

PUBLIC HEARING SCRIPT
FM 6 ROADWAY WIDENING PROJECT
FROM SH 78 TO EAST OF FM 1777
COLLIN COUNTY, TEXAS
CSJ: 0619-01-027
Thursday, May 9, 2024
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Leland Edge Middle School Cafeteria
620 N FM 1138, Nevada, TX 75173
<http://www.keepitmovingdallas.com/projects/fm-roads/fm6>

SLIDE 1 – Welcome Slide

Hello and thank you for joining this public hearing for the FM 6 project. The following presentation will provide an update on the FM 6 project, and instruction on how you can provide input for this project. We will continue to work closely with stakeholders, communities, and the public as we move forward. 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 6 Roadway Widening Project.

SLIDE 5 – Viewing the Project Information

The design schematic and environmental documentation for the FM 6 Roadway Widening 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 Location

The FM 6 project limits are from SH 78 to east of FM 1777. The total project length is approximately 7.9 miles and is located in Collin County, Texas. The project is located within the cities of Lavon, Nevada, and Josephine.

SLIDE 7 – Project Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed project is to meet local and regional future travel demand by increasing the capacity of FM 6; upgrade the transportation infrastructure to meet current FHWA and TxDOT design standards; and improve the safety of the roadway by correcting access conflicts.

The proposed improvements are needed because the existing two-lane FM 6 roadway between the intersections of SH 78 and east of FM 1777 in Collin County is inadequate to meet future traffic volumes, resulting in congestion and reduced mobility, and is a risk to motorist safety because of roadway design deficiencies.

SLIDE 8 – Existing Facility

The existing FM 6 facility from SH 78 to east of FM 1777 in Collin County is currently a two-lane roadway, with one 11.5-foot-wide travel lane in each direction (westbound and eastbound), and usual 1-foot-wide shoulders, roadside bar ditch drainage, no dedicated turn lanes, and no median. The existing typical right-of-way (ROW) width varies from approximately 60 feet to 130 feet with a typical width of 80-feet along FM 6. At the western terminus of the proposed project, near the intersection with SH 78, the existing FM 6 roadway widens to two travel lanes in each direction, has curb and gutter drainage, and a raised median.

SLIDE 9 – Proposed Facility

The proposed project would reconstruct approximately 7.9 miles of FM 6 from SH 78 to east of FM 1777 in Collin County. The roadway passes through the cities of Lavon, Nevada, and Josephine. The proposed right-of-way width varies from 140 feet wide to 220 feet wide with a typical right-of-way width of 140 feet. The proposed project would consist of four (ultimately six) 12-foot-wide travel lanes, two (ultimately three) in each direction, 2-foot offsets, an 18-foot raised median, curb and gutter drainage, and 10-foot-wide shared use paths in each direction (with 5-foot buffers between path and roadway). There are a total of four bridges proposed along the project corridor: three bridge class culverts and a girder bridge over the Sabine Creek crossing. The proposed project would require the acquisition of approximately 53 acres of proposed right-of-way.

SLIDE 10 – Project Construction Cost and Schedule

The FM 6 Roadway Widening Project is anticipated to be Ready to Let by 2027 and will take approximately 3 – 4 years to construct. **“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 entire project is approximately **\$144 million**. The project is currently unfunded. A project cannot let until funding is identified.

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 6 Roadway Widening 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. The TxDOT technical reports are available for your review on the project website and at the TxDOT Dallas District office. Notices for this public hearing were advertised in the *Rockwall Herald Banner*, *Royse City Herald Banner*, *Greenville Herald Banner*, *Al Día*, and 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.

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 – Right-of-Way

A total of approximately 53 acres of new right-of-way would be required to complete the proposed improvements. The proposed project would potentially result in 20 residential and 1 non-residential displacements.

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 / Additional Resources

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 abatement measures would not be both feasible and reasonable; therefore, no abatement measures are proposed for this project.

Displacements

The proposed project would potentially result in 20 residential and 1 non-residential displacements. All ROW acquisition would be completed in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended.

Cultural Resources

The proposed project would not result in right-of-way acquisition from two properties that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. TxDOT historians determined the project would have no adverse effects under Section 106, and the State Historic Preservation Office concurred with their findings.

Waters of the U.S./Wetlands

The project area consists of crossings of six potentially jurisdictional intermittent streams, three pond/impoundments, and six wetlands. A total of 0.294 acres of wetlands were identified as potential impacts to waters of the U.S. 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 wetlands.

Conclusion

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

SLIDE 15 – Project Timeline

The public comment period for the proposed project ends Friday, May 24, 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 late 2024. As mentioned earlier, the project has an anticipated Ready to Let Date of 2027. The project is anticipated to be open to traffic by 2030. 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, May 24, 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 17 – “Thank You for participating” / The Hearing is now Adjourned

We sincerely appreciate your participation and interest concerning the proposed design of the FM 6 Roadway Widening Project. Your questions, comments and concerns will receive careful consideration.

Thank you very much.