



PUBLIC MEETING

US 281 Hamilton Truck/Relief Route Project

US 281 from 1.25 miles north of CR 203 (Leon River) to State Highway (SH) 36 and
US 281 From SH 36 to CR 506 and SH 36 From US 281 to SH 36
CSJ(s): 0251-01-064, 0251-02-050, and 0183-03-054



Table of Contents

03 | Project History

05 | Project Location Map

06 | Project Goals

10 | Existing Typical Sections

12 | Proposed Typical Sections

14 | Environmental Review

16 | Project Cost and Schedule

17 | Timeline

18 | How To Submit Comments



Project History

TxDOT conducted a **US 281 Hamilton Truck/Relief Route Feasibility Study**. Multiple Route Alignments were explored, evaluated, and presented at three public meetings. Afterwards, the first public meeting for the **US 281 Hamilton Truck/Relief Route Project** (Design & Environmental Analysis) was conducted.

Public involvement has included meetings with city and county representatives, inquiring property owners, and mailed outreach to more than...

2,100
people



US 281 Public Meeting



Project Location Map

Location:

Hamilton County, Texas

Project Length:

Approximately 16.7 miles

Limits:

CSJ 0251-01-064

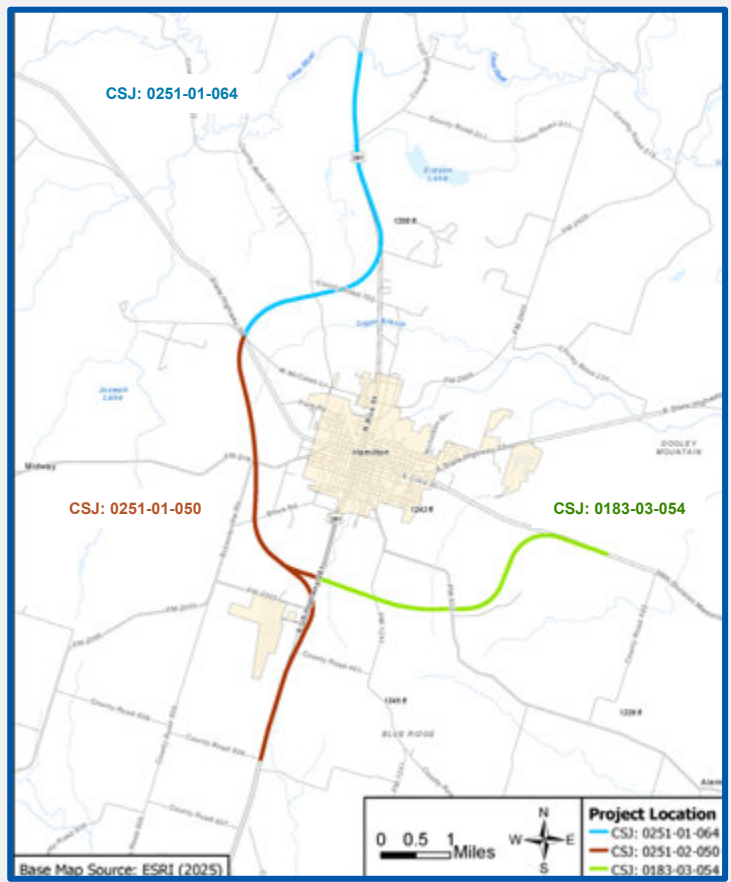
US 281 from 1.25 miles north of CR 203 (Leon River) to State Highway (SH) 36

CSJ 0251-01-050

US 281 From SH 36 to CR 506

CSJ 0183-03-054

SH 36 From US 281 to SH 36



PROJECT GOALS

Producing an optimum US 281 transportation solution which entails:



