Aug. 22, 2024

Farm to Market (FM) 93
From Wheat Road to State Highway (SH) 317

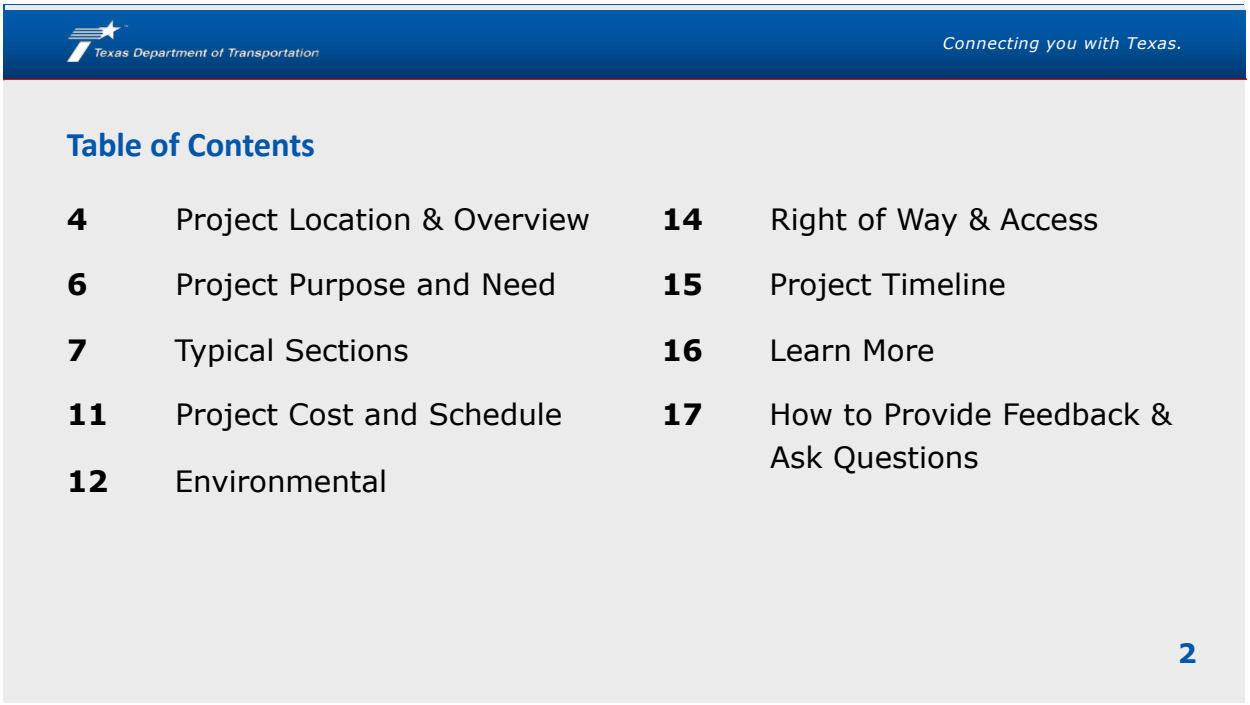
Bell County, Texas

CSJ: 1835-01-026

Public Meeting #1

Hello and welcome to the Public Meeting for FM 93 from Wheat Road to SH 317. This meeting has been convened by the Texas Department of Transportation and is being held to receive and consider comments from the public.

Please note, you may pause this presentation at any point to allow more time to review the information.

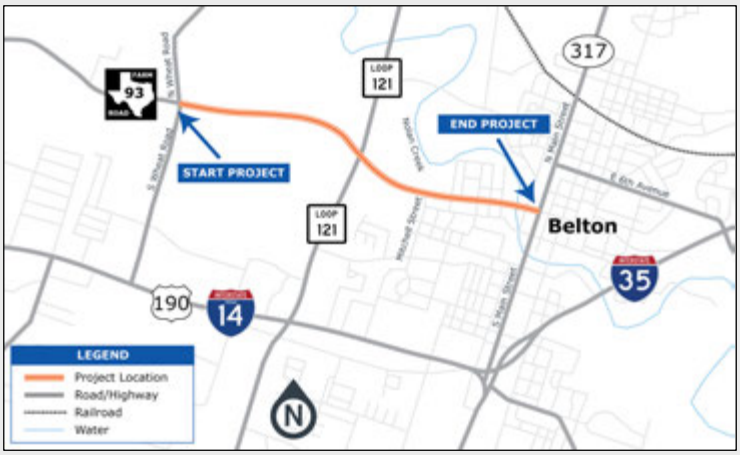


In this presentation we will cover several topics regarding the FM 93 project. We will begin with an overview of the project, including its location, project limits and objectives, followed by the project's purpose and need. We will then look at the existing conditions for this corridor, discuss the proposed improvements, as well as provide an overview of the area's environmental constraints.

