



## US 82 Gap Project - VPM Script

### Welcome

- Welcome video provided by Mike Beaver, the Director of Transportation Planning and Development with the Texas Department of Transportation's Wichita Falls District.

### Station 1

- Thank you, Mr. Beaver. Welcome, again, to the US 82 Gap Project Public Meeting. This proposed project includes improvements to US 82, from the Wichita/Archer County Line to FM 369. The project is approximately 3.98 miles long with an estimated construction cost of \$15.4 million. The proposed project would widen the existing 4-lane roadway by adding wider shoulders for bicycles, adding a 16-foot wide continuous two-way left-turn lane, and providing drainage and intersection improvements for enhanced safety and mobility. These improvements are needed to accommodate population growth in the area as well as an increase in local and regional traffic. In addition, the proposed project is intended to fill in transportation improvement gaps in the greater regional area.
- Hello, my name is Adele Lewis and I am the Public Information Officer with the Wichita Falls TxDOT District Office. Before we get to the details, I will provide instructions to help you find your way through the virtual public meeting room. This is Station 1, the Sign-in Station. First and foremost, if you are uncomfortable with this format or if you have any trouble using this room, please hit the help button below. There is a phone number you can call to get assistance with accessing the room and materials. So, as you enter the room you will see a table straight in front of you, and to the left of it is a welcome board. Under the welcome board are two buttons. If you click the button on the left that looks like an eye, it will zoom in to that item so that you can see it better. This will work for any board, handout, or exhibit in the room. Once you are finished reviewing it, just click the "X" in the upper right-hand corner of the window to close it. The next button to the right is a down arrow. If you click this button you can download this item to your personal computer or device. Again, this applies to any exhibit or form in our room. Once you download the item, you can print or save it.
- Now let's look at the table. As mentioned before, this is Station 1 – the Sign-in Station. The far-left piece of paper on the table is a virtual sign-in sheet. Please click on the pen button to open the sign in sheet. We encourage all participants to please sign in. The second paper from the left is a US 82 Gap Project Fact Sheet. Again, if you click on the eye button you can look at the item in detail. If you want to download it, click on the down arrow button.
- Moving to the very top right corner of your screen you should see a location map of the room. If you don't see a rectangular map, click on the top right map button. The light-yellow shading indicates which station you are in. You can click on the station number at any of the stations to jump to that station. This will follow you as you move around the room. On the very top left corner of the screen is a "Welcome" button with an arrow pointing down. Click this button to provide the different station numbers and what they include. Next, look at the very bottom of

the screen. There are several buttons that will help you navigate the room and get more information. The far-left button is an “i” – this will give similar instructions on how to navigate the room. If you click on the second button, which is a location symbol, it will take you to a map of the general project area. The next button is a “+” that enables you to zoom in on the station and the final button is a “-” that enables you to zoom out. As mentioned earlier, we have included a HELP button you can click any time. We have also included a COMMENT Button in the bottom right of each station. Click on this button to leave a comment. Finally, right above this row of buttons is a “play” and/or “pause” button that will enable you to play or pause each station’s talking points. You can pause and play as many times as you like, and you can revisit any station as many times as you like. To go to the next station or revisit the last station, click on the arrow buttons to the right and left edges of the screen.

- Now let’s get started! There are six additional stations in the room. This is Station 1. If you think of the room like a clock, the stations are oriented clockwise, and Station 1 is at 6 o’clock. Of special interest is our last station, Station 7. Once you have heard all of the talking points and looked at the boards and plots at each station, we would like you to comment on what you have seen. Also, in station 7 are important documents for property owners from which we are proposing new ROW. If the plots in Station 4 show we are proposing new ROW from your property, please download these materials and contact us if you have questions.
- To go to the next station, look for the flashing blue arrow and click the arrow on the left side of the screen, click the arrow on the right side of the screen, or go up to the map in the upper right-hand corner of the screen and click the next station number.
- Please click on Station 2, which includes a project location map for the US 82 Gap Project.

## **Station 2**

### **(Introduction)**

Welcome to Station 2. This station includes two boards, the board on the left is a project location map and the board on the right gives you a summary of the feedback provided to TxDOT during previous project development. Click on the boards to hear talking points on each, and remember you can leave a comment if you click the comment button on the bottom right of the screen.

### **(Board 1)**

- The project is located in south central Wichita County, from north of the Wichita/Archer County Line to west of FM 369.
- The project is approximately 3.98 miles in length.

