

PUBLIC MEETING

US 287

FROM US 67 TO BUS 287

ELLIS COUNTY

CSJs 0172-05-127; 0172-13-008

JUNE 1, 2023

Midlothian Conference Center

1 Community Circle Drive, Midlothian, TX 76065

www.keepitmovingdallas.com/projects/us-highways/US287MidlothianEast

SLIDE 1 – Title Slide

Hello and welcome to the Public Meeting for US 287 from US 67 to Business 287. 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 – 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 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, 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 US 287 from US 67 to Business 287.

SLIDE 4 – 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 5 – Project Purpose and Need

The purpose of the US 287 from US 67 to Business 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 6 – 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.

SLIDE 7 – Proposed Typical Section

The proposed project includes a right of way of 274- to 342-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 from US 67 to BUS 287.

SLIDE 8 – Project Cost & Schedule

The US 287 from US 67 to Business 287 project is anticipated to be “Ready to Let” by 2028 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 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 \$361 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 9 – 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 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 Midlothian Mirror, Waxahachie Daily Light, 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 10 – 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/us-highways/US287MidlothianEast.

SLIDE 11 – Right of Way

A total of approximately 24.6 acres of new right of way would be required to complete the proposed improvements as well as two potential commercial displacements 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 12 –Project Timeline

The public comment period for this public meeting ends Friday, June 16, 2023. Following this meeting, documentation of this public meeting will be reviewed by TxDOT. A public hearing is planned for the summer of 2024 and final environmental clearance is expected by Fall of 2024.

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

This concludes the environmental evaluation portion of the presentation.

SLIDE 13 – How to Submit a Comment

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 June 16, 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 14 – Thank You

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.