Finally, we'll explain right of way, what the anticipated timeline of this project looks like, and how you can provide input.

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

Project Location Map



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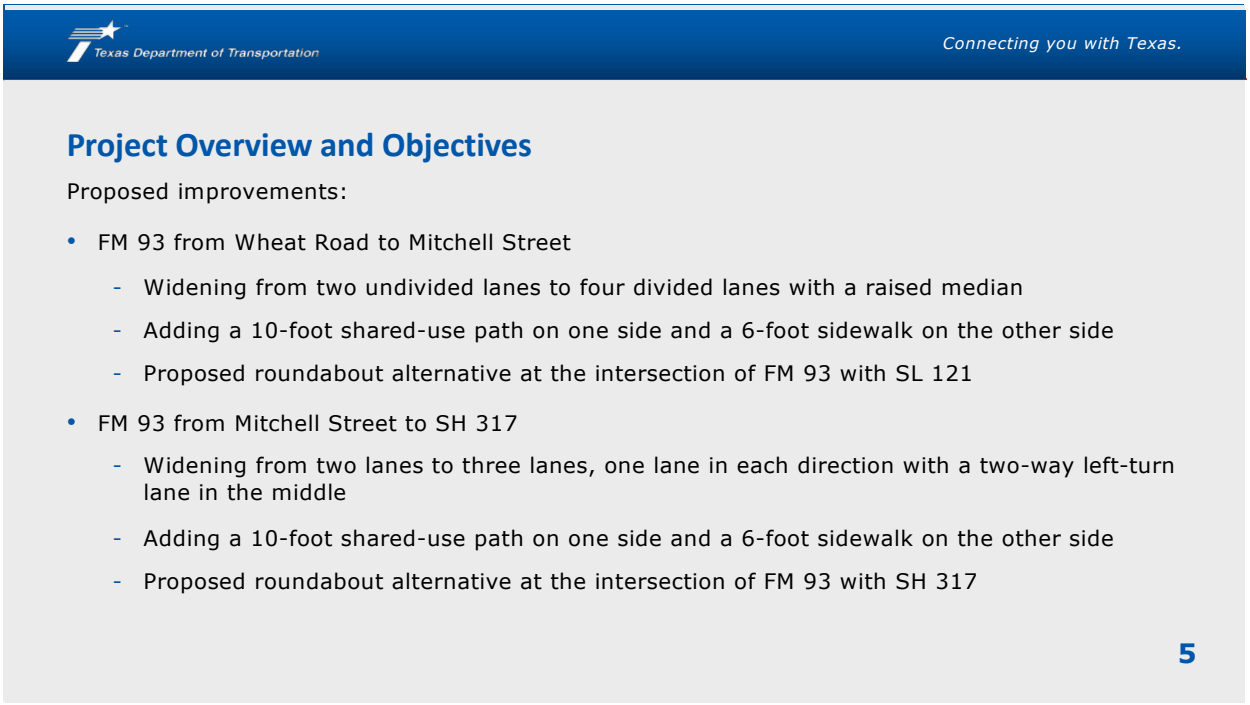
The proposed project will reconstruct the existing FM 93 corridor from Wheat Road to SH 317 in Belton.



The proposed project would reconstruct the existing FM 93 corridor from Wheat Road to SH 317 in Bell County, Texas.

From Wheat Road to Mitchell Street the proposed improvements include widening FM 93 from two undivided lanes to four divided lanes with a raised median.

From Mitchell Street to SH 317, the proposed improvements include widening FM 93 from two lanes to three lanes: one lane in each direction with a two-way left-turn lane in the middle.

Additionally, along the FM 93 corridor, from Wheat Road to SH 317, a 10-foot shared-use path would be added along one side of the roadway and a six-foot sidewalk along the other side of the roadway.