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### **(Board 2)**

You may recall that a public meeting was held by TxDOT at the Wichita West Fire Station on February 9, 2017 to discuss six options being evaluated for improving the safety and mobility along US 82. During the meeting, we presented two options for improving the existing alignment of US 82 and four options for a proposed reroute on new location. This board shows the feedback that was provided during the public involvement efforts.

- 98% of the written responses preferred option 1A/1B

- Option 1A/1B proposed to widen the existing 4-lane undivided pavement to insert a two-way continuous left-turn lane and to provide wider shoulders.

Please click the x in the upper right hand corner of this board and advance to Station 3.

### **Station 3**

#### **(Introduction)**

Welcome to Station 3. This station includes three boards. The first board on the far left provides the existing and proposed typical sections and the second and third boards highlight areas where the proposed ROW is wider than other areas within the proposed project.

#### **(Board 1)**

This board presents the existing and proposed typical sections for the US 82 Gap Project.

The existing typical section is shown at the top of the board and consists of:

- A 4-lane UNDIVIDED roadway with two narrow shoulders. The four through-lanes are 12-feet wide, with two travel lanes in each direction. Each shoulder is 4-feet wide which combines to make the pavement 56-feet wide. This pavement is located within a 100-foot-wide right-of-way.
- The existing road does not provide safe harbor for vehicles waiting to make a left turn.
- The narrow shoulders do not provide enough width for vehicles to use when decelerating for a right turn, nor do they provide bicyclists with a space wide enough to ride safely.

A proposed typical section is shown at the bottom of the board:

- The existing pavement would be widened to provide a 4-lane DIVIDED roadway with wider shoulders. The four through-lanes would remain 12-feet wide, with two travel lanes in each direction. A 16-foot wide continuous two-way left-turn lane would be placed in the center, and the shoulders would be widened to 10-feet wide. This would create a pavement section which is 84-feet wide.
- The proposed right-of-way would be 150-feet wide, and it is anticipated that in most locations, 25-feet of new right-of-way would be needed along each side of the roadway.

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#### **(Board 2)**

This board highlights an area of the project where the proposed ROW expands beyond widening US 82 equally on both sides. In the curve near the intersections of Old State Road and SH 258, we are proposing to increase the curve radius by shifting the centerline of the existing roadway 32-feet to the south of the existing centerline. This would require full width reconstruction of US 82 over approximately 2,500-feet through the curve. This would require new right-of-way from the south side of US 82.

- This realignment of US 82 through the curve would avoid adverse ROW impacts to the Kamay Y Station, where no additional right-of-way would be required. Access to the Kamay Y Station from US 82 will remain unchanged through the construction of two driveways.

- The intersection of Old State Road at US 82 would be realigned to form a 90-degree intersection by constructing a 2-lane connector road between US 82 and Old State Road. The new connector road would be located approximately 700 feet west of the existing intersection and would eliminate the harsh skewed angle at US 82, which would enhance the sight distance and safety of the US 82 intersection. The new T-intersection formed with the proposed connector road and Old State Road would be regulated with a three-way stop. Eastbound traffic on Old State Road would stop at the proposed connector road and then make a right-turn to approach US 82 at a 90-degree angle. A short section of the existing Old State Road would be abandoned and demolished. The abandoned section is depicted with red cross-hatching. The proposed connection would require a new right-of-way width of approximately 80-feet
- A right turn lane would be added to westbound US 82 at the intersection of SH 258 to allow westbound traffic to merge out of the westbound through-lane while slowing for the right-turn at SH 258.
- The proposed US 82 improvements would cause the displacement of the Bully's Grill building.

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### **(Board 3)**

This board shows the east end of the proposed project and is the second area where the construction is proposed to expand beyond widening US 82 equally on both sides. The proposed project would extend the 5-lane urban arterial section approximately 850-feet east of where the 4-lane section currently transitions to a 4-lane divided freeway. This shifts the freeway transition farther east and would accomplish the following improvements:

- A new right-turn access connector would be constructed to provide a 90-degree right-turn from the eastbound US 82 through-lanes to access the eastbound frontage road.
- The eastbound US 82 exit ramp to BS 277/FM 369/FM 2650 via the eastbound frontage road would be relocated approximately 1,700 feet east of the current location.
- The relocated exit ramp would benefit single family residences located along the south side of the eastbound frontage road by shifting all the through-traffic to the new exit ramp at the far east end of the eastbound frontage road near FM 369.
- Shifting the 5-lane section further to the east would also benefit crossover traffic from the westbound frontage road. Whereas today, crossover traffic must cross four lanes of traffic in the middle of a transition between an arterial street and a freeway, the proposed design would extend the arterial section approximately 850-feet east of the intersection of US 82 at the westbound frontage road.
- In addition to the changes discussed so far, the proposed roadway construction would reconstruct all driveways within the project limits, and if driveway culverts are needed, new driveway culverts would be constructed wherever required and would contain the proper safety end treatments.

