

PUBLIC HEARING SCRIPT (PRERECORDED)

**FM 1378
FROM FM 3286 TO WEST LUCAS ROAD
COLLIN COUNTY
CSJ: 1392-01-048**

**Thursday, August 29, 2024, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Lucas Christian Academy**

505 W Lucas Road., Lucas, Texas 75002

www.keepitmovingdallas.com/projects/fm-roads/FM1378

SLIDE 1 – Welcome

Hello and welcome to the Public Hearing for FM 1378 from FM 3286 to West Lucas Road. This hearing 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.

SLIDE 2 – End the Streak

November 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on Texas roadways and over 80,000 people have lost their lives since then. 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 3 – Welcome from Travis Campbell, P.E.

I'm Travis Campbell, Director of Transportation Planning and Development for the TxDOT Dallas district. Thank you for joining us as we conduct this virtual public event. Understanding how our projects impact communities is important to TxDOT. The following presentation will provide instruction on how you can connect with us and provide vital input about this project. We will continue to work closely with stakeholders, communities and the public as we move forward. Thank you for your time and interest in improving our transportation system and we look forward to receiving your comments.

SLIDE 4 – Public Hearing Purpose

You may have attended previous public hearings conducted by TxDOT. For the benefit of those who have never participated before, we will explain why the Department conducts a public hearing.

A public hearing has four essential purposes:

1. Inform the public of the status of planning on the project and present the recommendations based on studies performed to date.

2. Describe the project so those attending can determine the project's potential to affect their lives and property.
3. Provide the public an opportunity to see information and provide feedback.
4. And finally, to develop a record of public views and participation to accompany recommendations for subsequent decisions.

This public hearing is being held in compliance with both federal and state laws.

Following this hearing, the Department will proceed with the preparation of the final environmental documentation. Your statements and comments will be addressed in this document and will be given full consideration in the preparation of the final recommendation and design for the FM 1378 project.

SLIDE 5– Viewing the Project Information

The design schematic and environmental documentation for the FM 1378 project are available for inspection and reproduction at the Texas Department of Transportation Dallas District Office, located at 4777 East US Highway 80 in Mesquite, TX 75150.

In addition, the design schematic may be viewed at www.keepitmovingdallas.com under “Public Hearings/Meetings.” The information on this website is the same information being shown in this presentation.

SLIDE 6 – Project Location

FM 1378 is an approximately 0.9-mile connection between FM 3286 and West Lucas Road in Collin County. The proposed project is located within the City of Lucas.

SLIDE 7 – Project Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve safety and mobility to accommodate for future traffic volumes. The proposed project is needed to improve safety and meet future travel demands from projected population growth and traffic volumes.

SLIDE 8 – Existing Facility

The existing typical section is a two-lane, undivided roadway with minimal shoulders. Existing right of way varies but is typically 90-feet wide. There are no existing sidewalks or shared-use paths.

SLIDE 9 – Project Details & Proposed Typical Section

TxDOT is proposing to widen FM 1378 from FM 3286 to West Lucas Road in Collin County, Texas. The proposed project consists of widening the existing two-lane undivided roadway to a four-lane divided roadway for a project length of approximately 0.9 mile. It includes two travel lanes in each direction divided by a curbed median to separate the eastbound and westbound lanes. Intersection improvements with turn lanes are proposed at cross streets within the project limits. The proposed

typical right-of-way width would vary from 130-feet to 140-feet, with additional right of way for turn lanes and drainage improvements.

SLIDE 10 – Projected Construction Cost & Schedule

The FM 1378 project is anticipated to be Ready to Let by 2029. “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 estimated construction cost for the project is approximately \$19.9 million. The project is unfunded. A project cannot let until funding is identified; however, right-of-way acquisition can proceed even if a project does not have construction funding.

SLIDE 11– Review and Approval of Environmental Document

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 were conducted for the proposed FM 1378 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.

Technical environmental documentation was approved for further processing by TxDOT and was coordinated with other public agencies. Notices for this public hearing were advertised in Al Día Dallas and the Dallas Morning News, on the City of Lucas website, on the TxDOT.gov website under “Hearings and Meetings Schedule” and on Keepitmovingdallas.com under “Public Hearings and Meetings.” The TxDOT Public Information Office also prepared a news media release to advertise the public hearing. The TxDOT technical reports are available for your review at the TxDOT Dallas District office.

SLIDE 12– Environmental Review / Impacts Addressed

The technical documentation for this project addresses the potential environmental impacts identified during the preliminary engineering of the proposed project. These areas of potential impacts included natural, social, and cultural resources. This slide shows a list of resources that were evaluated during the environmental analyses. The following slides include a summary of those findings.

SLIDE 13 – Environmental Overview

A Traffic Noise Analysis was accomplished in accordance with TxDOT’s (and FHWA approved) Guidelines for Analysis and Abatement of Roadway Traffic Noise. Based on the analysis, noise barriers were determined to be not reasonable and feasible; therefore none are proposed for incorporation into the proposed project.

In accordance with TxDOT's Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act Programmatic Agreement and other federal and state preservation laws, thirteen historic-age properties were studied and recommended as not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

No action is anticipated within a floodplain and no construction within a wetland. Action within one intermittent stream would be authorized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under a Section 404 Nationwide Permit 14. A Preconstruction Notification to the Army Corps of Engineers would not be required.

In conclusion, the studies, analyses, and evaluations performed indicate the proposed project would cause no significant environmental impacts.

SLIDE 14 – Environmental Review / Right-of-Way

A total of approximately 6.7 acres of new right of way would be required to complete the proposed improvements. Three residential and two non-residential displacements are anticipated.

No public facilities such as recreational facilities, churches, schools, or cemeteries, would be displaced as a result of the construction of the proposed project.

All right-of-way acquisition would be completed in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended. Brochures, including two booklets titled "The Purchase of Right of Way," and "Relocation Assistance," are also available on the project website. These booklets contain detailed information to inform you of your rights and provide information about the TxDOT right-of-way acquisition process.

SLIDE 15 – Next Steps and Timeline

The public comment period for the proposed project ends Friday, Sept. 13, 2024. Following this hearing, documentation of this public hearing will be reviewed by TxDOT for final environmental clearance and design approval. If there are no major issues arising from this hearing that cannot be addressed in a reasonable time frame, final environmental clearance is expected by Winter 2024.

As mentioned earlier, the project has an anticipated Ready to Let Date of 2029.

This concludes the environmental evaluation portion of the presentation.

SLIDE 16 – Public Comments

Comments will be accepted in a number of ways as shown on the screen. If you would like to leave a verbal comment, please call the number listed. Comments must be received or postmarked by Friday, Sept. 13, 2024, to be part of the official public hearing record.

All substantive comments and questions will be fully considered and responded to in the project record and made part of the final environmental document for this proposed project. This document will then be made available for public review online at the project website.

SLIDE 17 – “Thank You for your Interest” / Hearing is now Adjourned

We sincerely appreciate your participation and interest concerning the proposed design of the FM 1378 project. Your questions, comments and concerns will receive careful consideration.

Thank you very much.