**Mobility &
Congestion Relief**



Safety



**Population
& Growth**



**Human & Natural
Environment**



PROJECT GOALS: Safety

234

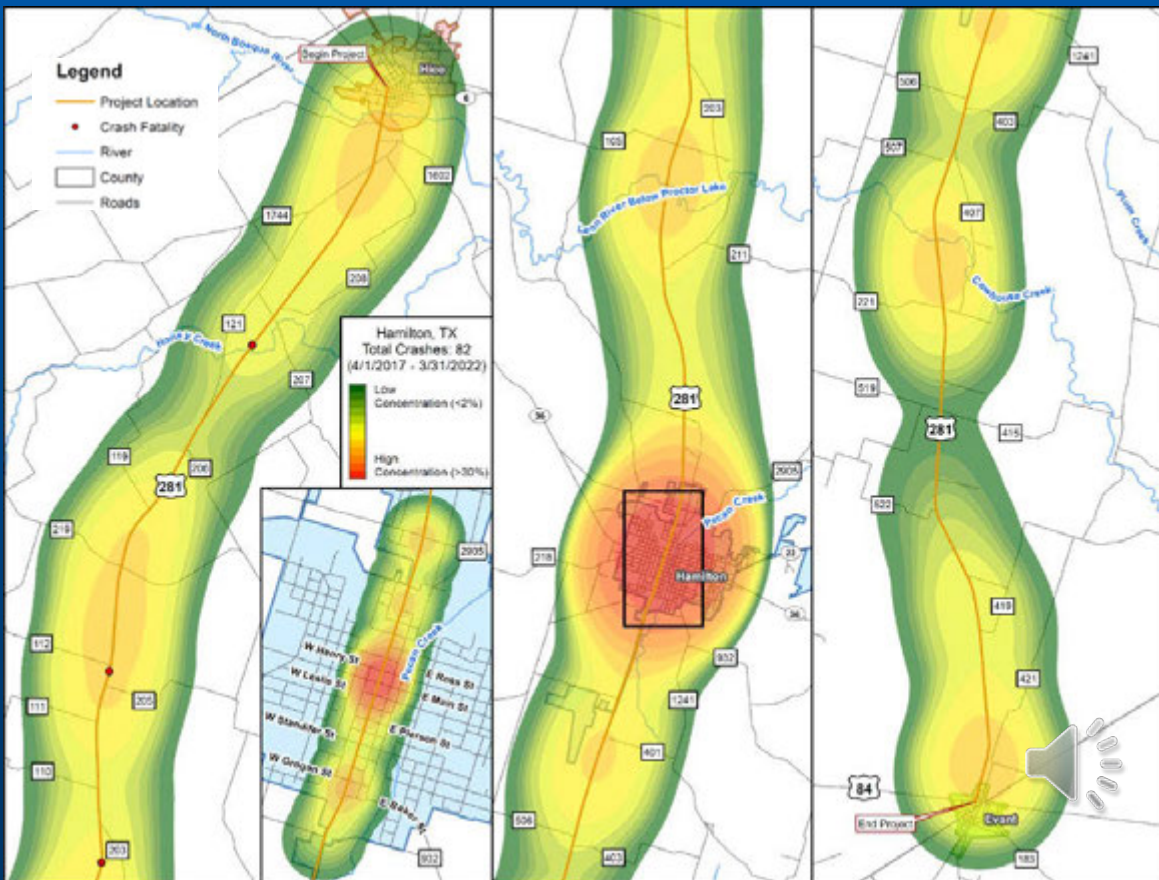
Total Crashes
between 2017
and 2022



US 281 vehicle crash data documented between 2017 and 2022 was evaluated and utilized to identify **potential design or operational issues** that may be associated with the need to improve US 281.

