

PUBLIC HEARING SCRIPT
US 75 TECHNOLOGY LANES
FROM I-635 TO SH 121/SRT
DALLAS AND COLLIN COUNTIES
CSJs: 0047-06-158; 0047-06-163; 0047-07-232
THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023, FROM 5:30 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M.
FIRST BAPTIST RICHARDSON
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www.keepitmovingdallas.com/US75TechLanes

SLIDE 1 – Title Slide

Hello and welcome to the Public Hearing for the US 75 Technology Lanes from I-635 to State Highway 121/Sam Rayburn Tollway 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 – End The Streak

November 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on Texas roadways, and 4,474 people lost their lives in 2022. 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 – Welcome

Howdy, 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 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, which can be accessed by calling (972) 454-0786.

For the benefit of those who have never participated before, we will explain why the Department conducts public hearings.

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 give 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 US 75 Technology Lanes.

SLIDE 5 – Viewing the Project Information

The design schematic and environmental documentation for the US 75 Technology Lanes 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 proposed project is to improve mobility and air quality in the corridor and manage congestion during peak travel times.

The proposed improvements are needed to relieve congestion and manage current and future travel demand.

SLIDE 7 – Project Location and Scope of Work

TxDOT is proposing to convert the existing US 75 HOV lanes to peak-hour technology lanes from I-635 in Dallas to State Highway 121/Sam Rayburn Tollway between Dallas and McKinney.

Construction of the project will replace the double white stripes and pylons currently along the US 75 HOV lanes with broken white stripes to allow for continuous ingress and egress between the technology lanes and general-purpose lanes. Dynamic message signs and overhead signs will be located at various locations to communicate operation times for the peak-hour technology lanes. As part of this project, TxDOT will also reconstruct the center barrier and add high-mast lighting.

Additional right of way will not be needed for this project and truck lane restrictions in the project area will follow existing state laws.

SLIDE 8 – Existing Condition

The existing US 75 HOV lanes are separated by double white stripes and pylons. Because of this setup, vehicles have limited ingress and egress between the HOV lanes and the general-purpose lanes. Additionally, only vehicles with two or more occupants may use the HOV lanes at all times of the day and week.

SLIDE 9 – Existing and Proposed Typical Section

The existing roadway consists of four general-purpose lanes in each direction, two concurrent HOV lanes with pylons separating the HOV and general-purpose lanes, and three frontage road lanes in each direction.

This project would replace the existing HOV lanes with technology lanes. The proposed typical section would consist of four 11-foot general-purpose lanes in each direction, one 11- to 12-foot peak-hour technology lane in each direction, 10- to 11-foot outside shoulders, and a variable inside shoulder with concrete median barrier. No additional right of way would be needed for the project.

SLIDE 10 – Times of Operation

Dynamic message signs and overhead signs will be located at various locations to communicate operation times for the peak-hour technology lanes. During peak travel times – southbound in the morning and northbound in the evening – high-occupancy vehicles, low-emission vehicles, and motorcycles will be allowed to access the technology lanes. In non-peak hours, high-occupancy vehicles, low-emission vehicles, motorcycles, and single-occupant vehicles will be allowed in the technology lanes. Truck restrictions per existing state law will be in place at all times.

SLIDE 11 – Project Construction Cost and Schedule

The US 75 Technology Lanes Project is anticipated to be Ready to Let by Summer 2023 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 estimated construction cost for the project is \$57 million. The project is fully funded for construction.

SLIDE 12 – Environmental

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 75 Technology Lanes 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 and Al Día, on 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 13 – Environmental Review / Additional Resources

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 slide includes a summary of those findings.

SLIDE 14 – Environmental Review / Additional Resources

Community Impacts

A Community Impacts Assessment Technical Report was completed for the project. Land use within the study area includes undeveloped land, a mix of urban areas, parks, schools, hospitals, places of worship, residential, and emergency and municipal use. A review of census data determined the presence of minority, low-income and Limited English Proficiency populations within the community study area. No disproportionately high or adverse impacts to these populations is anticipated. No displacements would occur. The proposed project is anticipated to have beneficial impacts on access and travel patterns, and impacts to community cohesion are not anticipated.

Traffic Noise

A FHWA Traffic Noise Model was used to calculate existing and predicted traffic noise levels. 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, new noise barriers are determined not to be both reasonable and feasible. Modeling indicated that the performance of existing noise barriers remains acoustically feasible and reasonable and therefore no changes to the existing noise barriers are proposed.

Conclusion

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

SLIDE 15 – Project Timeline

The public comment period for the proposed project ends **Friday, March 31, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.** 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 the **spring of 2023.**

As mentioned earlier, the project has an anticipated Ready to Let Date of **summer 2023.** “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 project is anticipated to be open to additional traffic by **2026.**

This concludes the environmental evaluation portion of the presentation.

SLIDE 16 – How to Submit 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 on or before **Friday, March 31, 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/US75TechLanes.

SLIDE 17 – Thank You

We sincerely appreciate your participation and interest concerning the proposed design of the US 75 Technology Lanes project. Your questions, comments and concerns will receive careful consideration. Thank you very much.