



Public Involvement Overview and Lessons Learned in Contracting

2023 PEPS Conference

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Transportation Planning & Programming Division, PI Section

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HELP #EndTheStreakTX

End the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways.

TxDOT.gov (Keyword: #EndTheStreakTX)



#EndTheStreakTX Toolkit





*The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) commits to purposefully involve the public in planning and project implementation by providing for **early, continuous**, transparent and effective **access to information** and decision-making processes. TxDOT will regularly update public involvement methods to include best practices in public involvement and incorporate a range of strategies to encourage broad participation **reflective of the needs of the state's population**.*

Minute Order No. 11255

Signed by the Texas Transportation Commission on Jan. 27, 2011



“Two-way communication aimed at incorporating the views, concerns and issues of the public into the decision-making process.”

PI Objectives

- Early and continuous public involvement
- Consideration of the needs of the traditionally underserved
- Collaboration with local agencies, local governments, transportation entities, and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO)
- Convenient meeting times and locations
- Reasonable access to information
- Timely notice of public involvement activities, appropriate review and comment periods
- Acknowledgement and consideration of public comments

Title 23 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts 450.210 and 450.316.

Why is Scoping and Planning for Robust PI Important?



Broad Outreach
Saves Time and
Money!



Proactive
engagement
builds trust that
may reduce
project delays and
costs.





Strategic PI Guidance

PI Outreach and Meeting Materials

Limited English Proficiency (LEP), Title VI and ADA Guidance

Public-Friendly Language Support

TxDOT Branding Support and PI Templates

Public Meeting/Hearing/Outreach Event Support

PI Resources

Education and Best Practices

Overview of Outreach Strategies



- Communications plan
- Stakeholder meetings
- Changeable message signs
- Project page on txdot.gov
- Flyers, postcards and fact sheets
- Billboards, door hangers
- In-person and online open events, piggyback events
- Traditional and social media
- Newsletters and email blasts
- Community marquees
- Text messaging and hotlines
- Social Pinpoint and MetroQuest online engagement platforms

US 75 SHERMAN

WHAT IS THE US 75 SHERMAN PROJECT?
The US 75 Gage County/Sherman project is a roadway construction project by the Texas Department of Transportation to provide long-term transportation and mobility improvements on US 75 and US 82.

IMPROVEMENTS

- Widening the existing 4-lane to 6-lane divided urban section from FM 2457 to US 82 in Sherman, TX
- Creation of continuous frontage roads along the US 75 corridor
- US 75/US 82 intersection improvements
- Urban at-grade intersections
- Reconstruction of the North-Texas Street Bridge
- Addition of frontage road lanes and U-turns at the US 75 and US 82 interchange
- Merge the US 75 mainline between Loring Street to Westinghouse Street out of the 100-year floodplain

PROJECT MAP

QUICK PROJECT FACTS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is the project team involved in the US 75 project?
Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) owns the project. Zachary Construction is the contractor with various providing construction engineering inspection services.

SOUTHWEST DR INTERSECTION PROJECT

DETOUR

PROJECT DETAILS
District/County: Austin
District/County: Travis County
Highway/Landmark: US 83
Contract and Turnaround at: South 7th Street/US 83
Length: 0.134 miles
Cost: \$3,246,615
CIP: 100A-01-129
Letting: June 2017

PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS
The proposed project will remove the existing roadway surface and replace with concrete to create a concrete pavement intersection. Signing and pavement markings will also be replaced where necessary.

