

**PUBLIC MEETING SCRIPT**  
**FARM-TO-MARKET ROAD (FM) 429 AND UNITED STATES HIGHWAY (US) 80**  
**INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS**  
**KAUFMAN COUNTY**  
**CSJ(S): 0697-03-033, 1089-02-019**  
**Thursday, April 6, 2023, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**  
**Herman Furlough Jr. Middle School Cafeteria**  
**1351 Colquitt Road, Terrell, TX 75160**  
[www.keepitmovingdallas.com/FM429](http://www.keepitmovingdallas.com/FM429)

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**SLIDE 1 – Title Slide**

Hello and welcome to the Public Meeting for the FM 429 and US 80 Intersection Improvements Project. This public meeting 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 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 – Public Meeting Purpose and Public Meeting Protocol**

You may have attended previous public meetings conducted by TxDOT. Due to changes in TxDOT public involvement protocols, we will not have a live speech or take

comments from the floor at this public meeting. In lieu of a live speech, we are showing this pre-recorded presentation. 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 meeting.

A public meeting 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 at this stage in the planning process when flexibility to respond to comments still exists 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.

Following this meeting, 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 429 and US 80 Intersection Improvements Project.

#### **SLIDE 4 – Viewing the Project Information**

The design schematic and environmental documentation for the FM 429 and US 80 Intersection 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, Texas 75150, at the TxDOT Kaufman County Area Office, located at 3260 FM 2728, Kaufman, Texas 75142. In addition, the design schematic may be viewed at <http://www.keepitmovingdallas.com/FM429>. The information on this website is the same information being shown in this presentation.

### **SLIDE 5 – Project Location**

TxDOT is proposing to build a new location intersection at Farm-to-Market Road 429 (FM 429) and United States Highway 80 (US 80). The North to South limits of FM 429 are from 0.44 miles north of US 80 to College Mound Road, approximately 1.6 miles. The East to West limits extend approximately 0.41 mile on US 80 from 0.20 mile west of Kings Creek to the existing intersection with FM 429 N.

### **SLIDE 6 – Project Details**

The FM 429 proposed improvements include re-alignment and construction of a two-lane (ultimate four-lane) rural minor arterial roadway with flush medians and shoulders. The proposed improvements also include intersection improvements at US 80 and FM 429 and reconstruction at the at-grade Union Pacific Railroad crossing south of the intersection.

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

The purpose of the proposed project is to re-align and improve the intersection of FM 429 and US 80 in order to improve north-south and east-west mobility, safety and to accommodate future traffic demand by adding capacity.

The proposed project is needed to correct the FM 429 off-set intersection at US 80 and improve the operation of the Union Pacific Railroad crossing.

### **SLIDE 8 – Existing Facility**

The existing FM 429 roadway within the project limits is currently two 12-foot-wide lanes with 8 to 10-foot-wide shoulders, which runs south on the west side of the City of Terrell, intersects with US 80 north of the Union Pacific railroad, heads east for approximately 2,500 feet and then FM 429 runs south 200 feet east of Walnut Creek. There are no pedestrian or bike accommodations. The existing right-of-way ranges from 90 to 105-ft wide throughout the length of the project.

### **SLIDE 9 – Proposed Facility**

The proposed project would reconfigure the FM 429 and US 80 intersection to improve traffic operations and mobility. The improvements would include the addition of left turn lanes, north and south connector roads, flush medians and shoulders, and an at-grade Union Pacific Railroad crossing south of the intersection.

The proposed project would require approximately 36 acres of additional right-of-way to expand the roadway. The proposed ROW width of FM 429 on new location would vary from a minimum of 175 feet to a maximum 285 feet.

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

The FM 429 and US 80 Intersection Improvements Project is anticipated to be Ready to Let by 2026 and will take approximately 2 – 3 **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 total estimated cost for the entire project is approximately **\$39 million**. The project is

partially funded for construction and cannot let until full 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 429 and US 80 Intersection 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 meeting were advertised in *The Terrell Tribune*, *The Kaufman Herald*, *The Dallas Morning News*, and *Al Día*, 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 meeting. The TxDOT roadway design schematics are available on the project website at [www.keepitmovingdallas.com/FM429](http://www.keepitmovingdallas.com/FM429).

## **SLIDE 12 – Environmental Constraints Map**

The project Environmental Constraints Map is used to help planners and engineers determine the least impactful method to fulfill the purpose of the project. The full map can be viewed on the project website. In the case of FM 429, some of the major known constraints include two stream crossings for Kings Creek, one stream crossing for Walnut Creek, a Union Pacific railroad crossing, one petroleum storage tank, and one transmission line near the project limits, and crossings of the 100-year floodplain. Environmental studies for this project are ongoing.

## **SLIDE 13 – Environmental Review – Right-of-Way**

Approximately 36 acres of new right-of-way would be required for the proposed improvements. 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 titled “The Purchase of Right of Way,” and “Relocation Assistance,” are available on the project website. These materials contain detailed information to inform you of your rights and to provide information about the TxDOT right-of-way acquisition process.

## **SLIDE 14 – Project Timeline**

The public comment period for the proposed project ends Friday, April 21, 2023. Following this meeting, documentation of this public meeting will be reviewed by TxDOT for final environmental clearance and design approval. If there are no major issues arising from this meeting that cannot be addressed in a reasonable time frame, **final environmental clearance** is expected by Spring 2024.

As mentioned earlier, the project has an anticipated Ready to Let Date of 2026. The project is anticipated to be open to traffic by 2028.

This concludes the environmental evaluation portion of the presentation.

### **SLIDE 15 – 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, April 21, 2023, to be part of the official public meeting 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 16 – “Thank You for your Interest” / Meeting is now Adjourned**

We sincerely appreciate your participation and interest concerning the proposed design of the FM 429 and US 80 Intersection Improvements Project. Your questions, comments and concerns will receive careful consideration.

Thank you very much.