



US 175 Grade Separations Project

From North of BUS 175 to East of FM 1895

CSJ: 0197-05-063

Public Meeting Script

SLIDE 1 – Welcome Slide

Kaufman County and the Texas Department of Transportation, or TxDOT, welcome you to the US 175 Grade Separations Project public meeting. We appreciate your interest in the project and thank each of you for your participation.

Please note, for those viewing the virtual public meeting, you can pause this presentation at any point to allow more time to view the slides or get a more detailed view of the project design or other exhibits available online.

SLIDE 2 – Help End the Streak

November 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on roadways in Texas. That means for over 22 years, at least one person has died every single day. We all have a part to play to change that. This message is that reminder to each of us to End the Streak of deaths on Texas highways. We need drivers and passengers to act more responsibly and help us reach our goal of zero deaths by 2050. Texans can play a major role in ending fatal crashes with a few simple driving habits: wear seatbelts, drive the speed limit, put away the phone and other distractions, and never drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs. So please do your part and share this message with your friends and family.

SLIDE 3– Public Meeting Purpose

This public meeting has been convened by Kaufman County and TxDOT to receive and consider comments from the public regarding the US 175 Grade Separations 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.

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 project impacts to the human and natural environment.



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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 virtual 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 4 – Viewing Design Schematic and Project Information

All information presented in this presentation and project materials, including those at the in-person public meeting, can be accessed through TxDOT's Dallas District's website: www.KeepItMovingDallas.com. You can search for the project or go directly to the website at the project site address listed. Scanning the QR code will take you directly to the project page.

SLIDE 5 – Project Location

The US 175 Grade Separations Project limits are north of Business 175 to east of FM 1895. The total project length is approximately 2.1 miles and the project is located in the City of Kemp, Kaufman County, Texas. A larger version of this location map is available online and on display on the "Welcome Board" at the in-person public meeting.

SLIDE 6 – Project Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve mobility, safety and operations by adding capacity with proposed US 175 main lanes, diverting US 175 main lane traffic from cross streets through grade separated interchanges at BUS 175 and FM 1895 and modifying ramp configurations.

The proposed improvements are needed because the existing roadway facility within the project limits does not meet future traffic capacity demands and to improve traffic operations in the area.



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SLIDE 7 – Existing Typical Section

The existing US 175 roadway from north of Business 175 to east of FM 1895 is comprised of four 12-foot-wide general purpose main lanes, including two eastbound lanes and two westbound lanes. Near the eastern project limit, the existing roadway is converted into a controlled access rural freeway with four 12-foot-wide general purpose main lanes, including two eastbound lanes and two westbound lanes, and four 12-foot-wide frontage road lanes, including two eastbound lanes and two westbound lanes. Eastbound and westbound main lanes are separated by a grass median that ranges from 88 to 535 feet in width.

SLIDE 8 – Proposed Typical Section

Proposed improvements include constructing two to three 12-foot-wide freeway main lanes in each direction within the existing grass median of US 175. Grade separated interchanges would be constructed at Business 175 and FM 1895, with the proposed US 175 main lanes bridging over each cross street. The existing US 175 would become frontage roads. Entrance and exit ramps comprised of one 14-foot-wide lane would be added between the existing frontage roads and proposed freeway main lanes. An auxiliary lane would be constructed along the inside of the existing US 175 frontage road lanes in conjunction with proposed entrance and exit ramps south of Business 175. The third US 175 main lane would similarly only be constructed in conjunction with proposed entrance and exit ramps.

The existing typical right-of-way (ROW) width is approximately 600 feet. No additional ROW would be required to construct the proposed project.

SLIDE 9 – Projected Cost and Schedule

The US 175 Grade Separations Project is anticipated to be ready to let in Late 2025 and would take approximately 2 years to construct. The total estimated construction cost is \$68.5 million. The construction phase of the project is currently unfunded. 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 US 175 Grade Separations Project.



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SLIDE 10 – National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Assignment to the Texas Department of Transportation

Prior to December 16, 2014, the Federal Highway Administration, or FHWA, received and approved documents prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act, known as NEPA; however, on December 14, 2014 the Texas Department of Transportation 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 apply to this project. Environmental studies are being conducted for the proposed US 175 Grade Separations 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.

The technical environmental documentation will be approved for further processing by TxDOT and would be coordinated with other public agencies, as necessary. Notices for this public meeting were advertised in *The Dallas Morning News*, *Al Día*, *The Kaufman Herald*, *The Monitor*, on the TxDOT.gov website under “Hearings and Meetings Schedule” and on www.keepitmovingdallas.com under “Public Hearings and Meetings.” The roadway design schematics are available on the project website at www.keepitmovingdallas.com/US175Kemp.

SLIDE 11 – Environmental Constraints Map

The project Environmental Constraints Map is used to help planners and engineers at the outset of a roadway project to increase awareness of environmental constraints to help minimize potential project impacts while meeting the project purpose. The full-size map is available as a display at the in-person public meeting or it can be viewed on the project website. The major known constraints within existing right of way include stream and floodplain crossings of Ferris Creek and an unnamed tributary. Constraints outside of existing right of way but adjacent to the proposed project include the Kaufman County Kemp Eco Station, an above ground propane storage tank and a Chevron gas station. Environmental studies for this project are ongoing.



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SLIDE 12 – Project Timeline

The public comment period for the proposed project ends on Wednesday, April 19, 2023. Following this public meeting, the project design will be refined per public input, and environmental studies will be developed. 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 Late 2024.

SLIDE 13 – We Request Your Feedback

Comments will be accepted in the four ways, which are outlined here. All comments will be fully considered and responded to in the project record and made part of the environmental documentation for this proposed project. This document will then be made available for public review online at www.keepitmovingdallas.com/US175Kemp. All statements, comments and questions will be given careful consideration before the final design is completed. As a reminder, all comments must be received or postmarked by Wednesday, April 19, 2023, to be included in the official public meeting documentation.

SLIDE 14 – Thank You

“Thank You” We sincerely appreciate your participation and interest concerning the proposed design of the US 175 Grade Separations Project. Your questions, comments, and concerns will receive careful consideration.

Thank you, this concludes the presentation.