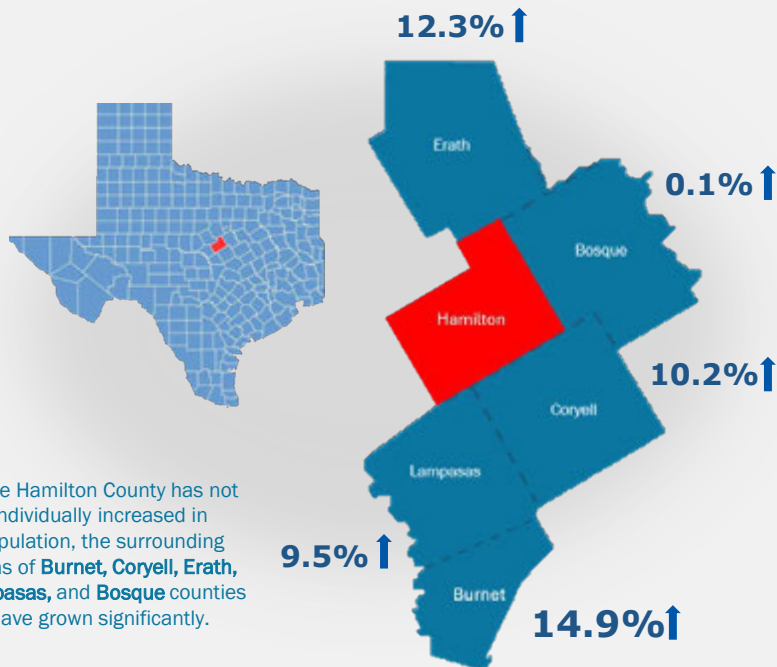
Safety awareness locations along US 281 involving vehicular/driving movements were identified. Due to high travel demand, **US 281 congestion** within the City of Hamilton continues to increase, but space to add US 281 travel lanes is limited within the City/downtown district.

Crash Heat Map

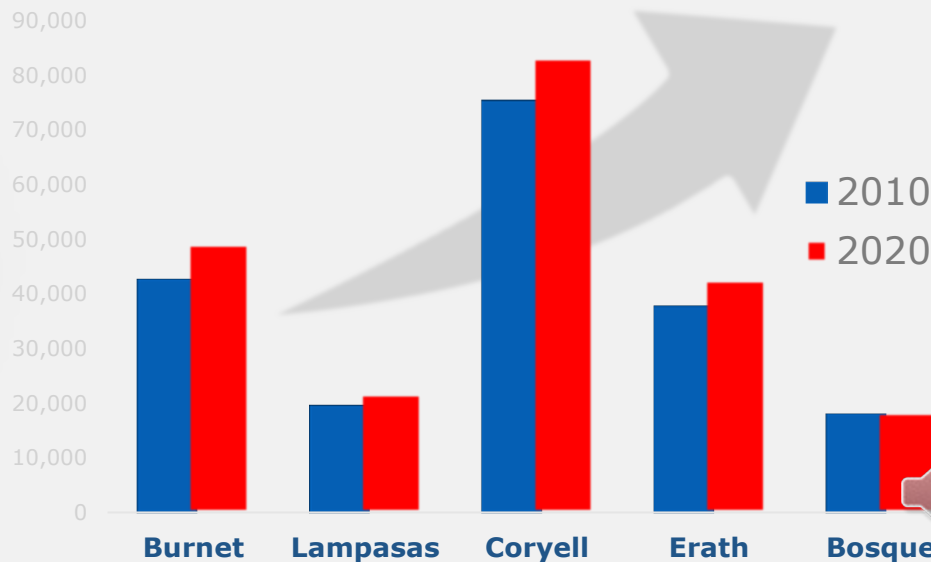


PROJECT GOALS: Population and Growth

Population density, size, and profiles were analyzed to assist in identifying potential areas where transportation improvements are determined to be needed. Growth in the Central Texas area has resulted in an ongoing increase in traffic volumes and drivers navigating central Texas via various interconnecting statewide transportation facilities such as US 281 and SH 36 which span Hamilton County.



While Hamilton County has not individually increased in population, the surrounding areas of Burnet, Coryell, Erath, Lampasas, and Bosque counties have grown significantly.



