

PUBLIC HEARING

FM 741

US 175 TO FM 548

KAUFMAN COUNTY

CSJ: 1092-01-021

DECEMBER 15, 2022

Forney High School

1800 College Ave., Forney, TX 75126

<https://www.KeepItMovingDallas.com/FM741>

SLIDE 1 – Title Slide

Hello and welcome to the Public Hearing for FM 741 from US 175 to FM 548. 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 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 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 – 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 4 – Public Hearing Purpose and Changes to Public Hearing 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:

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 741 project.

SLIDE 5 – Viewing the Project Information

The design schematic and environmental documentation for the FM 741 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, 75150. 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 6 – Project Purpose and Need

The purpose of the FM 741 project is to improve safety, increase mobility, and meet current design standards.

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

SLIDE 7 – Existing Typical Section

FM 741 currently mainly consists of two undivided 12-foot-wide rural section lanes with 2-foot shoulders. The existing right of way varies from 70-feet to 100-feet wide.

SLIDE 8 – Proposed Typical Section

The proposed project would reconstruct and widen the existing FM 741 into a four-lane divided urban roadway with 12-foot lanes and an 18-foot-wide median. The ultimate facility planned in this project includes 6 lanes along FM 741 from US 175 to FM 2757. The proposed facility would include left and right turn bays in certain locations to assist with safe turning movements along FM 741. A 10-foot shared-use path for bicycles and pedestrians is proposed on the southbound side of the roadway and a 6-foot sidewalk is being proposed on the northbound side for the entire length of the project. To accommodate this, TxDOT is proposing to replace the two existing bridges over Tributary to Buffalo Creek with a wider and longer bridge to accommodate four 12-foot-wide travel lanes and shared-use path and sidewalk.

This project will widen FM 741 to a right-of-way width to be anywhere between 120 and 140 feet.

SLIDE 9 – Projected Cost & Schedule

The FM 741 project is anticipated to be Ready to Let by 2026 and will take approximately 2 to 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 \$113 million. The project is partially funded. A project cannot let until full funding is identified.

SLIDE 10 – 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 741 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 Kaufman Herald, the Forney Messenger, La Prensa, on the TxDOT.gov website under “Hearings and Meetings 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.

SLIDE 11 – 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 shows a list of all resources that were evaluated during the environmental analyses. The following slides include a summary of those findings.

SLIDE 12 – Right of Way

A total of approximately 42 acres of new right of way would be required to complete the proposed improvements. There are no residential or commercial displacements however one non-residential displacement is 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 13 – Environmental Review / Additional Resources

A portion of the project corridor is situated within a FEMA designated 100-year flood hazard area associated with an unnamed tributary to Buffalo Creek. The proposed project would not increase the base flood elevation to a level that would violate applicable floodplain regulations and ordinances.

During the environmental study, the project was redesigned to avoid taking any right of way from the Crandall Community Cemetery and archeologists investigated within nearby existing right of way to ensure no previously unidentified graves were present. There will be a new driveway at the cemetery for improved access and construction documents will have protection notes to ensure there will be no impacts.

The project would cross 11 potentially jurisdictional streams, 28 wetlands, and 3 drainage ditches. Impacts to waters of the U.S. associated with project construction would likely be covered under Nationwide Permit 14 and due to anticipated impacts to streams and wetlands, pre-construction notification to the USACE would be required.

FHWA Traffic Noise Model was used to calculate existing and predicted traffic noise levels. Based on the analysis, noise barriers were determined to be both reasonable and feasible. A proposed noise barrier will be located along the northbound side between Regency Trail and Heartland Parkway.

In conclusion: studies, analyses and evaluation of the proposed project indicate no significant impacts.

SLIDE 14 – Next Steps and Timeline

The public comment period for the proposed project ends Thursday, January 5, 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 Spring 2023.

As mentioned earlier, the project has an anticipated Ready to Let Date of **2026**

This concludes the environmental evaluation portion of the presentation.

SLIDE 15 – Public Comments

Comments will be accepted in a variety 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 January 5, 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 online at the project website.

SLIDE 16 – “Thank you for participating” / Hearing is now Adjourned

We sincerely appreciate your participation and interest concerning the proposed design of the FM 741 project. Your questions, comments and concerns will receive careful consideration.

Thank you very much.