PROJECTED SCHEDULE

Phase	Start Date	End Date	Duration
Phase 1	August 1, 2017	August 31, 2017	31 days
Phase 2	September 1, 2017	September 30, 2017	30 days
Phase 3	October 1, 2017	October 31, 2017	31 days
Phase 4	November 1, 2017	November 30, 2017	30 days
Phase 5	December 1, 2017	December 31, 2017	31 days
Phase 6	January 1, 2018	January 31, 2018	31 days
Phase 7	February 1, 2018	February 28, 2018	28 days
Phase 8	March 1, 2018	March 31, 2018	31 days
Phase 9	April 1, 2018	April 30, 2018	30 days
Phase 10	May 1, 2018	May 31, 2018	31 days
Phase 11	June 1, 2018	June 30, 2018	30 days
Phase 12	July 1, 2018	July 31, 2018	31 days
Phase 13	August 1, 2018	August 31, 2018	31 days
Phase 14	September 1, 2018	September 30, 2018	30 days
Phase 15	October 1, 2018	October 31, 2018	31 days
Phase 16	November 1, 2018	November 30, 2018	30 days
Phase 17	December 1, 2018	December 31, 2018	31 days
Phase 18	January 1, 2019	January 31, 2019	31 days
Phase 19	February 1, 2019	February 28, 2019	28 days
Phase 20	March 1, 2019	March 31, 2019	31 days
Phase 21	April 1, 2019	April 30, 2019	30 days
Phase 22	May 1, 2019	May 31, 2019	31 days
Phase 23	June 1, 2019	June 30, 2019	30 days
Phase 24	July 1, 2019	July 31, 2019	31 days
Phase 25	August 1, 2019	August 31, 2019	31 days
Phase 26	September 1, 2019	September 30, 2019	30 days
Phase 27	October 1, 2019	October 31, 2019	31 days
Phase 28	November 1, 2019	November 30, 2019	30 days
Phase 29	December 1, 2019	December 31, 2019	31 days
Phase 30	January 1, 2020	January 31, 2020	31 days
Phase 31	February 1, 2020	February 28, 2020	28 days
Phase 32	March 1, 2020	March 31, 2020	31 days
Phase 33	April 1, 2020	April 30, 2020	30 days
Phase 34	May 1, 2020	May 31, 2020	31 days
Phase 35	June 1, 2020	June 30, 2020	30 days
Phase 36	July 1, 2020	July 31, 2020	31 days
Phase 37	August 1, 2020	August 31, 2020	31 days
Phase 38	September 1, 2020	September 30, 2020	30 days
Phase 39	October 1, 2020	October 31, 2020	31 days
Phase 40	November 1, 2020	November 30, 2020	30 days
Phase 41	December 1, 2020	December 31, 2020	31 days
Phase 42	January 1, 2021	January 31, 2021	31 days
Phase 43	February 1, 2021	February 28, 2021	28 days
Phase 44	March 1, 2021	March 31, 2021	31 days
Phase 45	April 1, 2021	April 30, 2021	30 days
Phase 46	May 1, 2021	May 31, 2021	31 days
Phase 47	June 1, 2021	June 30, 2021	30 days
Phase 48	July 1, 2021	July 31, 2021	31 days
Phase 49	August 1, 2021	August 31, 2021	31 days
Phase 50	September 1, 2021	September 30, 2021	30 days
Phase 51	October 1, 2021	October 31, 2021	31 days
Phase 52	November 1, 2021	November 30, 2021	30 days
Phase 53	December 1, 2021	December 31, 2021	31 days
Phase 54	January 1, 2022	January 31, 2022	31 days
Phase 55	February 1, 2022	February 28, 2022	28 days
Phase 56	March 1, 2022	March 31, 2022	31 days
Phase 57	April 1, 2022	April 30, 2022	30 days
Phase 58	May 1, 2022	May 31, 2022	31 days
Phase 59	June 1, 2022	June 30, 2022	30 days
Phase 60	July 1, 2022	July 31, 2022	31 days
Phase 61	August 1, 2022	August 31, 2022	31 days
Phase 62	September 1, 2022	September 30, 2022	30 days
Phase 63	October 1, 2022	October 31, 2022	31 days
Phase 64	November 1, 2022	November 30, 2022	30 days
Phase 65	December 1, 2022	December 31, 2022	31 days
Phase 66	January 1, 2023	January 31, 2023	31 days
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Phase 68	March 1, 2023	March 31, 2023	31 days
Phase 69	April 1, 2023	April 30, 2023	30 days
Phase 70	May 1, 2023	May 31, 2023	31 days
Phase 71	June 1, 2023	June 30, 2023	30 days
Phase 72	July 1, 2023	July 31, 2023	31 days
Phase 73	August 1, 2023	August 31, 2023	31 days
Phase 74	September 1, 2023	September 30, 2023	30 days
Phase 75	October 1, 2023	October 31, 2023	31 days
Phase 76	November 1, 2023	November 30, 2023	30 days
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Phase 83	June 1, 2024	June 30, 2024	30 days
Phase 84	July 1, 2024	July 31, 2024	31 days
Phase 85	August 1, 2024	August 31, 2024	31 days
Phase 86	September 1, 2024	September 30, 2024	30 days
Phase 87	October 1, 2024	October 31, 2024	31 days
Phase 88	November 1, 2024	November 30, 2024	30 days
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Phase 92	March 1, 2025	March 31, 2025	31 days
Phase 93	April 1, 2025	April 30, 2025	30 days
Phase 94	May 1, 2025	May 31, 2025	31 days
Phase 95	June 1, 2025	June 30, 2025	30 days
Phase 96	July 1, 2025	July 31, 2025	31 days
Phase 97	August 1, 2025	August 31, 2025	31 days
Phase 98	September 1, 2025	September 30, 2025	30 days
Phase 99	October 1, 2025	October 31, 2025	31 days
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Phase 105	April 1, 2026	April 30, 2026	30 days
Phase 106	May 1, 2026	May 31, 2026	31 days
Phase 107	June 1, 2026	June 30, 2026	30 days
Phase 108	July 1, 2026	July 31, 2026	31 days
Phase 109	August 1, 2026	August 31, 2026	31 days
Phase 110	September 1, 2026	September 30, 2026	30 days
Phase 111	October 1, 2026	October 31, 2026	31 days
Phase 112	November 1, 2026	November 30, 2026	30 days
Phase 113	December 1, 2026	December 31, 2026	31 days
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Phase 122	September 1, 2027	September 30, 2027	30 days
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Phase 170	September 1, 2031	September 30, 2031	30 days
Phase 171	October 1, 2031	October 31, 2031	31 days
Phase 172	November 1, 2031	November 30, 2031	30 days
Phase 173	December 1, 2031	December 31, 2031	31 days
Phase 174	January 1, 2032	January 31, 2032	31 days
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Phase 179	June 1, 2032	June 30, 2032	30 days
Phase 180	July 1, 2032	July 31, 2032	31 days
Phase 181	August 1, 2032	August 31, 2032	31 days
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Phase 192	July 1, 2033	July 31, 2033	31 days
Phase 193	August 1, 2033	August 31, 2033	31 days
Phase 194	September 1, 2033	September 30, 2033	30 days
Phase 195	October 1, 2033	October 31, 2033	31 days
Phase 196	November 1, 2033	November 30, 2033	30 days
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Phase 198	January 1, 2034	January 31, 2034	31 days
Phase 199	February 1, 2034		

