

PUBLIC HEARING SCRIPT

US 80 AND SPUR 557

US 80: FROM FM 460 TO SPUR 557

SPUR 557: FROM US 80 TO I-20

KAUFMAN COUNTY, TEXAS

CSJS: 0095-03-106, 0095-04-076, 0495-01-081

Thursday, February 8, 2024

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Rhodes Intermediate School

775 Innovation Blvd., Forney, TX 75126

www.KeepItMovingDallas.com/projects/us-highways/US80-Spur557

SLIDE 1 – Title Slide

Hello and welcome to the Public Hearing for the US 80 and Spur 557 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 over 80,000 people have lost their lives since then. 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—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 Hearing Purpose and Changes to 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.

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

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 provide 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 80 and Spur 557 project.

SLIDE 5 – Viewing the Project Information

The design schematic and environmental documentation for the US 80 and Spur 557 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 Kaufman County Area Office, located at 3260 FM 2728 Kaufman, Texas 75142. 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 Location

The US 80 project limits are from FM 460 (Clements Drive) east to Spur 557. Along Spur 557, the project limits extend from US 80 to I-20. The total project length is approximately 12.1 miles and is located in Kaufman County, Texas. The project is located within the cities of Forney and Terrell.

SLIDE 7 - Project Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to improve safety and mobility to accommodate for future traffic volumes along US 80/Spur 557 within the project limits.

The proposed project is needed to improve safety, and to meet current and future travel demands from projected future population growth and traffic volumes.

SLIDE 8– Existing & Proposed Facility – US 80

The existing US 80 facility from FM 460 to Spur 557 is currently a four-lane divided highway (two lanes in each direction) divided by a grassy median. US 80 also has one-way and two-way frontage roads at some locations, with one to three lanes in each direction and turn lanes at various cross-street intersections. The existing typical right-of-way (ROW) width varies from approximately 300 to 400 feet along US 80.

The US 80 proposed improvements consist of three 12-foot-wide travel lanes with typical ten foot inside shoulders in each direction divided by a concrete barrier along the centerline. The proposed improvements would also include one-way continuous two-lane frontage roads in each direction with ramp improvements that connect frontage roads to mainlanes with an auxiliary lane. Pedestrian and bicycle accommodations are proposed to include 10-foot shared use paths on the outside of the frontage roads in each direction west of FM 548. East of FM 548, a 10-foot shared use path is proposed along the northern (westbound) frontage road. The proposed typical ROW width varies from 300 to 430 feet along US 80, with wider footprints to accommodate large cross-street interchanges.

SLIDE 9 – Existing & Proposed Facility Spur 557

From US 80 to IH 20, Spur 557 consists of a four-lane divided highway (two lanes in each direction) divided by a grassy median. Spur 557 also has one-way discontinuous one to two-lane frontage roads. The existing ROW varies from 360 to 400 feet along Spur 557.

The Spur 557 proposed improvements consist of reconstructing Spur 557 from a four-lane divided to a six-lane divided highway with a concrete barrier along the centerline. The proposed project would also include one-way continuous two to three-lane frontage roads in each direction with ramping improvements, shared use paths and sidewalks. The proposed typical ROW width varies from 380 to 500 feet along Spur 557, with wider footprints to accommodate large cross-street interchanges.

SLIDE 10 – Projected Construction Cost & Schedule

The US 80 and Spur 557 project is anticipated to be Ready to Let by August 2027, pending funding. “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 approximately **\$1.28 billion**. The project is currently unfunded. A project cannot let until funding is identified; however, right of way acquisition can proceed even if a project does not have construction funding.

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 80 and Spur 557 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 Terrell Tribune, Forney Messenger, and Al Dia, 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 12 – Environmental Review / Impacts Addressed

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 slides include a summary of those findings.

SLIDE 13 – Environmental Review / Right-of-Way

A total of approximately 17 acres of new right-of-way would be required to complete the proposed improvements. No displacements are anticipated.

No public facilities such as recreational facilities, churches, schools, or cemeteries, would be displaced as a result of the construction of the proposed project.

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 TxDOT right-of-way acquisition process.

SLIDE 14 – Environmental Review continued

Traffic Noise

A Traffic Noise Analysis was performed in accordance with TxDOT’s (and Federal Highway Administration approved) Guidelines for Analysis and Abatement of Roadway Traffic Noise. Based on the analysis, a noise barrier was determined to be reasonable and feasible at one location. The location of the noise barrier will be finalized after a noise workshop has been conducted for adjacent property owners.

Section 4(f)

No impacts to public parks, recreational areas, or wildlife/waterfowl refuges will occur as a result of the proposed project. A programmatic Section 4(f) checklist was prepared for

each of the two National Register of Historic Places-eligible historic bridges and a *de minimis* checklist for the Landmark Hill property was completed.

Proposed right of way will be required from one National Register of Historic Places-eligible historic site, Landmark Hill property. It was determined to have no adverse impact to the site and was coordinated with the Texas Historical Commission.

Cultural Resources

The proposed project will result in the replacement of two National Register of Historic Places-eligible historic bridges, located at County Road 217 at US 80 and Windmill Farms Boulevard at US 80.

Waters of the U.S.

Potential impacts to waters of the U.S. include six intermittent streams and two perennial streams. Impacts would be authorized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under a Section 404 Nationwide Permit 14.

Conclusion

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

SLIDE 15 – Next Steps and Timeline

The public comment period for the proposed project ends February 23, 2024. 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 Spring 2024.

As mentioned earlier, pending funding, the project has an anticipated Ready to Let Date of August 2027.

This concludes the environmental evaluation portion of the presentation.

SLIDE 16 – 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 February 23, 2024 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 the project website.

SLIDE 17 – “Thank You for your Interest” / Hearing is now Adjourned

We sincerely appreciate your participation and interest concerning the proposed design of the US 80 and Spur 557 project. Your questions, comments and concerns will receive careful consideration.

Thank you very much.