

## **PUBLIC MEETING SCRIPT**

### **US 281 Hamilton Truck / Relief Route Project**

From FM 3302 to CR 102 West of City of Hamilton,  
and from US 281 to SH 22 East of City of Hamilton  
CSJ(s): 0251-01-064, 0251-02-050, and 0183-03-054  
Hamilton County, Texas

#### **SLIDE 1 – Title Slide**

Welcome to the public meeting for the US 281 Hamilton Truck / Relief Route Project presented by the Texas Department of Transportation. We appreciate your interest in the project.

Please note you may pause this presentation at any point to allow more time to view each slide.

#### **SLIDE 2 – Table of Contents**

This meeting has been convened by TxDOT's Waco District Office and is being held to receive and consider comments from the public regarding the US 281 Hamilton Truck / Relief Route Project. Today's presentation will cover the project history and location, typical sections, environmental review, project costs and schedule, timeline, and how to submit comments.

#### **SLIDE 3 – END THE STREAK**

November 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on Texas roadways. That's a streak we want to break. Help TxDOT End the Streak of roadway fatalities by buckling up, driving the speed limit, putting down your phone, and never driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

#### **SLIDE 4 – US 281 Hamilton Truck / Relief Route Project History**

TxDOT conducted a Hamilton Truck/Relief Route Feasibility Study. Multiple Route Alignments were explored, evaluated, and presented at three advertised public meetings shown on the screen. TxDOT also met with interested agencies, stakeholders, and landowners.

#### **SLIDE 5 – Adjacent Projects**

The US 281 Hamilton Truck / Relief Route Project is adjacent to numerous other projects along the US 281. The project limits are from FM 3302 to CR 102 West of the City of Hamilton, and from US 281 to SH 22 East of the City of Hamilton. The total project length is approximately 12 miles and is located in Hamilton County, Texas. The project limits are shown on the map.

#### **SLIDE 6 – Existing Typical Section**

The existing US 281 typical roadway section within the study limits consists of one 11- to 12-foot-wide travel lane in each direction with adjacent 2- to 3-foot-wide shoulders, no center median, and side ditch drainage.

The existing US 281 right-of-way width varies along the corridor, but overall is approximately 120 feet wide.

#### **SLIDE 7 – Proposed Typical Sections**

The proposed US 281 Hamilton Truck / Relief Route Project would predominantly be a four-lane divided roadway with non-continuous two-lane frontage roads and access ramps to major cross-streets, and an approximate 300- to 440-foot right-of-way width. However, for the segment of the Truck / Relief Route located between State Highway 36

and State Highway 22, the Route would be a two-lane undivided roadway with an approximate 200 feet right-of-way width.

The proposed project would require additional right of way to accommodate the construction of the project.

### **SLIDE 8 – Environmental Review**

Prior to Dec. 16, 2014, the Federal Highway Administration, or FHWA, reviewed and approved documents prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act, known as NEPA; however, on Dec. 16, 2014 TxDOT assumed responsibility from FHWA through a Memorandum of Understanding to review and approve certain assigned NEPA environmental documents. This Memorandum of Understanding between TxDOT and FHWA was updated on Dec. 9, 2019. The review and approval process applies to this project.

Environmental studies will begin this year 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 environment.

### **SLIDE 9 – Environmental Constraints Map**

The environmental constraints map shown on this slide is focused on the US 281 Hamilton Truck / Relief Route Project location. Part of the alternative alignment exploration involves identifying environmental features that could potentially be impacted by an alignment. Therefore, an environmental constraints map has been prepared to aid the designers in avoiding environmental features and / or minimize impacts. These features include businesses and residences, cemeteries, floodplains and streams,

hazardous materials facilities, historic structures, houses of worship, public facilities, and species-specific vegetation.

#### **SLIDE 10 – Project Cost and Schedule**

The US 281 Truck/ Relief Route Project’s anticipated Let Date is 2028. “Letting” is when TxDOT notifies the construction community that a project is ready to be bid on. Construction on a project begins after the letting process is complete. The total estimated project cost for the project is to be determined. The project is currently unfunded for construction and cannot let until funding is identified; however, right of way acquisition can proceed even if the project is not funded for construction.

#### **SLIDE 11 – Timeline and Next Steps**

The project timeline is shown on the screen. Please note the listed dates are subject to change.

#### **SLIDE 24 – Comments**

All public comments received during this meeting will be fully considered and responded to in the US 281 public meeting record and made part of the final documentation for this US 281 Truck/ Relief Route Project. This documentation will then be made available for public review on the public meeting website.

Your comments may be provided online, or by mail, or email as shown on this screen. Comments must be received or postmarked on or before **Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2024**, to be included in the documentation for this virtual public meeting.

#### **SLIDE 24 – Thank You for your Interest**

We sincerely appreciate your interest in the US 281 Hamilton Truck / Relief Route Project.  
Your questions, comments and concerns will receive careful consideration.