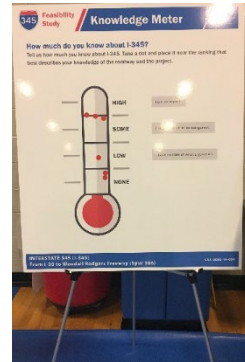
Creatively Engaging the Public to Increase Feedback



Engaging the public in creative ways increases participation and improves feedback, such as:

- Interactive exercises during public meetings
- Facilitated in-person stakeholder meetings; use blue sticky wall
- Social media
- Surveys
- PollEverywhere
- Open house guide map
- Route drawing or use of ribbons
- Online engagement station

Lampasas Relief Route
Ribbon Activity



I-345 Dallas
Knowledge Meter

SH 63 Stakeholder
Meeting



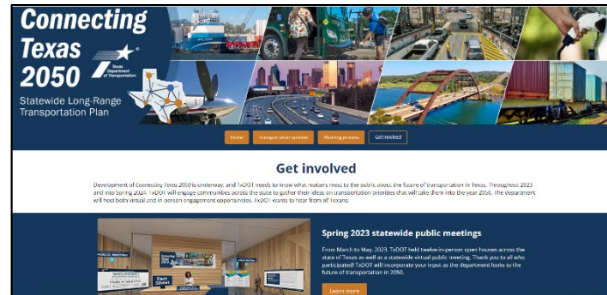
US 281 Waco Exhibit Board
Interactive Exercise



The TPP PI Section offers two online engagement platforms:

Social Pinpoint (SPP) and MetroQuest (MQ):

- SPP focuses on enhancing public input by coupling engagement with context and project information
- MQ established a robust interactive survey tool for any stage of a project to gather preferences, consider options and rank priorities
- SPP has acquired MQ; the PI Section team will receive training in the coming months





Let's Help Each Other:

If you see any public involvement in contract scopes, ask your district contact: ***Are there opportunities to improve PI?***

- *Every district is supported by a PI Section planner; reach out to Susan Howard if you're unsure who to contact*

PI Section will also contact procurement if we see any contract red flags

Develop an appropriate PI budget – ***beyond*** the required public involvement (NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act)

PI Section can review to ensure PI approach/costs are aligned with statewide best practices and our PI policy



“ Scoping robust public involvement into our consultant contracts for all phases helps avoid unforeseen pitfalls and roadblocks, which often cause project delays and escalating costs. Public involvement can also help define what goals the project is actually trying to achieve, ensuring our transportation projects meet the expectations of impacted stakeholders and communities. Including public involvement scope into our construction engineering and inspection contracts has proven highly successful in mitigating changes to stakeholder expectations that naturally occur on projects with long construction durations.”