US Census Data by County along US 281 Corridor

PROJECT GOALS: Traffic Congestion Relief & Mobility

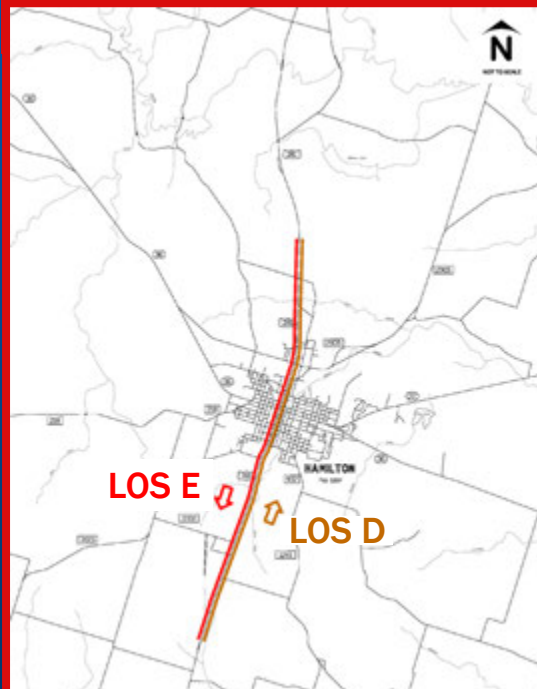
Year 2055 Build and **No-Build comparison scenarios** studied for the US 281 Truck / Relief Route indicate that without the route, heavy traffic and congestion in downtown Hamilton **will increase**.

What is Level of Service (LOS)?

Level of Service (LOS) is a qualitative measure used to assess the quality of traffic flow on roads and at intersections.

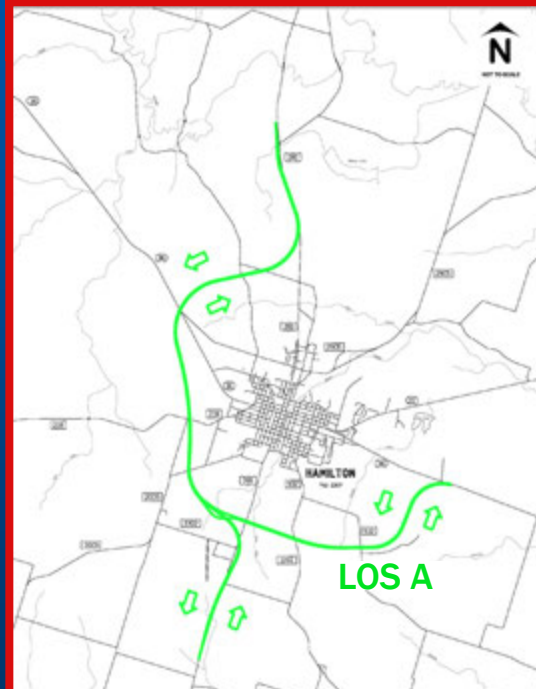
FREE FLOW Low volumes and no delays.	LOS A	
STABLE FLOW Slightly restricted by brief incidents, minor delays.	LOS B	
STABLE FLOW Slightly and intermittently closely controlled because of higher volumes.	LOS C	
STABLE FLOW Slightly intermittently affected by change in demand conditions, high density traffic, and/or oversaturation, minor to brief delays.	LOS D	
UNSTABLE FLOW Low speeds, considerable delay, occurs at all stages and regularly.	LOS E	
FORCED FLOW Only low speeds, vehicles exceed capacity, long delays with stop-and-go traffic.	LOS F	

NO-BUILD SCENARIO



No Build Scenario: US 281 traffic flow reaches **LOS E**, indicating traffic flow is at or near capacity with minimal room for maneuvering. Under these conditions, even minor disruptions can cause significant breakdowns in traffic flow.