Two roundabout alternatives are also proposed for this corridor: one at the intersection of FM 93 with SL 121, and another at the intersection of FM 93 with SH 317.

The purpose of the FM 93 from Wheat Road to SH 317 project is to improve safety and increase mobility.

This project is needed to meet future travel demands stemming from projected population growth and traffic volumes and meet current design standards.

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Existing Typical Section

- Consists of two, 12-foot-wide undivided travel lanes in each direction with 8-foot-wide outside shoulders
- Existing right of way is 100 feet wide
- No existing bicycle or pedestrian facilities

7

The existing roadway on FM 93 from Wheat Road to Mitchell Street consists of two, 12-foot-wide undivided travel lanes in each direction. There is an 8-foot-wide outside shoulder on both sides. The existing right of way is 100 feet wide. There are no existing sidewalk, bicycle or pedestrian facilities.

Existing Typical Section

- Consists of two 18-foot-wide travel lanes in each direction with 2-foot-wide outside shoulders
- Existing right of way is 50 feet wide
- No existing bicycle or pedestrian facilities

8

The existing roadway on FM 93 from Mitchell Street to SH 317 consists of two 18-foot-wide undivided travel lanes in each direction. There is a 2-foot-wide outside shoulder on both sides. The existing right of way is 50 feet wide. There are no existing sidewalk, bicycle or pedestrian facilities.

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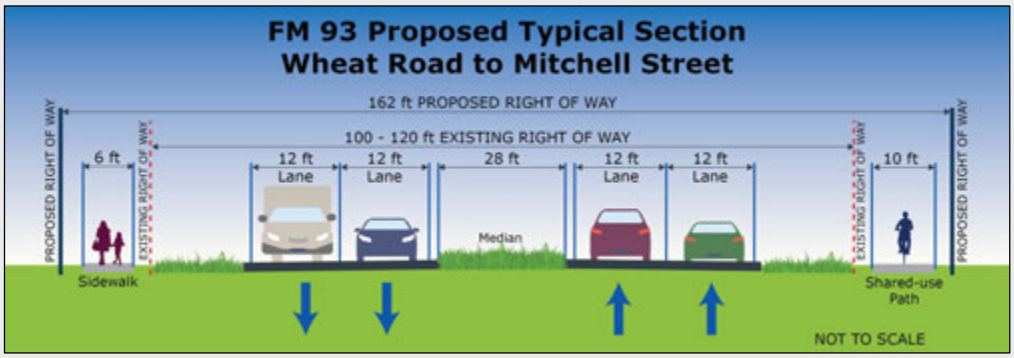
Proposed Typical Section



- Widen to four-lane divided roadway with a raised median
- Add a 10-foot-wide shared-use path on one side and a 6-foot-wide sidewalk on the other side
- Proposed right of way is 162 feet wide

9

The proposed project from Wheat Road to Mitchell Street includes a right of way of 162 feet and would add an additional lane in each direction and a grassy median. The proposed project also includes the addition of a 10-foot-wide shared-use path on one side and a 6-foot-wide sidewalk on the other side of the roadway.

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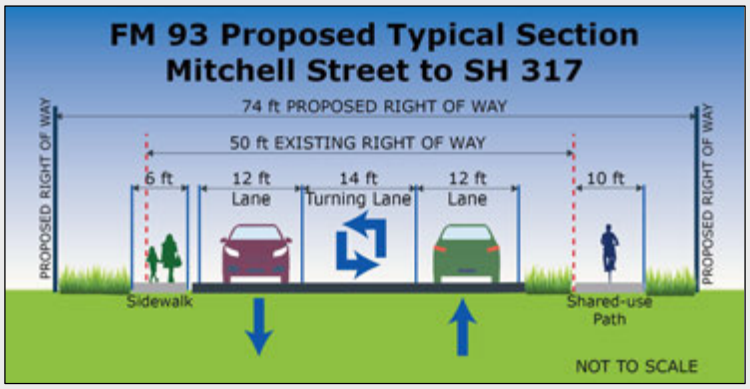
Proposed Typical Section



- Widen to two lanes with a two-way left turn lane
- Add a 10-foot-wide shared-use path on one side and a 6-foot-wide sidewalk on the other side
- Proposed right of way is 74 feet wide

10

The proposed project from Mitchell Street to SH 317 includes a right of way of 74 feet wide and would widen from a two-lane undivided roadway to a two-lane roadway with a two-way left turn lane in the middle. The proposed project also includes the addition of a 10-foot-wide shared-use path on one side and a 6-foot-wide sidewalk on the other side of the roadway.

