

PUBLIC MEETING
US 287
FROM BOYCE ROAD TO COOKE ROAD
ELLIS COUNTY
CSJ: 0172-08-103
MARCH 9, 2023
Ennis High School
2301 Ensign Road, Ennis, TX 75119
<https://www.keepitmovingdallas.com/US287>

SLIDE 1 – Title Slide

Hello and welcome to the Public Meeting for US 287 from Boyce Road to Cooke Road. This 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 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 – 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 Meeting Purpose and Changes to 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 environmental study. 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 US 287 project.

SLIDE 5 – Viewing the Project Information

The design schematic and current environmental documentation for the US 287 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. 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 US 287 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

The existing roadway right of way is 250-feet-wide and consists of two 12-foot-wide travel lanes in each direction, northbound and southbound US 287. There is a 4-foot shoulder on the inside of both northbound and southbound lanes and a 10-foot outside shoulder on both sides. There are no existing sidewalk, bicycle or pedestrian facilities. The existing roadway accommodates a 66-foot grassy median that divides northbound and southbound traffic along US 287.

SLIDE 8 – Proposed Typical Section

The proposed project includes a right of way of 297 to 324-feet with a 40-foot median. The proposed improvements maintain the two 12-foot-wide travel lanes in each direction for mainlanes and maintaining the current shoulder widths. The new construction includes two 12-foot-wide frontage roads in each direction with variable left-hand turn lanes, both northbound and southbound. The proposed project also includes the addition of a 10-foot shared-use path on the northbound side and a 6-foot sidewalk on the southbound side of US 287.

Interchange improvements would also be completed at US 287 and Boyce Road and Cooke Road.

SLIDE 9 – Projected Cost & Schedule

The US 287 project is anticipated to be “Ready to Let” by 2026 and will take approximately 2 to 3 years to construct. “Ready to Let” is when TxDOT notifies the construction

community that a project is ready to be bid on after all right of way (ROW) is acquired and utilities are relocated. Construction on a project begins after the letting process is complete. The total construction cost for the project is approximately \$287 million. The project is currently unfunded for construction and cannot let until funding is identified; however, right of way acquisition can proceed even if the project is not funded for construction.

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 US 287 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.

Notices for this public meeting were advertised in The Ennis News, Al Dia, 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 will be made available for your review on the project website once they are completed.

SLIDE 11 – Constraints Map

Preliminary environmental constraints have been identified and will be further evaluated as part of the technical studies phase of the proposed project. The environmental constraints identified thus far in the proposed project area include, streams and wetlands, floodplains, historical markers, public parkland, and potential hazardous material sites. To view a full-size environmental constraints map, please visit the project page at www.keepitmovingdallas.com/US287.

SLIDE 12 – Environmental Process

A Categorical Exclusion (CE) determination is anticipated for this project according to the National Environmental Policy Act. The public will have access to the environmental documentation once it is completed that includes the assessment of:

- air quality
- bicycle and pedestrian accommodations
- community impacts
- cultural resources
- hazardous materials
- right of way and easements
- traffic noise
- vegetation and wildlife, and
- water resources

SLIDE 13 – Right of Way

A total of approximately 23 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.

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 14 – Next Steps and Timeline

The public comment period for the proposed project ends Friday, March 24, 2023. Following this meeting, documentation of this public meeting will be reviewed by TxDOT. A public hearing is planned for the summer of 2023 and final environmental clearance is expected by 2024.

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 shown here.

Comments must be received or postmarked by March 24, 2023, to be include in 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 online at the project website.

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

We sincerely appreciate your participation and interest concerning the proposed design of the US 287 project. Your questions, comments and concerns will receive careful consideration.

Thank you very much.