- Michael Bolin, Deputy District Engineer, Waco District

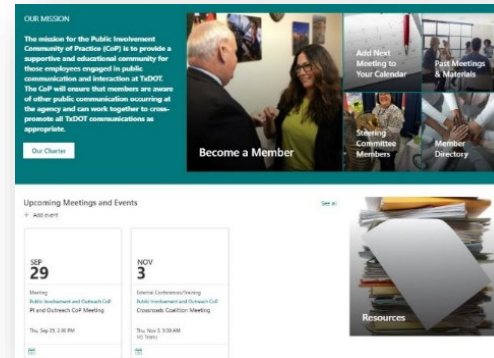
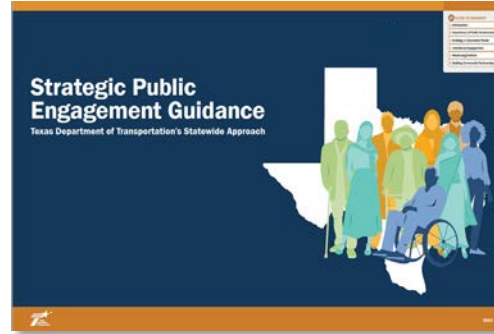


- ✓ Encourage districts/divisions to include the PI Section with contract/PI scoping activities/discussions
- ✓ Ask if scopes include Public Involvement Plans (PIPs)
- ✓ Ensure techniques are included beyond simply a notice/ad (encourage innovation)
- ✓ Encourage demographic research to ensure techniques support what communities expect



- ✗ Default to scoping the minimum PI requirements only and/or copy and paste one PI scope into another PI scope – there is never a blanket/standard PI approach
- ✗ Blindly approve (PI Section can assist, lowering costs)
- ✗ Approve project websites/logos; TxDOT project pages are the standard

- Internal and external events and conferences
- TxDOT Area Engineer Graduation Program
- Strategic Public Engagement Guidance
- PI Materials Toolkit
- PI and Outreach Community of Practice (CoP)
- EPI 100, 300 and lunch-and-learn seminars

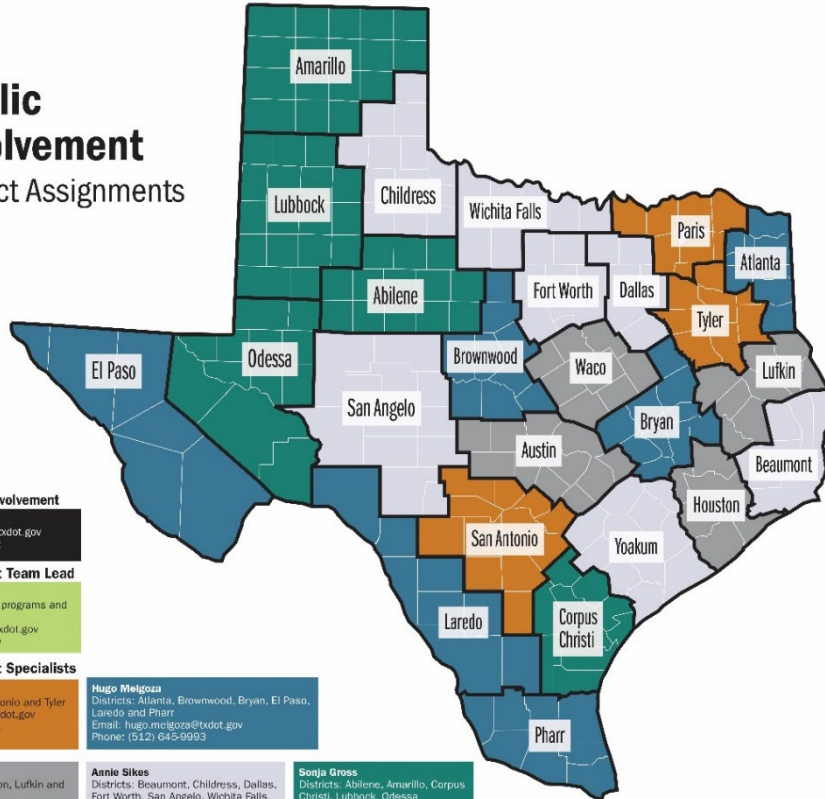


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Connecting you with the PI Section Team



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Online Resource:

Crossroads: TPP Division, Public Involvement Section



Questions and Discussion



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