

# **PUBLIC MEETING**

**SL 288**

**FROM EAST OF I-35 TO US 380**

**DENTON COUNTY**

**CSJs 2250-02-025; 0135-10-066**

**JULY 27, 2023**

**Denton High School**

**3001 Bronco Way, Denton, TX 76207**

**[Keepitmovingdallas.com/projects/state-highways/SL288East](https://keepitmovingdallas.com/projects/state-highways/SL288East)**

---

## **SLIDE 1 – Title Slide**

Hello and welcome to the Public Meeting for State Loop 288 from east of I-35 to US 380. 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 – Project Location Map**

This project is for State Loop 288 from east I-35 to US 380. The proposed improvements include reconstructing and widening the State Loop 288 mainlanes from four to six lanes and constructing frontage roads, two lanes in each direction.

### **SLIDE 5 – Public Meeting Purpose and 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 for 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, TxDOT 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 this project along State Loop 288 from east of I-35 to US 380.

#### **SLIDE 6 – Viewing the Project Information**

The design schematic and current environmental documentation for the State Loop 288 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](http://www.keepitmovingdallas.com) under “Public Hearings / Meetings.” The information on this website is the same information being shown in this presentation.

### **SLIDE 7 – Project Purpose and Need**

The purpose of the State Loop 288 from east of I-35 to US 380 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 8 – Project History**

TxDOT previously performed a feasibility study on the US 380 and State Loop 288 corridor, which looked at constructing a new connection between State Loop 288 and US 380. The feasibility study proposed locating the new connection where the blue line is on the map. Since the feasibility study was completed in August 2022, an additional alignment is being proposed to be evaluated, shown in orange on the map.

### **SLIDE 9 – Existing Typical Section – SL 288**

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 on State Loop 288. 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.

### **SLIDE 10 – Existing Typical Section – US 380**

The existing roadway right of way is 150-feet-wide and consists of three 12-foot-wide travel lanes in each direction with a two-way left-turn lane between the travel lanes. There is a partial existing sidewalk for bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

### **SLIDE 11 – Proposed Typical Section**

The proposed project includes a right of way of 350- to 400-feet. The proposed section will add an additional lane in each direction as well as add two 12-foot frontage roads in each direction. The proposed project also includes the addition of a 10-foot shared-use path on both sides of the roadway.

Grade-separated interchanges will be included at US 77, Bonnie Brae Street, Locust Street, and Sherman Drive.

### **SLIDE 12 – Project Cost & Schedule**

The State Loop 288 from east of I-35 to US 380 project is anticipated to be “Ready to Let” by 2028. “Ready to Let” is when TxDOT notifies the construction community that a project is ready to be bid on after all right of way 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 \$922 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 13 – 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 will be conducted for the proposed SL 288 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 Denton-Record Chronicle, 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 meeting. The TxDOT technical reports will be made available for your review on the project website once they are completed.

#### **SLIDE 14 – 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, cemeteries, archeological sites, and potential hazardous materials sites. To view a full-size environmental constraints map, please visit the project page at [www.keepitmovingdallas.com/projects/state-highways/SL288East](http://www.keepitmovingdallas.com/projects/state-highways/SL288East).

#### **SLIDE 15 – Right of Way**

A total of approximately 190 acres of new right of way would be required to complete the proposed improvements and would potentially have 26 residential, 5 commercial and 22 outbuilding displacements for the new schematic alignment.

A total of approximately 139 acres of new right of way would be required and would potentially have 9 residential, 2 commercial and 1 outbuilding displacements for the feasibility study alignment.

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 16 –Project Timeline**

The public comment period for this public meeting ends Friday, August 11, 2023. Following this meeting, documentation of this public meeting will be reviewed by TxDOT. A second public meeting is planned for Spring of 2024, a public hearing is planned for early 2025 and final environmental clearance is expected by Summer of 2025.

As mentioned earlier, the project has an anticipated Ready to Let Date of 2028.

This concludes the environmental evaluation portion of the presentation.

### **SLIDE 17 – How to Submit 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 Friday, August 11, 2023, to be included 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 18 – Thank You**

We sincerely appreciate your participation and interest concerning the proposed design of the State Loop 288 project. Your questions, comments and concerns will receive careful consideration. Thank you very much.