BUILD SCENARIO

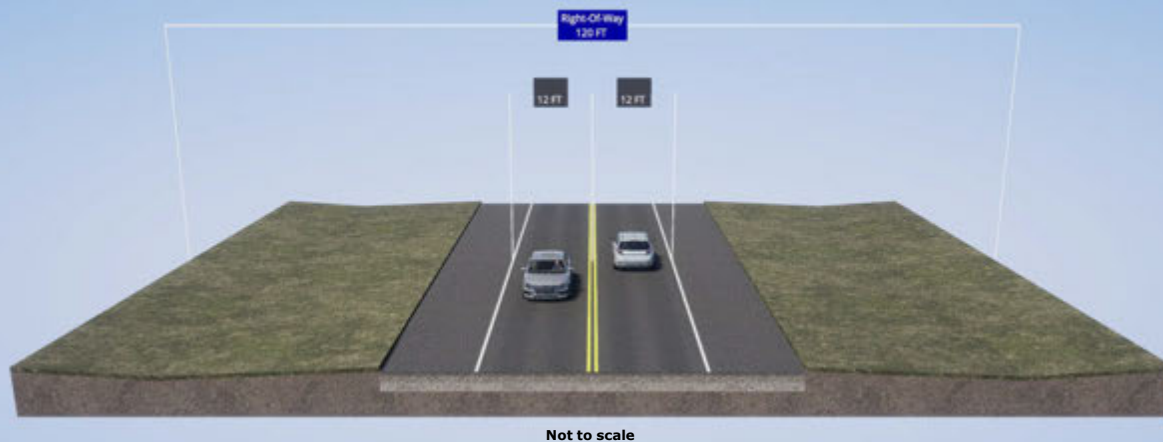


Build Scenario: US 281 traffic flow operates at **LOS A** with minimal delays and traffic density as drivers not destined for Downtown Hamilton avoid its near capacity travel conditions by traveling the US 281 Truck / Relief Route.

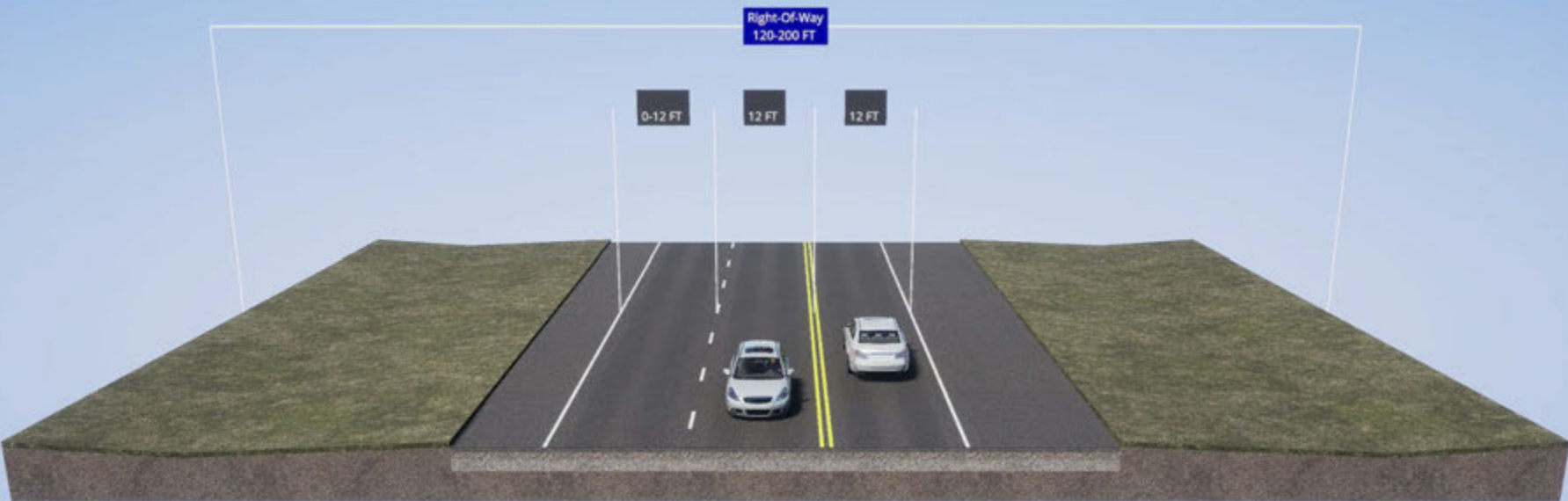
Travel demand (traffic volume growth) along **US 281** and **SH 36** in Hamilton is projected to continue increasing **through the year 2055**.