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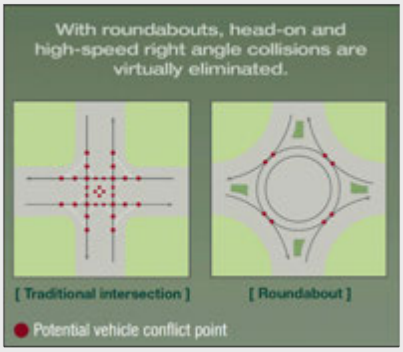
Roundabout Information

Roundabouts can:

- Improve safety
- Reduce congestion
- Reduce pollution and fuel use
- Save money
- Complement community values



Source: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

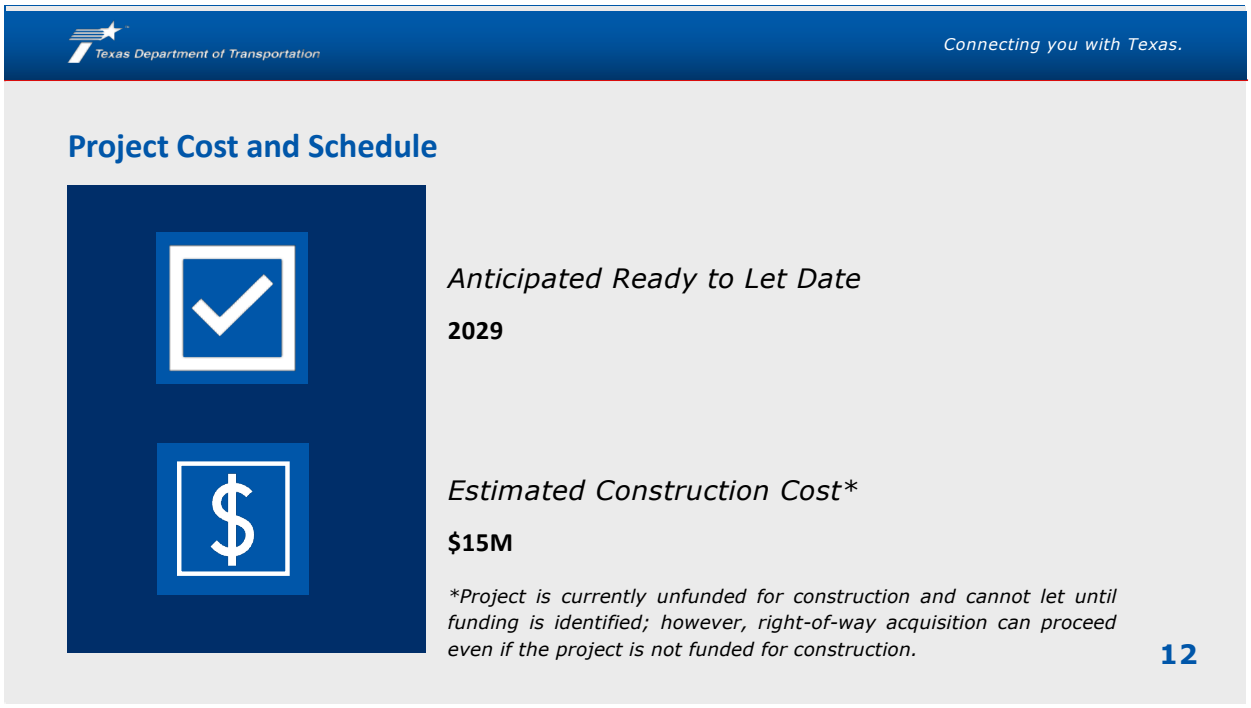
11

Two roundabout alternatives are also proposed for this corridor: one at the intersection of FM 93 with SL 121, and another at the intersection of FM 93 with SH 317.

