



**Virtual Public Meeting
FM 551
CSJ: CSJ 1016-01-032
Rockwall County, Texas
December 11, 2023**

SLIDE 1 – Title Slide

Hello and welcome to the public meeting for the FM 551 Project in Rockwall County. This meeting has been convened by Rockwall County in partnership with 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 roadways in Texas. That means that 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 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 your seatbelt, 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 to share this message with your friends and family.

SLIDE 3 – Public Meeting Purpose

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 exist and before location and design decisions are finalized; and finally, 4) 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.

SLIDE 4 – Project Overview/Project Location

The project includes 3.25 miles of reconstruction and widening along FM 551 from SH 276 to SH 66 in Rockwall County, Texas.

SLIDE 5 – Project Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve safety, increase mobility, and meet current design standards. The proposed project is needed because the capacity of FM 551 is inadequate to meet current and future traffic volumes, resulting in congestion and reduced mobility.

SLIDE 6 –Existing Typical Sections

The existing FM 551 typical section includes a two-lane roadway with 11-foot-wide travel lanes with no shoulders. The existing right of way is approximately 80 feet wide. There are no bicycle or pedestrian facilities.

SLIDE 7 – FM 551 Proposed Typical Section (SH 276 to I-30)

The proposed project improvements for FM 551 from SH 276 to I-30 include a four-lane divided roadway with two 12-foot-wide travel lanes in each direction, two-foot wide curbed inside and outside shoulders, one 10-foot-wide shared-use path in each direction, and an 18-foot grassy median. The proposed right of way would be approximately 140 to 235 feet wide.

SLIDE 8 – FM 551 Proposed Typical Section (I-30 to SH 66)

The proposed project improvements for FM 551 from I-30 to SH 66 include a three-lane roadway with one 12-foot-wide travel lane in each direction, two-foot-wide curbed shoulders, one 14-foot center turn lane, and one 10-foot-wide shared-use path in each direction. The proposed right of way would be approximately 90 to 200 feet wide.

SLIDE 9 – Environmental Review

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 Documentation will be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This will include reviewing Air Quality, Traffic Noise, Social & Community Impacts, Hazardous Materials, Biological Resources, Water Resources, and Historic and Archaeological Resources. Alternatives are evaluated and compared based on impacts to all environmental constraints.

SLIDE 10 – Environmental Constraints Map

The Environmental Constraints Map is a visual representation of the potential environmental constraints anticipated for the proposed project. The Environmental

Constraints Map contains a legend on the bottom of the map and identifies the shading and symbols used on the map. To view a full-size environmental constraints map, please visit the project page at: <https://www.keepitmovingdallas.com/projects/fm-roads/fm551>.

SLIDE 11 – Right of Way

The proposed project would, subject to final design considerations, require additional right of way and potentially displace five residential and two non-residential structures.

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 the TxDOT right-of-way acquisition process.

SLIDE 12 – Project Development and Timeline

The public comment period for this public meeting ends December 28th, 2023. Following this meeting, responses to public comments will be posted once they are prepared. Final environmental clearance is expected by Spring 2025. Please note that this timeline is subject to change. The construction cost is approximately \$60 million based on preliminary design and is not currently funded and cannot let until funding is identified, however right-of-way can proceed even if the project is not funded for construction.

SLIDE 13 – How to comment and contact information

As previously stated, one of the goals of this public meeting is to receive your thoughts, questions, and concerns about the proposed project. There are several ways to submit your comment:

1. You may comment online by navigating to <https://www.keepitmovingdallas.com/projects/fm-roads/fm551> or scan the QR code here to access the electronic comment.
2. Email your comments to: Kibru.Andargie@txdot.gov.
3. Mail your comments to TxDOT Dallas District, Attention: Kibru Andargie, P.E., 4777 East US Highway 80, Mesquite, Texas 75150.
4. Call (469) 250-9063 to leave a voicemail comment.

All comments regarding this project must be received or postmarked on or before Thursday, December 28th, 2023, to be included in the formal meeting documentation.



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If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the project, please contact the TxDOT Project Manager Kibru Andargie, P.E., during regular business hours (Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) by either calling 214-320-6624 or emailing him at Kibru.Andargie@txdot.gov.

SLIDE 14 – Thank you

We sincerely appreciate your participation and interest concerning the proposed design of the FM 551 project in Rockwall County, Texas. Your questions, comments and concerns will receive careful consideration. Thank you for attending the Virtual Public Meeting. Goodbye.