Existing US 281 Typical Section



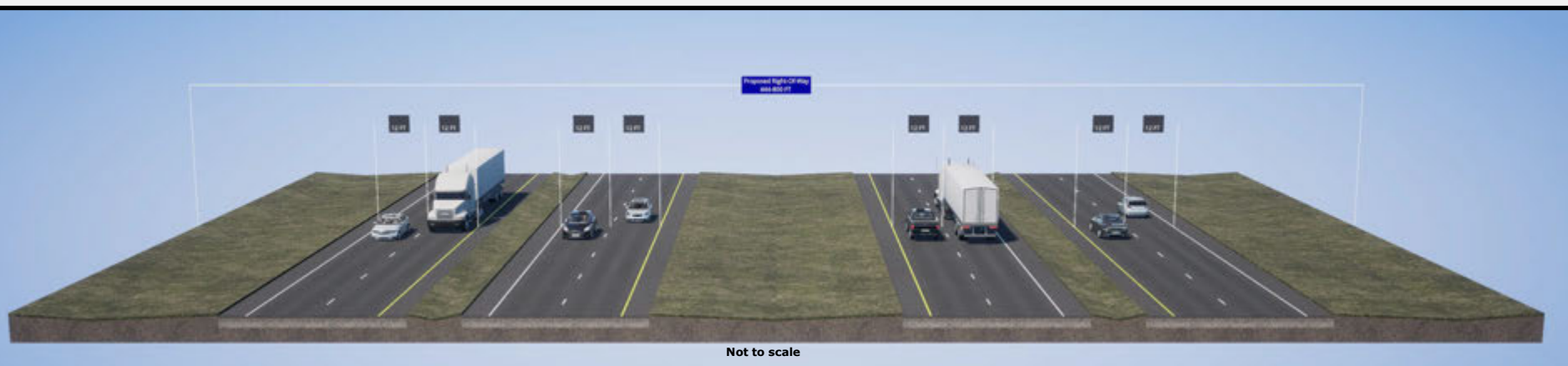
Existing SH 36 Typical Section



Not to scale



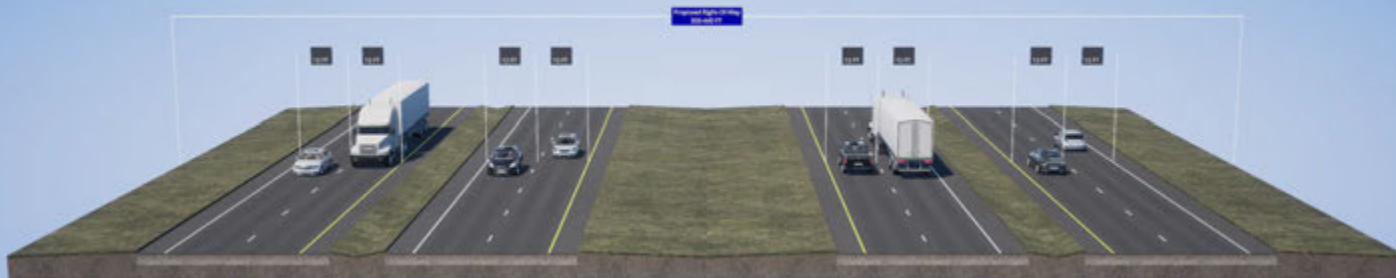
Proposed US 281 Typical Section



- Four-lane divided roadway with 12-foot-wide lanes and 10-foot-wide shoulders
- Non-continuous two-lane northbound and southbound frontage roads
- Access ramps to major interconnecting roadways/cross-streets



Proposed SH 36 Typical Section



Not to scale

- Four-lane divided roadway with 12-foot-wide lanes and 10-foot-wide shoulders
- Non-continuous two-lane northbound and southbound frontage roads
- Access ramps to major interconnecting roadways/cross-streets



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 July 17, 2025, 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 17 de julio del 2025, y ejecutado por la FHWA y TxDOT.