Compared to other types of intersections, roundabouts improve safety with more than 90% reduction in fatalities, 76% reduction in injuries, and 35% reduction in all crashes. Slower speeds are generally safer for pedestrians. They reduce congestion during peak hours and at other times with typically less delays. Additionally, they reduce pollution and fuel use as vehicles have fewer stops, no hard accelerations and spend less time idling.

Roundabouts can save money as they typically do not require traffic signal equipment installations, power or maintenance. Smaller roundabouts may require less right of way than traditional intersections and often use less pavement.

Roundabouts can also complement common community values by having quieter operation in addition to being functional and aesthetically pleasing.



The FM 93 from Wheat Road to SH 317 project is anticipated to be "Ready to Let" by 2029. "Ready to Let" is when TxDOT notifies the construction community that a project is ready to be bid on after all right of way is acquired and utilities are relocated. Construction on a project begins after the letting process is complete. The total construction cost for the project is approximately $15 million. The project is currently unfunded for construction and cannot be let until funding is identified; however, right-of-way acquisition can proceed even if the project is not funded for construction.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Assignment to the Texas Department of Transportation

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.

La revisión ambiental, consultas y otras acciones requeridas por las leyes ambientales federales aplicables para este proyecto están siendo o han sido, llevado a cabo por TxDOT en virtud de 23 U.S.C. 327 y un Memorando de Entendimiento fechado el 9 de diciembre del 2019, y ejecutado por la FHWA y TxDOT.

13

Prior to December 16, 2014, the Federal Highway Administration, or FHWA, reviewed and approved documents prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act, known as NEPA; however, on December 16, 2014, the Texas Department of Transportation assumed responsibility from FHWA to review and approve certain assigned NEPA environmental documents. This agreement was updated on December 9, 2019.

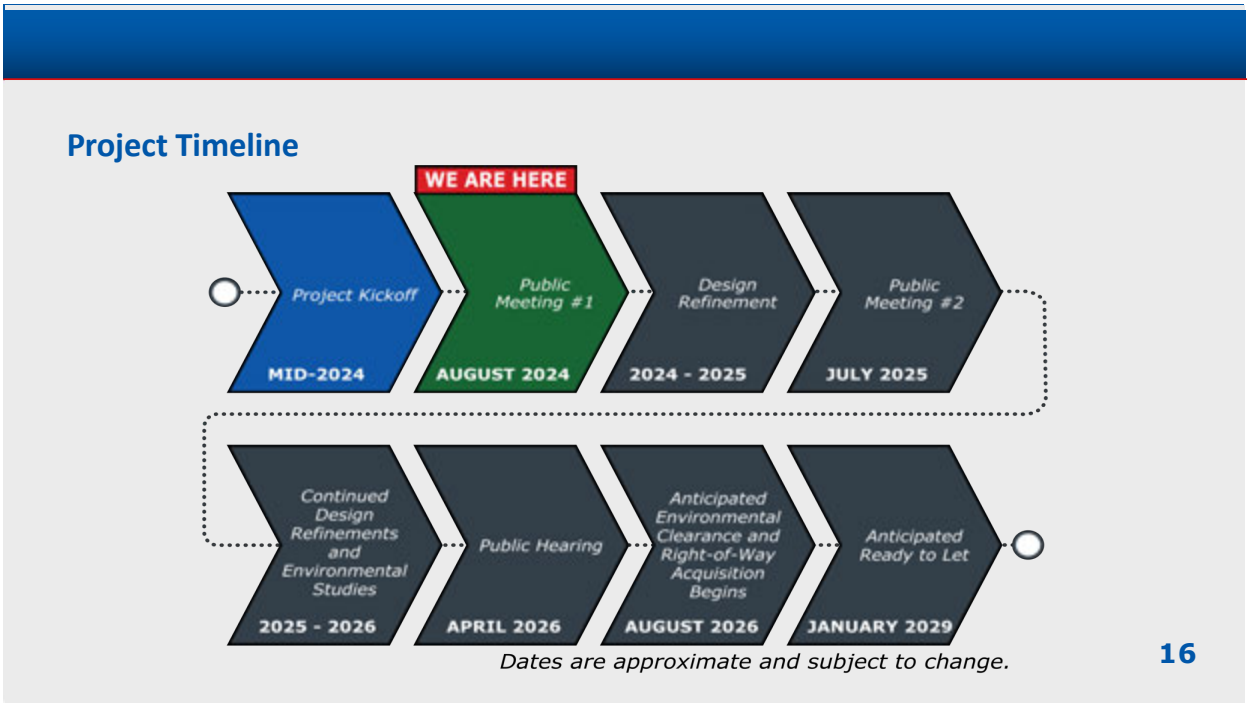
Environmental studies will be conducted for the proposed FM 93 project to support an environmental clearance in accordance with NEPA. These environmental analyses are necessary to identify, avoid, and minimize effects to the human and natural environments.

