



Public Hearing Script

FM 1385
From US 380 to FM 455
Denton County
CSJ: 1315-01-030
May 8, 2023, 5:30 p.m.
Navo Middle School
1701 Navo Rd., Aubrey, Texas 76207
www.keepitmovingdallas.com/FM1385

SLIDE 1 – Title Slide

Hello and welcome to the Public Hearing for FM 1385 from US 380 to FM 455. 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 Updated Protocol

You may have attended previous public hearings 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 hearing. 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 hearing. A public hearing has four essential purposes:



Public Hearing Script

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 provide feedback.
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 1385 project.

SLIDE 5 – Viewing the Project Information and the Draft Environmental Assessment

The design schematic and environmental documentation for the FM 1385 project are available for inspection and reproduction at the Texas Department of Transportation Dallas District Office, located at 4777 East U.S. Highway 80 in Mesquite, 75150, and at the TxDOT Denton County Area Office, located at 2505 S State Highway 5, McKinney, TX 75069. In addition, the design schematic may be viewed at keepitmovingdallas.com under "Public Hearings/Meetings." The information on this website is the same information being shown in this presentation.

SLIDE 6 – Project Location

FM 1385 is an approximately 12-mile connection between US 380 and FM 455 in Denton County. The proposed project is located within the cities of Little Elm, Aubrey, Pilot Point, Celina, and the Town of Prosper.

SLIDE 7 – Project Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve mobility and bring the roadway up to current design standards. The overall goal is to provide a facility that will accommodate future traffic and improve safety with additional lanes and reconstructed intersections at FM 1385 and Mustang Road and at FM 1385 and Gee Road/Fishtrap Road.

The proposed project is needed to meet future travel demands stemming from projected population growth and traffic volumes.

SLIDE 8 – Existing Roadway Typical Sections

Within the project limits, the current FM 1385 facility varies between a 2-lane rural undivided roadway and a 2-lane divided roadway with a center turn lane. The existing roadway has 12-foot-wide shoulders. The existing right of way varies from 80 to 120 feet wide, and the central portion of the existing FM 1385 roadway



Public Hearing Script

within the project area ties into Mustang Road. This Mustang Road portion of the existing roadway consists of a sharp curve in the roadway as well as a three-way-intersection. FM 1385 at Gee Road/Fishtrap Road includes an existing S-curve roadway alignment.

SLIDE 9 – Project Details

TxDOT is proposing to reconstruct and widen FM 1385 from US 380 to FM 455 in Denton County. The project would include the construction of a 6-lane divided urban roadway from US 380 to south of Mustang Road and a 4-lane interim (6-lane ultimate) divided urban roadway from south of Mustang Road to FM 455. A realignment of the central portion of FM 1385 at Mustang Road is proposed to directly connect FM 1385 to the north and south without requiring vehicles to travel along the Mustang Road portion of the existing FM 1385. Additionally, a realignment of the southern portion of FM 1385 at Gee Road/Fishtrap Road is also proposed. This would flatten out the existing “S” curve at Gee Road/Fishtrap Road and improve mobility along FM 423 at the intersection with FM 1385. These proposed locations will be discussed and graphically illustrated later in this presentation.

SLIDE 10 – Proposed Roadway Typical Sections

The proposed FM 1385 would be reconstructed and widened from an existing 2-lane rural highway to ultimately a 6-lane divided urban roadway with sidewalks/shared use paths. FM 1385 from US 380 to south of Mustang Road is proposed to be constructed as a 6-lane facility, while the roadway from south of Mustang Road to FM 455 is proposed to be constructed as a 4-lane interim facility.

The majority of the project area follows the existing FM 1385 roadway alignment. However, two areas are being proposed for roadway realignments to address mobility and safety concerns.

SLIDE 11 – Proposed Roadway Realignment at Mustang Road

This figure illustrates the proposed realignment of the central portion of FM 1385 at Mustang Road. The 0.9-mile-long realignment is located south of Mustang Road and would directly connect FM 1385 to the north and the south without requiring vehicles to travel along the Mustang Road portion of the existing FM 1385. Residential and commercial access would remain.

SLIDE 12 – Proposed Roadway Realignment at Gee Road/Fishtrap Road

This figure illustrates the proposed realignment of FM 1385 within the southern portion of the project area at Gee Road/Fishtrap Road. This 0.45-mile realignment is located southeast of the current alignment. This would flatten out the existing “S” curve at Gee Road/Fishtrap Road and improve mobility at this intersection with FM 1385.



Public Hearing Script

SLIDE 13 – Projected Cost and Schedule

The FM 1385 project is anticipated to be Ready to Let by Summer 2026 and would take approximately three 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 project is approximately \$239 million. Please note that the project is not yet funded. A project cannot let until funding is identified; however, right-of-way acquisition can proceed even if a project does not have construction funding.

SLIDE 14 – 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 1385 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 English in the *Denton Record-Chronicle* and in Spanish in *Al Día Dallas*, on the TxDOT.gov website under “Hearings, meetings and notices schedule” and on keepitmovingdallas.com under “Public Hearings/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 15 – Environmental Review/Impacts Addressed

The technical documentation for this project addressed 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 16 – Environmental Review - Right of Way

The proposed project would, subject to final design considerations, require approximately 124.41 acres of new right of way and potentially displace two residences, one billboard, and one commercial structure.



Public Hearing Script

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's right-of-way acquisition process.

SLIDE 17 – Environmental Review

The following are findings of the environmental review:

Floodplains - The project area is located within the Trinity River basin and portions of the project corridor are situated within Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated 100-year flood hazard areas. These flood hazard areas are associated with Doe Branch, Little Elm Creek, and Mustang Creek. The hydraulic design for this project would be in accordance with current TxDOT policies.

Waters of the U.S./Wetlands – The proposed project would include potential impacts to waters of the U.S., including 12 tributaries, one open water feature, and nine wetlands. Impacts would be authorized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under Section 404 Nationwide Permits 14. A Preconstruction Notification to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would be required due to impacts to wetlands.

Cultural Resources - Both archeological and historic resources surveys were completed and no impacts to protected resources would occur.

Traffic Noise - A Traffic Noise Analysis was accomplished in accordance with TxDOT's (and Federal Highway Administration approved) Guidelines for Analysis and Abatement of Roadway Traffic Noise. Based on the analysis, noise barriers were determined to be reasonable and feasible at four locations: 1) Mezzo Apartments, 2) Glenbooke Neighborhood, 3) Arrowbrooke Neighborhood and 4) Sand Brock Ranch Neighborhood. The locations of the proposed noise barriers are included on the schematic and will be finalized after a noise workshop has been conducted.

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

SLIDE 18 – Project Timeline

The public comment period for the proposed project ends on Tuesday, May 23, 2023. 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 Summer 2023.



Public Hearing Script

As mentioned earlier, the project has an anticipated Ready to Let Date of Summer 2026. Construction will begin once the project is let.

This concludes the environmental evaluation portion of the presentation.

SLIDE 19 – We Request Your Feedback

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 Tuesday, May 23, 2023, 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 www.keepitmovingdallas.com/FM1385.

SLIDE 20 – “Thank You”

We sincerely appreciate your participation and interest concerning the proposed design of the FM 1385 project. Your questions, comments and concerns will receive careful consideration. Thank you very much.