



FM 407 Widening Project
From Bill Cook Road to FM 1830
CSJs: 1310-01-048/049 & 1568-02-016

Public Meeting Script

SLIDE 1 – Welcome Slide

Hello and welcome to the FM 407 Widening Project’s Public Meeting from Bill Cook Road to FM 1830 presented by the Texas Department of Transportation, or TxDOT. We appreciate your interest in this project and welcome each of you.

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 4,480 people lost their lives in 2021. 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 Meeting Purpose

This public meeting has been convened by TxDOT and is being held to receive and consider comments from the public regarding the FM 407 Widening Project.

You may have attended previous public meetings conducted by TxDOT. However, for the benefit of those who have never attended one, I will explain why and how the Department conducts a public meeting.



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A public meeting has four essential purposes:

1. To inform the public of the status of planning efforts on the project and to present the recommendations based on studies performed to date.
2. To describe the project to the public including known potential impacts to the human and natural environment.
3. To provide the public an opportunity to view information and express their ideas and concerns at this stage in the planning process while the ability to respond to comments is still flexible and before location and design decisions are finalized.
4. And finally, to develop a record of public views and participation to accompany recommendations for subsequent decisions.

This public meeting is being held in compliance with both federal and state laws. Documentation of this meeting will be made available for the official record.

SLIDE 5 – Viewing Design Schematic and Project Information

The design schematic and other project information for FM 407 may be viewed at www.keepitmovingdallas.com/FM407DentonCounty. The information on this website is the same information being shown in this presentation.

SLIDE 6 – Project Location

The FM 407 project limits are from Bill Cook Road to FM 1830. The total project length is approximately 11.5 miles and is located in Denton County, Texas. The project limits are shown on the map.

SLIDE 7 – Project Purpose and Need

The purpose of the FM 407 project is to improve safety, mobility, access, and traffic operations.



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The proposed project is needed to address population and economic growth, regional transportation demand, and system linkages in the project area.

SLIDE 8 – Existing FM 407

The existing FM 407 typical roadway section within the project limits mainly consists of two 11- to 12-foot-wide rural lanes and 2- to 3-foot-wide shoulders with no center median, and open drainage ditches.

The existing FM 407 right-of-way (ROW) width varies along the corridor from 80 to 90 feet wide. There are also at-grade railroad track crossings at FM 156 and US 377.

SLIDE 9 – Proposed FM 407

The proposed roadway would consist of an urban 6-lane roadway with 12-foot-wide lanes, an 18-foot-wide median which would accommodate 12-foot-wide left turn lanes, and curb & gutter (in-ground) drainage. A shared-use path and a sidewalk would be included to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians. A grade separation would be created at the railroad track crossing located at FM 407 and FM 156.

The proposed ROW varies along the corridor and is generally 140-foot-wide.

SLIDE 10 – Proposed Realignment

This figure illustrates the existing alignment in blue and proposed realignment in red that is recommended for this project. The proposed realignment will be refined per public input received at this public meeting and future public involvement.

SLIDE 11 – Projected Cost and Schedule

The FM 407 Widening Project’s anticipated Let Date is 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 total estimated construction cost for the project is approximately \$235 million. The project is currently unfunded for construction and



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cannot let until funding is identified; however, right of way acquisition can proceed even if the project is not funded for construction.

This concludes the project information and design portion of the presentation. The next few slides will provide an overview of the environmental evaluation for the proposed FM 407 Widening Project.

SLIDE 12 – National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Assignment to the Texas Department of Transportation

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 TxDOT assumed responsibility from FHWA through a Memorandum of Understanding to review and approve certain assigned NEPA environmental documents. This Memorandum of Understanding between TxDOT and FHWA was updated on December 9, 2019. The review and approval process applies to this project.

Environmental studies will begin this year to support an environmental clearance in accordance with NEPA. These environmental analysis are necessary to identify, avoid, and minimize effects to the human and natural environment.

Notices for this public meeting were advertised in the *Denton Record-Chronicle*, *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, and *La Prensa Comunidad*, and on the TxDOT.gov website under “Hearings and Meetings Schedule” and on www.keepitmovingdallas.com under “Public Hearings/ Meetings”. The TxDOT Public Information Office also prepared a news media release to advertise the public meeting. The TxDOT roadway design schematics are available on the project website at www.keepitmovingdallas.com/FM407DentonCounty.

SLIDE 13 – Environmental Constraints Map



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The project Environmental Constraints Map is used to help the designer avoid environmental features or minimize impacts. The full map can be viewed on the project website. In the case of the FM 407 project, some of the major known constraints include stream crossings in the 100-year floodplain, railroad crossings, riparian vegetation, and potential wetland crossings (pending field verification). Other environmental constraints along the corridor include residential structures, educational, government, non-profit and recreational facilities, and places of worship, historical markers, oil/gas pipelines, and more. Environmental studies will begin this year.

SLIDE 14 – Environmental Review – Right-of-Way

Approximately 121 acres of new right-of-way would be required for the proposed project. Potential displacements include six residences. All of the right of way acquisition would be completed in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, amended.

SLIDE 15 – Project Timeline

Looking at the Project Timeline, we are currently conducting a Public Meeting for this FM 407 Widening Project. The public comment period for the proposed project ends on Tuesday, April 11, 2023. Following this public meeting, the project design will be refined per public input, environmental studies will be developed, and additional public involvement will be held. It is anticipated the final design schematic and Environmental Assessment (EA) would be available for public review and comment at the Public Hearing in the Spring of 2024. If there are no major issues from the environmental analysis that cannot be addressed in a reasonable time frame, final environmental clearance is expected in the Fall of 2024. Construction of the project would not occur until after the schematic design approval and FONSI. Please note the listed dates are subject to change.



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SLIDE 16 – We Request Your Feedback

All public comments received during this meeting will be fully considered and responded to in the FM 407 Public Meeting record and made part of the final documentation for this FM 407 Project. This documentation will then be made available for public review and copying on the Public Meeting website.

Your comments may be provided online, or by mail, email, or voicemail as shown on the screen.

Comments must be received or postmarked within 15 days of the public meeting, which is **Tuesday, April 11, 2023**, to be included in the documentation for this Public Meeting.

SLIDE 17 – Thank You

We sincerely appreciate your participation and interest in the FM 407 Widening Project. Your questions, comments and concerns will receive careful consideration. Thank you, this concludes the presentation.