Environmental Constraints

14

This map shows the known environmental constraints within or near the project corridor. These constraints include wetlands or jurisdictional waters at major stream crossings, threatened or endangered species, Section 4(f) lands, cemeteries and archeological sites, and hazardous material sites. The goal is to avoid or minimize impacts to these constraints as the design of the proposed improvements is developed.

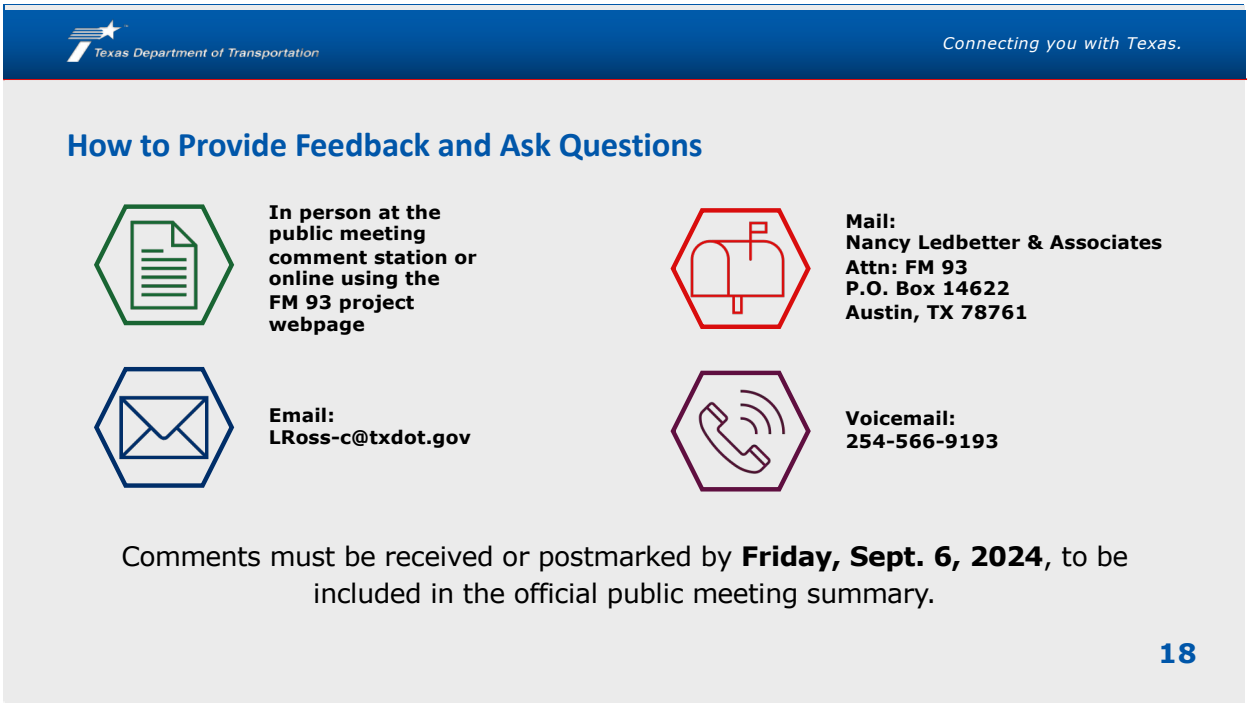
This project is in its early stages, and right of way and access are not yet determined -- but let's cover what this typically entails. It is important to understand that access and right-of-way recommendations vary based on the needs of any given project. The proposed right-of-way width depends on the design requirements including accommodation for required number of lanes, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and drainage and utility requirements. Furthermore, access and right of way can be impacted by various factors. These can include construction costs, property-acquisition costs, access costs and economic development preferences of the community.



