

WICHITA FALLS DISTRICT

I-35 Improvement Project | Cooke County

Updated February 13, 2020

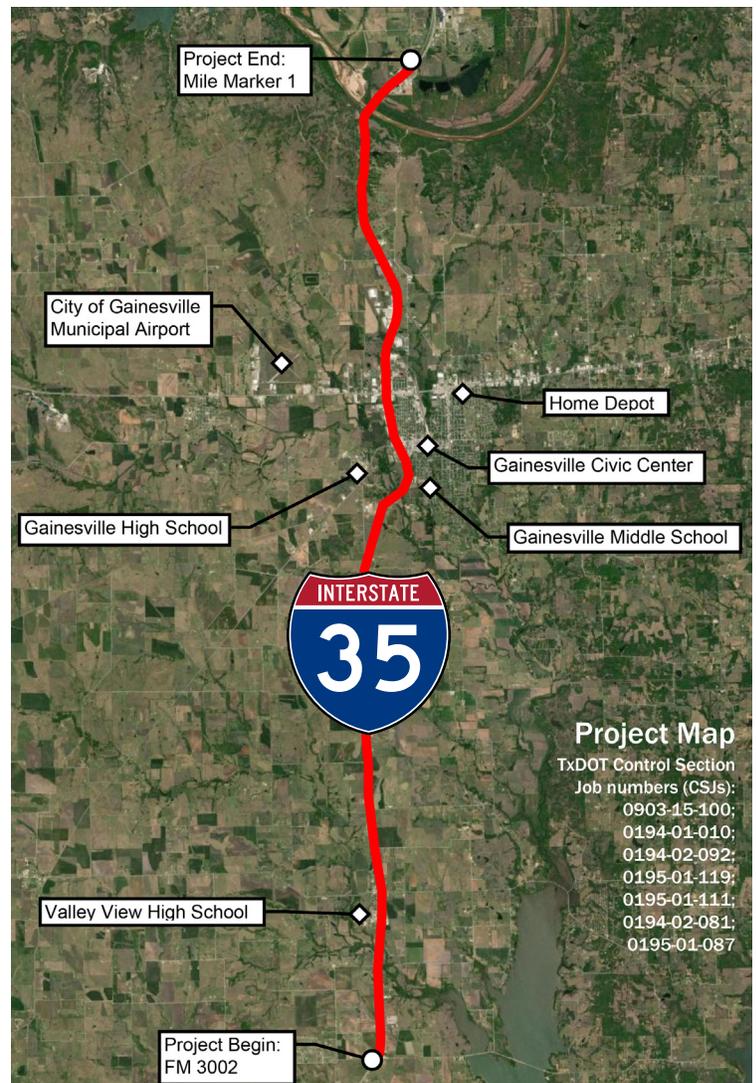
Project Overview

TxDOT and ODOT are planning improvements for the widening of I-35 from FM 3002 in Cooke County, Texas to mile marker 1/Merle Wolfe Road in Love County, Oklahoma. Planned improvements include updating the roadway to current design standards and providing congestion relief for expected future traffic increases.

As part of the planning process, TxDOT is conducting an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed widening and realignment of I-35 from FM 3002 in Cooke County, Texas, to mile marker 1/Merle Wolfe Road in Love County, Oklahoma. An EA is a report that documents the existing social, economic and environmental conditions, assesses effects of the proposed alternative and identifies potential mitigation. The EA will also evaluate the effects of a no-build alternative.

The 22-mile project extending from FM 3002 to mile marker 1 in Oklahoma proposes:

- One additional lane in each direction (interim configuration)
- Two additional lanes in each direction (ultimate configuration)
- Realignment of portions of the roadway
- Two new bridges over the Red River
- Removal of the northbound Red River bridge
- Conversion of the southbound Red River bridge to a frontage road
- Conversion of two-way frontage roads to one way
- New right of way



Get Involved

The most recent public meetings for this project occurred on Feb. 5, 2015, in Gainesville, Texas and Sept. 30, 2015, in Thackerville, Oklahoma. Attendees were invited to review the purpose and need for the project, review evaluation and screening of alternatives, review a preliminary schematic of the Preferred Build Alternative and to provide input.

As a result of input received at the public meetings, TxDOT revised the schematic to accommodate requests and lessen impacts. TxDOT is working with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. to conduct the EA. A meeting to present to the public and collect comments on the proposed changes in the realignment of the BNSF rail line within the Valley View section of the I-35 improvements was held on Sept. 28, 2017. Comments were also collected on the proposed changes in access at 3rd Street in Valley View, Texas.

Since the latest public meeting, changes to the BNSF rail relocation have occurred. The BNSF rail realignment alternative was removed in its entirety and is no longer being carried forward for further analysis.

Once the FHWA approves the Draft EA for public review, a public hearing will occur to solicit comments from the public. A Final EA addressing all comments will be prepared with an expected Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Due to ongoing coordination efforts, the EA is expected to be complete in summer 2020.

The segment from south of Spring Creek Road to south of US 82 is proposed to begin construction in 2021 provided the EA, right of way acquisition, and utility relocations in this area are complete.

Next Steps

- Coordinate with USACE
- Finalize the environmental assessment
- Project decision from TxDOT/FHWA for the final approved environmental assessment
- Hold public hearing
- Complete final design
- Continue right of way acquisition

TxDOT has earmarked funding in 2021 for the portion of I-35 south of US 82/Gainesville, from 0.2 miles south of US 82 to 1.4 miles South of Spring Creek Road. Dates and timing of construction are subject to change if environmental clearance, ROW acquisition, or utility relocation are not completed on time.

Project Contacts

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