PROJECT SCHEDULE AND COST

Anticipated Ready to Let Date*

2030

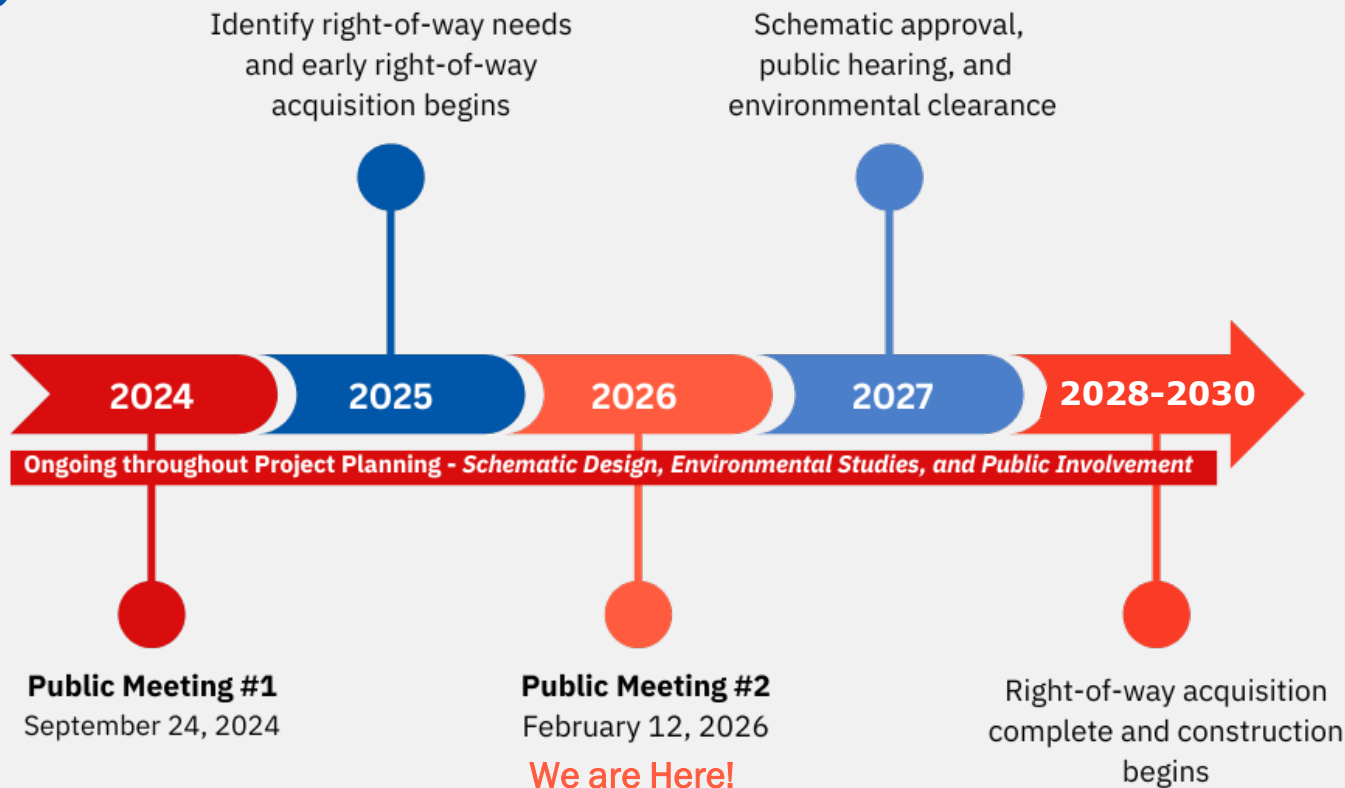
Estimated Construction Cost

To Be Determined



Timeline

**Subject to change*



How to Provide Input



Comment Form

Fill out at the
Public Meeting or online by
visiting [TxDOT.gov](https://www.txdot.gov), keyword
search:

“US 281 Hamilton”



Email

US281.Hamilton@bartwest.com



Mail

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Dallas, TX 75243-3497



Phone

254 – 867 – 2700



All comments must be submitted on or before Friday, Feb. 27, 2026 to be included in the official record for this public meeting.

Thank you for your interest and participation in this US 281 Hamilton Truck/Relief Route Project

