

VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING SCRIPT

FM 1777 IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

FROM SH 66 TO FM 6

COLLIN COUNTY

CSJ: 1014-04-016

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024 FROM 5:30 PM TO 7:30 PM

IN-PERSON LOCATION

OUIDA BALEY MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA

1310 SH 66, ROYSE CITY, TEXAS 75189

www.keepitmovingdallas.com/projects/fm-roads/FM1777

SLIDE 1 – Title Slide

Hello and welcome to the Public Hearing for the FM 1777 Improvements 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 Public Hearing Protocol

You may have attended previous public hearings conducted by TxDOT. In addition to a live speech at the in-person public hearing, we are showing this pre-recorded presentation, which contains the same information. Verbal comments will still be accepted on our voicemail line.

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 express their views.
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 1777 Improvements Project.

SLIDE 5 – Viewing the Project Information

The design schematic and environmental documentation for the FM 1777 Improvements 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 under “Public Hearings / Meetings.” The information on this website is the same information being shown in this presentation.

SLIDE 6 – Project Background and Description

The proposed project includes the reconstruction and widening of FM 1777 from SH 66 to FM 6 for approximately 6.0 miles. The proposed project would reconstruct the existing two-lane rural roadway to a four (ultimate six) lane divided highway with curb and gutter and a raised median. Bicycle and pedestrian accommodations would include a continuous six-foot-wide sidewalk on the west side of the roadway and a continuous 10-foot-wide shared use path on the east side of the roadway. The roadway passes through the cities of Royse City and Josephine. The existing FM 1777 right-of-way (ROW) width ranges from 60-feet to 105-feet wide throughout the length of the project, and the proposed ROW width varies from 140-feet to 226-feet wide.

SLIDE 7 – Project Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to reduce congestion and improve mobility and safety.

The proposed improvements are needed because the existing two-lane FM 1777 roadway between the intersections of SH 66 and FM 6 in Collin County is inadequate to meet future traffic volumes, resulting in congestion and reduced mobility.

SLIDE 8 – Existing Typical Section

The existing FM 1777 facility within the project limits is currently two 12-foot-wide lanes with 10-foot-wide shoulders. There are no pedestrian or bike accommodations. The existing right-of-way varies between 60 to 105-foot-wide throughout the length of the project.

SLIDE 9 – Proposed Typical Section

The proposed project includes the reconstruction and widening of FM 1777 from SH 66 to FM 6 for approximately 6.0 miles. The proposed project would reconstruct the existing two-lane rural roadway to a four (ultimate six) lane divided highway with curb and gutter and a raised median. Bicycle and pedestrian accommodations would include a continuous six-foot-wide sidewalk on the west side of the roadway and a continuous 10-foot-wide shared use path on the east side of the roadway. The proposed project would require approximately 49 acres of additional right-of-way to expand the roadway.

SLIDE 10 – Projected Cost and Schedule

The FM 1777 Improvements Project is anticipated to be “Ready to Let” by Summer 2030. “Ready to Let” is when TxDOT notifies the construction community that a project is ready to be bid on after all right-of-way is acquired and utilities are relocated. Construction on a project begins after the letting process is complete. The total estimated construction cost for the project is approximately \$129 million. 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 – 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 1777 Improvements 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 Rockwall Herald Banner, Royse City Herald Banner, Greenville Herald Banner, Al Día, 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 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 all resources that were evaluated during the environmental analyses. The following slides include a summary of those findings.

SLIDE 13 – Environmental Review / Right-of-Way

A total of approximately 49 acres of new right-of-way would be required to complete the proposed improvements. Sixteen residential and one 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 TxDOT right-of-way acquisition process.

SLIDE 14 – Environmental Review

Traffic Noise

A Traffic Noise Analysis was performed in accordance with TxDOT’s (and Federal Highway Administration approved) Guidelines for Analysis and Abatement of Roadway Traffic Noise. Based on the analysis, noise abatement measures would not be both feasible and reasonable; therefore, no abatement measures are proposed for this project.

Floodplains

Portions of the project corridor are situated within FEMA designated 100-year flood hazard areas. These flood hazard areas are associated with Bois d’Arc Creek, Sabine Creek, and one unnamed tributary to Sabine Creek. The hydraulic design for this project would be in accordance with current TxDOT policies.

Cultural Resources

The proposed project was evaluated under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (23 U.S.C. 138) for the Clinard Farm property and the Shotgun House, located within the project limits along FM 1777 in Royse City, Texas. TxDOT determined that the proposed project meets the requirements for a Section 4(f) de minimis

impact finding under 23 CFR 774. The proposed use of the Section 4(f) property would not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes that qualify the property for protection under Section 4(f).

Waters of the U.S./Wetlands

Potential impacts to waters of the U.S., including five potentially jurisdictional streams, four impoundments, two drainage ditches, and 0.16-acre of wetlands. Impacts would be authorized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under a Section 404 Nationwide Permit 14 with Pre-Construction Notification (PCN).

Conclusion

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

SLIDE 15 – Section 4(f)

Two properties were found eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and are protected under Section 106 of the NHPA:

- Clinard Farm Property
- Shotgun House

The proposed project is anticipated to impact one historic property protected under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966: The Clinard Farm Property, located within the project limits along FM 1777 in Royse City, Texas.

The proposed use of the Section 4(f) property would not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes that qualify the property for protection under Section 4(f).

SLIDE 16 – Project Timeline

The public comment period for the proposed project ends Wednesday, December 4, 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 early 2025. As mentioned earlier, the project has an anticipated Ready to Let Date of 2030.

This concludes the environmental evaluation portion of the presentation.

SLIDE 17 – 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 December 4, 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 and copying at the TxDOT Dallas District Office located at 4777 East Highway 80 in Mesquite, Texas 75150, and online at the project website.

SLIDE 18 – “Thank You for your Interest” / Hearing is now Adjourned

We sincerely appreciate your participation and interest concerning the proposed design of the FM 1777 Improvements Project. Your questions, comments and concerns will receive careful consideration.

Thank you for participating!