

PUBLIC MEETING SCRIPT
UNITED STATES HIGHWAY (US) 377 IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
DENTON COUNTY
CSJ(S): 0081-03-049
Thursday, May 11, 2023, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Byron Nelson High School Cafeteria
2775 Bobcat Boulevard, Trophy Club, TX 76262
www.keepitmovingdallas.com/US377Roanoke

SLIDE 1 – Title Slide

Hello and welcome to the Public Meeting for the US 377 Improvements Project. This public 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 Texas roadways and 4,480 people lost their lives in 2021. 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 – 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 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 377 Improvements Project.

SLIDE 4 – Viewing the Project Information

The design schematic and environmental documentation for the US 377 Improvements 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, at the TxDOT Denton County Area Office, located at 2624 W. Prairie, Denton, Texas 76201. In addition, the design schematic may be viewed at

<http://www.KeepItMovingDallas.com/US377Roanoke>. The information on this website is the same information being shown in this presentation.

SLIDE 5 – Project Location

TxDOT and Denton County are proposing the reconstruction and widening of US 377 from SH 114 in Roanoke to south of FM 1171 in Flower Mound within Denton County.

SLIDE 6 – Project Details

The US 377 proposed improvements include reconstruction and widening of US 377 from a two-lane rural minor arterial roadway to a four-lane divided urban roadway with raised medians, curbs, sidewalk, and shared-use path for approximately 3.4 miles.

SLIDE 7 – Project Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed project is to reconstruct and widen US 377 in order to improve north-south mobility, safety and to accommodate future traffic demand by adding capacity.

The proposed project is needed because population growth within Denton County has caused increases in current and forecasted traffic volumes that exceed the capacity of US 377 between SH 114 and south of FM 1171, leading to increased congestion and reduced mobility.

SLIDE 8 – Existing Facility

The existing US 377 roadway within the project limits is currently two 12-foot-wide lanes with 10-foot-wide shoulders. There are no pedestrian or bike accommodations. The

existing right-of-way varies between 140 to 487-ft wide throughout the length of the project.

SLIDE 9 – Proposed Facility

The proposed project would widen approximately 3.4 miles of US 377 to a four-lane divided arterial roadway. A bridge will be expanded across the Denton Creek floodplain. Right and left turn lanes are provided as appropriate along the project. The proposed project would require approximately 6.1 acres of additional ROW to expand the roadway.

SLIDE 10 – Projected Cost & Schedule

The US 377 Improvements Project is anticipated to be Ready to Let by 2027 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 \$80 million. The project is not funded for construction and cannot let until full funding is identified; however, right of way acquisition can proceed even if the project is not funded for construction.

SLIDE 11 – 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 377 Improvements 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 meeting were advertised in *The Denton Record Chronicle and Al Día*, on the [TxDOT.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) website under “Hearings and Meetings Schedule” and on [Keepitmovingdallas.com](http://www.Keepitmovingdallas.com) under “Public Hearings and Meetings.” The TxDOT Public Information Office also prepared a news media release to advertise the public meeting. The TxDOT roadway design schematics are available on the project website at <http://www.Keepitmovingdallas.com/US377Roanoke>.

SLIDE 12 – Environmental Constraints Map

The project Environmental Constraints Map is used to help planners and engineers determine the least impactful method to fulfill the purpose of the project. The full map can be viewed on the project website. In the case of US 377, some of the major known constraints include two stream crossings for Denton Creek, one stream crossing for Cade Branch, one stream crossing for Graham Branch, three petroleum storage tanks, one transmission line near the project limits, and crossings of the 100-year floodplain. Environmental studies for this project are ongoing.

SLIDE 13 – Environmental Review – Right-of-Way

Approximately 6 acres of new right-of-way would be required for the proposed improvements. 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 titled “The Purchase of Right of Way,” and “Relocation Assistance,” are available on the project website. These materials contain detailed information to inform you of your rights and to provide information about the TxDOT right-of-way acquisition process.

SLIDE 14 – Project Timeline

The public comment period for the proposed project ends Friday, May 26, 2023. Following this meeting, documentation of this public meeting will be reviewed by TxDOT for final environmental clearance and design approval. If there are no major issues arising from this meeting that cannot be addressed in a reasonable time frame, final environmental clearance is expected by Spring 2024.

As mentioned earlier, the project has an anticipated Ready to Let Date of 2027. The project is anticipated to be open to traffic by 2029.

This concludes the environmental evaluation portion of the presentation.

SLIDE 15 – Public 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 or postmarked by Friday, May 26, 2023, to be part of 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 and copying at the TxDOT Dallas District Office located at 4777 East Highway 80 in Mesquite, Texas 75150, and online at the project website.

SLIDE 16 – “Thank You for your Interest” / Meeting is now Adjourned

We sincerely appreciate your participation and interest concerning the proposed design of the US 377 Improvements Project. Your questions, comments and concerns will receive careful consideration.

Thank you very much.