The FM 93 project is currently in the conceptual design phase with the first public meeting currently taking place to collect public and stakeholder feedback. In 2025, public meeting number two is anticipated to take place in July, with the schematic anticipated to be finalized in 2026.

Looking at the following years, environmental clearance is expected in 2026, and construction is anticipated to begin in 2029. All of these anticipated timelines are preliminary and subject to change.

For more information on this project, please visit www.txdot.gov/projects/hearings-meetings.html. Or you can scan the QR code.



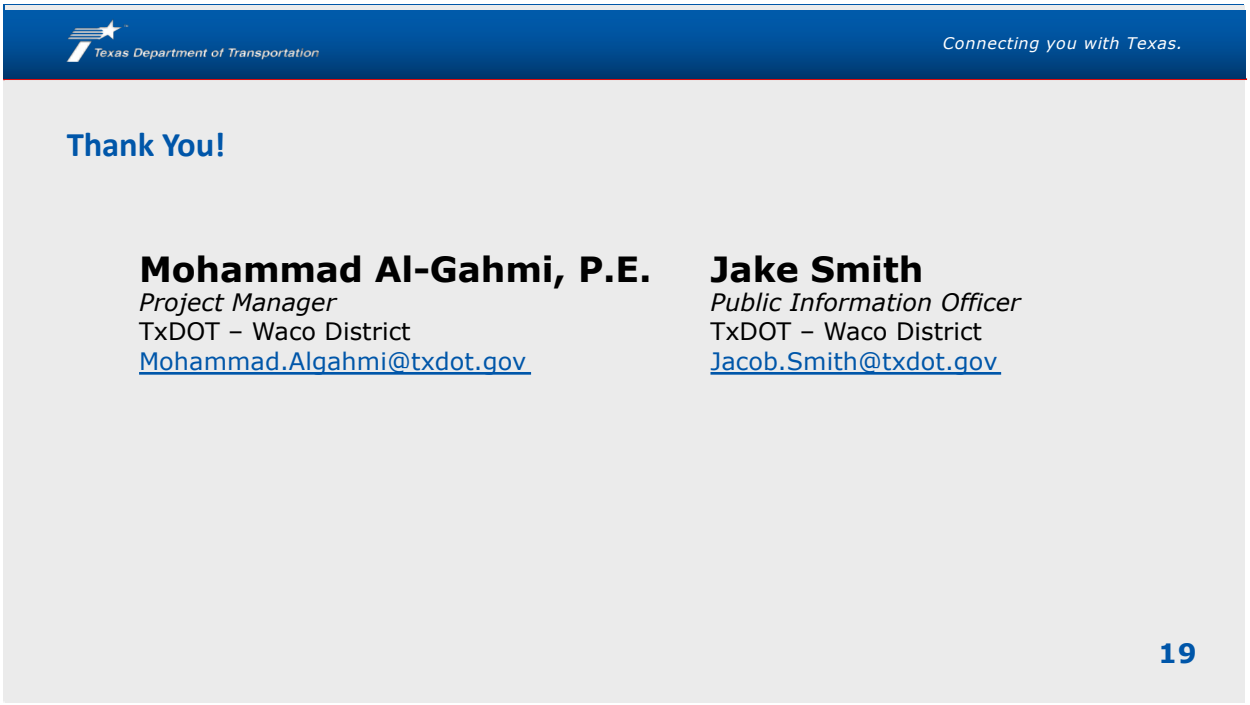
Your feedback is an important component of this project and TxDOT wants to hear from you. To be included in the official project documentation, all comments must be received or postmarked by Friday, Sept. 6, 2024.

Comments may be provided:

- In-person at the public meeting or online using the FM 93 project webpage
- By email sent to LRoss-c@txdot.gov
- By mail sent to:

  Nancy Ledbetter & Associates
  Attn: FM 93
  P.O. Box 14622
  Austin, TX 78761
- Or by phone at 254-566-9193

Following the public meeting and comment period, the project team will review all comments received during the comment period, assess their feasibility for incorporation into the study and develop responses, which will be available online at TxDOT.gov once they have been prepared.



Thank you for your interest in the FM 93 from Wheat Road to SH 317 improvements in Belton. For more information, please visit www.txdot.gov/projects/hearings-meetings.html.