

PUBLIC HEARING
FARM-TO-MARKET (FM) 2931
FROM UNITED STATES (US) 380 TO FM 428
DENTON COUNTY
CSJ: 2979-01-011
Thursday, June 30, 2022, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Monaco Elementary School Cafeteria
9350 Cape Cod Blvd, Aubrey, TX 76227
www.keepitmovingdallas.com/FM2931

SLIDE 1 – Title Slide

Hello and welcome to the Public Hearing for the FM 2931 Widening Project. 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 – John Hudspeth, P.E. Welcome Video

Howdy, I'm John Hudspeth, 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 3 – Public Hearing Changes to Protocol and Purpose

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:

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 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 2931 Widening Project.

SLIDE 4 – Viewing the Project Information

The design schematic and environmental documentation for the FM 2931 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, Texas 75150, and at the TxDOT Denton County Area Office, located at 2624 West

Prairie, Denton, Texas 76201. 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 5 – Project Location, Purpose and Need

TxDOT is proposing to widen approximately 6.37 miles of FM 2931 between US 380 (East University Drive) and FM 428 (Spring Hill Road) in Denton County, Texas.

The proposed project purpose is to provide a facility that will accommodate future traffic and improve safety with additional through lanes and designated turning lanes. Current design standards, longer sight distances and smoother traffic flows will also improve safety.

The proposed project is needed to address future traffic growth in the corridor and the region, improve mobility, and increase safety.

SLIDE 6 – Existing Roadway Typical Sections

The existing FM 2931 in Denton County is a rural roadway consisting of two northbound travel lanes and two southbound travel lanes north of Cape Cod Boulevard with no shoulders. South of Cape Cod Boulevard the existing FM 2931 consists of two northbound travel lanes and two southbound travel lanes with an intermittent center turn lane with no shoulders. The existing FM 2931 right-of-way is 100 feet wide. The facility is intersected by one major collector, US 380 at the southern limit and one principal arterial, FM 428 at the northern project limit. There are right and left-turn lanes present at various intersections along the project corridor.

SLIDE 7 – Proposed Roadway Typical Sections

The proposed project would widen approximately 6.37 miles of FM 2931 to a 4-lane urban roadway with an ultimate 6-lane section with a raised median and turn lanes in various locations. The project construction is planned as 2 phases. In Phase 1, this rural

two-lane road would be widened first to a four-lane roadway with an approximately 42-foot wide raised median and a minimum 140-foot to a maximum 220-foot-wide right-of-way. In Phase 2, the additional two lanes will be constructed in the median for a six-lane urban curbed roadway. There would be a separated 10-foot-wide shared use path on each side of the roadway to accommodate pedestrians and bicycles along the length of the project. The overall roadway width would be narrowed south of Cape Cod Boulevard to avoid impacting the residential developments in this area. The proposed typical right-of-way would be approximately 130 feet wide, with a minimum of 126 feet to a maximum of approximately 244 feet. Approximately 45.9 acres of new right-of-way would be required to accommodate the proposed improvements.

SLIDE 8 – Projected Cost & Schedule

The FM 2931 Widening Project is anticipated to be Ready to Let by 2024 and will take approximately 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 **\$138 million**. The project is partially funded. A project cannot let until funding is identified.

SLIDE 9 – 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 2931 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 the *Dallas Morning News*, *Al Día*, and the *Denton Record Chronicle*, and online at 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. The TxDOT technical reports are available for your review on the project website and at the TxDOT Dallas District office.

SLIDE 10 – 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 presents a list of resources that were evaluated during the environmental analyses.

The following slides include a summary of those findings.

SLIDE 11 – Environmental Review / Right-of-Way

A total of approximately 45.9 acres of new right-of-way would be required to complete the proposed improvements. Right-of-way would be acquired from properties along both the east and west side of the project. No residential or non-residential displacement(s) are anticipated.

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 12 – Environmental Review / Additional Resources

Floodplains

Portions of the project corridor are situated within FEMA designated 100-year flood hazard areas. These flood hazard areas are associated with Running Branch and tributaries of Pecan Creek. The hydraulic design for this project would be in accordance with current TxDOT policies.

Waters of the U.S./Wetlands

Six streams, one drainage ditch, one pond, and 0.12-acre of wetlands were identified as potential impacts to waters of the U.S. within the project area. 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 two wetlands.

Section 4(f) and Chapter 26

The proposed project would result in right-of-way acquisition from one Section 4(f) property on two separate parcels separated by Lakeview Drive: Lakeview Park north and Lakeview Park south. No right-of-way acquisition would occur from within the fenced areas, no landscaping or trees would be affected, and no amenities would be affected by the proposed project. Approximately 0.49 acre of additional right-of-way would be required along the east side of FM 2931, which were determined by the Town of Providence Village to be *de minimis* impacts to the park.

Because the proposed improvements would result in acquisition of public land, in this case, Lakeview Park, Chapter 26 of the Parks and Wildlife Code applies to the proposed project. This hearing meets Section 26.001 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Administrative Code, which requires a Public Hearing to examine possible impacts to publicly-owned properties or Section 4(f) properties, in this case, the Lakeview Park, that would be impacted by the project.

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 barriers were determined to be reasonable and feasible; therefore, noise barriers are proposed for incorporation into the proposed project.

Conclusion

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

SLIDE 13 – Next Steps and Timeline

The public comment period for the proposed project ends Friday, July 15, 2022. 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 Fall 2022.

As mentioned earlier, the project has an anticipated Ready to Let Date of 2024. The project is anticipated to be open to traffic by 2027.

This concludes the environmental evaluation portion of the presentation.

SLIDE 14 – 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, July 15, 2022 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 15 – “Thank You for your Interest” / Hearing is now Adjourned

We sincerely appreciate your participation and interest concerning the proposed design of the FM 2931 Widening Project. Your questions, comments and concerns will receive careful consideration.

Thank you very much.