### **Station 4**

#### **(Introduction)**

Welcome to Station 4. On the tables in front of you will see three corridor schematics that cover the project.

- At each table you can click on the eye button to zoom in. Use your mouse to “click and pull” the map up, down, left, or right.
- You will see the “Legend” at the far bottom left of the schematic. The legend will help identify what the different colors mean on the map, including improvements, utilities, and other identified features.
- The existing and proposed typical roadway sections for all proposed improvements are shown on the left side of Roll 1.
- Property address tables are provided on each roll plot to help you locate your residence or business if you are directly adjacent to US 82. The numbers associated with the addresses shown in the tables are also referenced on the schematic at each property.

### **Roll Plot 1**

- The left side of Roll 1 starts near the Wichita/Archer County Line and runs northeast and east toward Wichita Falls. Roll 1 ends just south of Old State Road.

### **Roll Plot 2**

- Roll 2 begins just south of Old State Road and ends just east of Call Field Canal (or 0.5 mile west of Clyde Morgan Road).

### **Roll Plot 3**

- Roll 3 begins just east of Call Field Canal (or 0.5 mile west of Clyde Morgan Road) and ends at FM 369.

## **Station 5**

### **(Introduction)**

Welcome to Station 5. This station includes an environmental constraints map and a board describing the environmental studies we will conduct for the project.

### **Environmental Constraints Map**

- This is an environmental constraints map we used to assess potential impacts within the study area.
- Please click on the eye button to zoom in. Use your mouse to “click and pull” the map up, down, left, or right.
- The map shows environmental constraints such as land use/land cover, water resources, human resources, parcel boundaries, and others.
- You will see the “Legend” at the bottom of the map. The legend will help identify what the different colors mean on the map. **Please note that the boundary shown is not the proposed ROW but indicates a 500-foot buffer around the existing ROW.** We created this map early in the alternatives analysis process to identify potential constraints *outside* of the existing ROW.

### **Board**

This board describes the Environmental Studies that will be conducted for the proposed alternative.

- The Environmental Process will include the preparation of technical reports that support a Categorical Exclusion or Environmental Assessment
- Where possible, we will avoid and minimize impacts to natural resources, such as native vegetation, threatened and endangered species habitat, and water resources.
- We will assess and minimize, if possible, potential impacts to cultural resources and community impacts including impacts to residential and commercial properties and Environmental Justice and Limited English Proficiency populations.
- We will conduct a Noise Analysis and will attempt to minimize dust and noise impacts during construction.
- Once the environmental documentation is complete, we will provide an opportunity for a Public Hearing. Residents will be notified of this opportunity in the same way we notified you of this public meeting.

## **Station 6**

### **(Introduction)**

Welcome to Station 6 Construction Sequence and Timeline. This station has two boards. The first board on the left shows the proposed construction sequence. The board on the right provides a timeline of the project and tentative schedule including next steps.

## **Station 7**

### **(Introduction)**

You are now entering Station 7, our last station.

- You'll see a board and a table. The board provides email and mailing information for comments and contact information including email address, and phone contact for Kyle Poirot, P.E., Transportation Engineer with TxDOT's Wichita Falls District. Please call or email him with questions or concerns you may have.
- On the table in front of you are several pieces of paper. The document on the left is a comment card. Click on the pen button to leave an electronic comment or click on the down arrow to download the comment card. You can send this card in via mail to the address shown on the board or scan and send via email. Also, if you clicked on any of the "Comment" Buttons in each station and entered a comment, your comments have already been submitted to us via email.
- Comments must be postmarked or sent by Wednesday, October 7, 2020 to be included in the public record.
- The second set of items on the table are handouts regarding your rights as a landowner, if the project is proposing ROW from your property. These include a Landowner's Bill of Rights, a State Purchase of ROW booklet, and a Relocation Assistance booklet. We encourage you to download these documents and contact Kyle Poirot or the contacts provided in the handouts if you have any additional questions.
- The third item on the table is a packet of all meeting materials. Click the down arrow button to download the files to save on your computer.

- The Virtual Public Meeting web link including all meeting exhibits will be available to view any time between September 22 and October 7, 2020. Please feel free to forward this meeting to anyone you think might be interested.
- All comments will be compiled, reviewed, and responses will be provided on our web site.

Thank you for joining us for our virtual public meeting! We hope you had a positive experience. Stay safe and take care. This concludes our virtual public meeting.