

# **PUBLIC HEARING SCRIPT (PRE-RECORDED)**

**FM 1387**

**FROM NORTH MIDLOTHIAN PARKWAY TO FM 664**

**ELLIS COUNTY**

**CSJS: 1394-02-027 AND 1394-01-002**

**THURS., AUG. 22, 2024, 5 to 7 P.M.**

**LONGBRANCH COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH,**

**200 LONGBRANCH ROAD, MIDLOTHIAN, TX 76065**

**[WWW.KEEPITMOVINGDALLAS.COM/PROJECTS/FM-ROADS/FM1387](http://WWW.KEEPITMOVINGDALLAS.COM/PROJECTS/FM-ROADS/FM1387)**

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## **SLIDE 1 – Title Slide**

Hello and welcome to the Public Hearing for the FM 1387 project. 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—Travis Campbell, P.E. Welcome Video**

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 and Changes to Public Hearing Protocol**

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 1387 Project.

### **SLIDE 5 – Viewing the Project Information**

The design schematic and environmental documentation for the FM 1387 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, 75150. In addition, the design schematic may be viewed at [www.keepitmovingdallas.com](http://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**

The FM 1387 project limits are from North Midlothian Parkway to FM 664 (also known as Ovilla Road). The total project length is approximately 5.8 miles and is located in Ellis County, Texas. The project is located within the cities of Midlothian and Waxahachie.

### **SLIDE 7 – Project Purpose and Need**

The proposed project is needed because the current capacity of FM 1387 within the project limits is inadequate to meet current and future traffic volumes, resulting in congestion, and reduced east-to-west mobility.

The purpose of the proposed project is to reduce congestion and improve mobility on FM 1387 from North Midlothian Parkway to FM 664.

### **SLIDE 8 – Existing Facility**

The existing FM 1387 facility mostly consists of two undivided 12-foot-wide lanes and 2-foot-wide shoulders. There are no pedestrian or bike accommodations. Within the project limit, FM 1387 is intersected by major roads including North Midlothian Parkway, Walnut

Grove Road, Longbranch Road, FM 664, and other minor collectors and local roads. Existing right of way width within the corridor varies between 80 and 100 feet.

### **SLIDE 9 – Proposed Facility**

The proposed project would include the expansion of the current 2-lane rural roadway to an interim 4-lane urban roadway with a raised median to provide additional capacity, improve safety and accommodate for a future lane in each direction for an ultimate 6-lane roadway.

The interim improvements would consist of two lanes in each direction and the ultimate configuration would consist of three lanes in each direction. Proposed improvements include 12-foot-wide travel lanes, a 10-foot shared use path in the westbound direction, a 5-foot sidewalk in the eastbound direction, and intersection improvements, with turn lanes where applicable, at side and cross streets.

The typical proposed right of way would be approximately 140 feet wide, with the minimum and maximum ROW width ranging from 115 feet to 350 feet, respectively.

### **SLIDE 10 – Projected Construction Cost & Schedule**

The FM 1387 project is anticipated to be Ready to Let by 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 estimated construction cost for the project is approximately **\$125 million**. The project is currently 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 1387 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 *The Dallas Morning News*, *Waxahachie Daily Light*, and *Al Dia*, on the [TxDOT.gov](http://TxDOT.gov) website under “Hearings and Meetings Schedule” and on [Keepitmovingdallas.com](http://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 on the project website and 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 Review continued**

#### **Traffic Noise**

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 reasonable and feasible and will be installed at four locations. The final look and location of noise barriers will be further refined and voted on during future noise workshops.

#### **Cultural Resources**

There were 34 historic-age properties identified within the project area. All of these properties were recommended not eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

#### **Waters of the U.S./Wetlands**

Five intermittent tributaries, one pond, and one perennial stream were identified as potential impacts to waters of the U.S. within the project area. Impacts 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 be required for impacts to the pond and one intermittent stream.

#### **Conclusion**

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 61 acres of new right-of-way would be required to complete the proposed improvements. 10 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 TxDOT right-of-way acquisition process.

#### **SLIDE 15 – Next Steps and Timeline**

The public comment period for the proposed project ends at 11:59 p.m., Friday, Sept. 6, 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 Fall 2024.

As mentioned earlier, the project has an anticipated Ready to Let Date in 2028.

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, September 6, 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 1387 project. Your questions, comments and concerns will receive careful consideration.