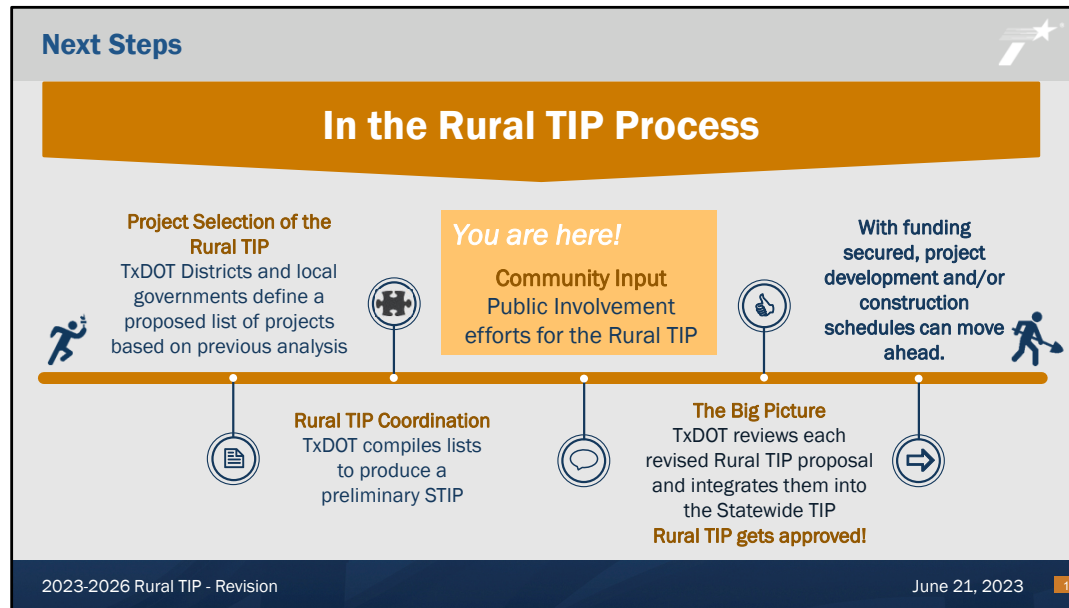
**Script:**

The Rural TIP functions as a budget list for the District. As such it is fiscally constrained. Like the budget of a household, the Rural TIP has to be realistic about the amount of money available to cover all the needs. Frequently we identify more improvements than we have money to implement. This means prioritizing according to those items that are most necessary.

We’ve discussed the list but where is the money coming from? Funds can come from 3 main sources:

- 1) The Federal Government, through the establishment of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act or MAP-21. The federal government allocates these funds through the processes established by the Federal Highway and Transit Administrations.
- 2) TxDOT, like the Federal Government also allocates a section our budget for these projects through the Unified Transportation Program’s 12 funding categories.

And 3) the local governments. Once the need has been identified and the amount of federal monies has been defined, the Rural TIP helps local governments assess the funding requirements to match those of the federal and state government and their capacity to meet them.




**Script:**

Now, after you review and comment on these projects, what is next?

The timeline above illustrates the Rural TIP process and where we are right now.

The Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is built from the Rural TIPs of all of the 25 Districts in the State as well as the Transportation Improvement programs from all the MPOs called TIPs. The timeline above shows where in the Rural TIP process fits into this larger effort. Once the STIP is approved by the Federal government, everyone’s projects are considered funded.

Next Steps 

## How to provide comments:

1. If attending an in-person meeting, fill out a comment card today and leave it with staff
2. Mail a comment to:  
Texas Department of Transportation  
Tyler District, Attn: Rural TIP  
2709 W. Front St. Tyler, TX 75702
3. Or email a comment to:  
[Adrienne.Leach@txdot.gov](mailto:Adrienne.Leach@txdot.gov), Attention: Rural TIP.

Remember to submit your comments by **July 10, 2023** to be included in the official summary of this meeting

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**Script:**

Now that you are familiar with the revision to the 2023-2026 Rural TIP, we want to hear what you think. There are a couple of options for submitting comments including:

- 1) Printing out a comment card, filling it out, and mailing it back to us at the address shown on the screen. Or
- 2) Email your comments to [Adrienne.Leach@txdot.gov](mailto:Adrienne.Leach@txdot.gov)

Comments must be postmarked or otherwise received by July 10, 2023. Please make sure to send your comments before that date.

If after today, you would like more information or have any other questions feel free to reach out or visit the District Webpage for updates.

If you wish to share the content of this presentation, feel free to print copies of the presentation slides or simply share the website link. Thank you for your time and for participating in our 2023-2026 Rural TIP revision presentation.