



PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

NOVEMBER 30, 2022

WELCOME TO THE DOWNTOWN 10 PROJECT

From Executive Center Boulevard to State Loop 478 (Copia Street)

CSJ: 2121-02-166

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated Dec. 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.





PURPOSE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING



The purpose is to provide an opportunity to review and comment on:

- Draft Coordination Plan And Schedule
- Draft Project Purpose And Need
- The Alternatives
- Draft Range of Alternatives Technical Report

In addition, the Scoping Meeting will provide an opportunity to give input on:

- Any expected environmental impacts
- Anticipated permits or other authorizations
- Any significant issues that will be analyzed in depth in the Environmental Impact Statement



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



- **The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions**
- **An Environmental Impact Statement is prepared when it is anticipated that a proposed project could significantly affect the quality of the human and natural environment**
- **Development of the project began in 2019. Since that time, TxDOT has conducted initial project development activities and extensive public involvement**
- **Based on the National Environmental Policy Act process, TxDOT determined the project will now be classified and prepared as an Environmental Impact Statement that will evaluate a range of build alternatives and a no-build alternative**

Scoping is an open process involving the public and federal, state, and local agencies that determine a range of issues, alternatives, and potential environmental impacts considered in the Environmental Impact Statement

We Are Here



SCOPING

- **Issue Notice of Intent**
- **Host Agency and Public Scoping Meetings** – present and gather input on the draft Purpose and Need, Range of Alternatives, Methodology and Level of Detail for Analyzing Alternatives, and draft Agency Coordination Plan



CONDUCT VIABLE ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

- **Utilize agency and public input to refine viable alternatives and analyze any new alternative(s)**
- **Analyze how each alternative may impact the human and natural environment**
- **Assess engineering constraints relating to each alternative**



DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT & PUBLIC HEARING

- **Identify Preferred Alternative(s)**
- **Conduct Detailed Environmental Studies on Preferred Alternative(s)**
- **Further Develop Schematic Design**
- **Host Public Hearing** – present and gather input on the draft Environmental Impact Statement document including the Preferred Alternative(s)



FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT & RECORD OF DECISION

- **Identify Environmentally Preferred Alternative**
- **Respond to Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Statement**
- **Finalize the Environmental Impact Statement**
- **Issue Record of Decision**



DOWNTOWN 10 PROJECT OVERVIEW



DOWNTOWN 10 PROJECT

The proposed Downtown 10 project would improve I-10 from Executive Center Boulevard to State Loop 478 (Copia Street), a distance of approximately 5.7 miles. Proposed improvements may include widening and reconstruction of the mainlanes and reconstruction of cross streets. In addition, improvements may include the construction of retaining walls, bridges, and ramps, as well as the development of continuous frontage roads. Multimodal connections for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users are also proposed.

PREVIOUS STUDIES

Reimagine I-10 Corridor Study

In 2016, TxDOT conducted a study of the I-10 corridor from the New Mexico-Texas state line to Tornillo, which is 56 miles in length. The Segment 2 – Downtown was identified as a priority segment.

Mesa Study

The traffic engineering and planning study identified and evaluated all transportation aspects associated with the Mesa Street (SH 20) corridor from Doniphan Drive (SH 20) to Texas Avenue (SH 20).

PROJECT LENGTH: 5.7 MI **PROJECT LIMITS:** EXECUTIVE CENTER BLVD TO STATE LOOP 478 (COPIA ST)



200,000

Existing volumes of vehicles per day in 2018

TxDOT Statewide Planning Map AADTs

33 mph

Average peak-hour travel speed in 2019

Texas's Most Congested Roadways 2019

34%

Average increase in traffic since 1999

TxDOT Statewide Planning Map AADTs

162%

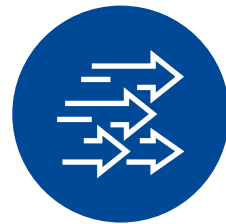
Increase in export growth since 2010

Texas-Mexico Border Transportation Master Plan 2020

Purpose and Need is the factual foundation to screen and compare design alternatives and demonstrate – through measurable and quantifiable metrics – where improvements are needed.

NEED FOR THE PROJECT

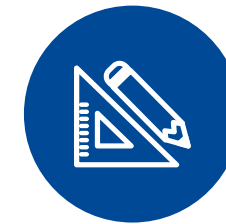
The need for the proposed project was identified and refined through the Reimagine I-10 Corridor Study and Downtown 10 initial project development, which included input from meeting with the project steering committees, workgroups, and public. Participation from these entities, combined with background research, helped to define a preliminary assessment of the need for the proposed project. The I-10 project between Executive Center Boulevard and State Loop 478 (Copia Street) is needed because of:



Traffic congestion and mobility issues



Concerns surrounding incident management



Failure to meet current design standards

PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The purpose of the proposed project within the project limits (Executive Center Boulevard and State Loop 478 [Copia Street]) is to:



Improve mobility and long-term congestion management



Reduce potential conflict points and improve incident management



Bring facility up to current design standards

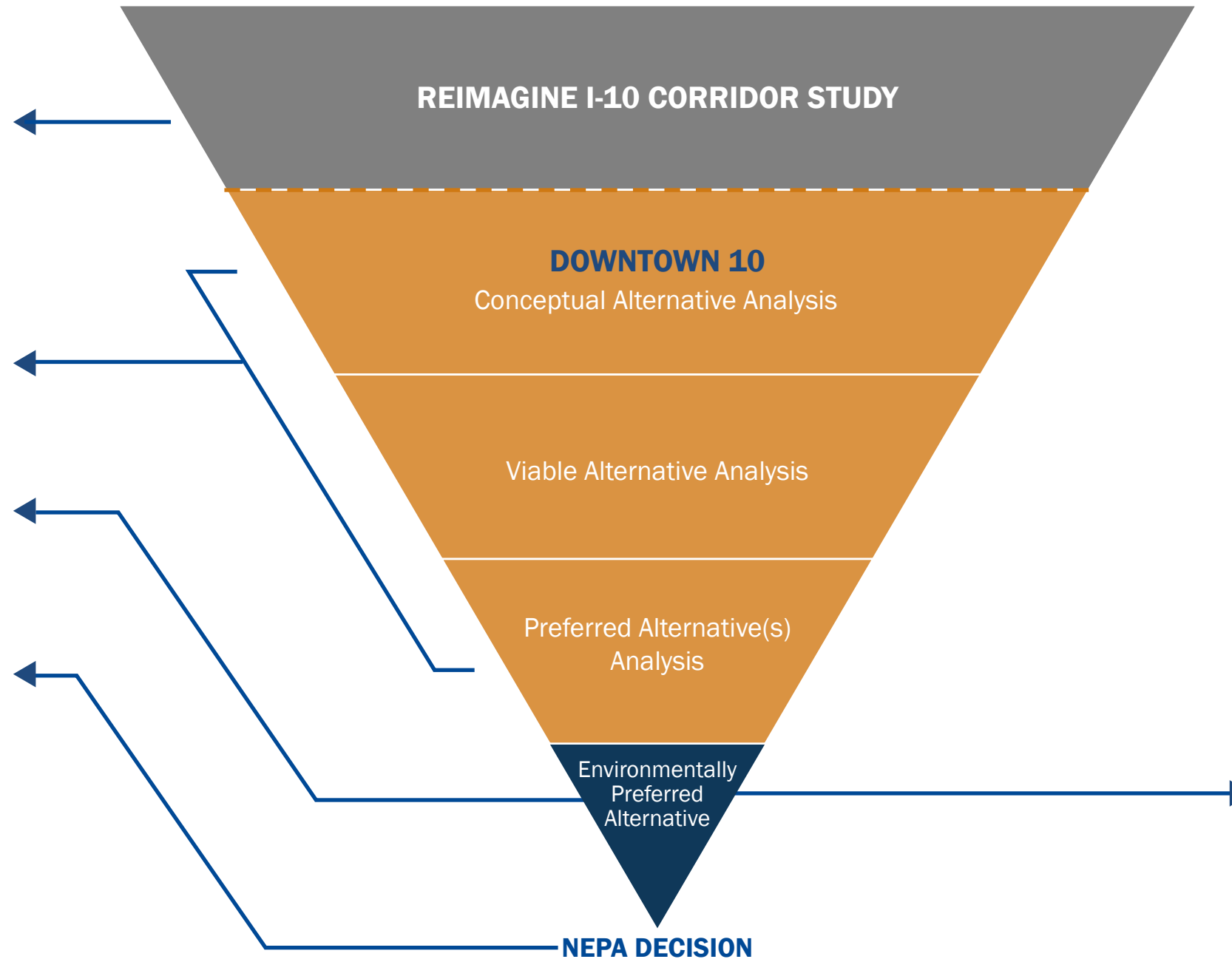
RIGHT OF WAY PROCESS

Environmental Constraints were identified within the Study Area, and impacts to those constraints were minimized and avoided where practicable

Conceptual right of way footprints created for each phase of the process are revised and, if possible, minimized as alternatives are refined

Right of way established for use in conducting environmental investigations and potential mitigation

After environmental decision, the right of way process would be initiated



The environmental process occurs throughout the lifespan of the project, and includes evaluation of potential environmental impacts in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and other state and federal environmental regulations.

In this final phase of the National Environmental Policy Act Process, tasks will include evaluation of the preferred alternative(s) and no build alternative and includes detailed assessments of potential impacts to the natural and human environment, including:

- Vegetation
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Water Resources
- Air Quality
- Archeological Resources
- Historic Resources
- Hazardous Materials
- Utilities
- Community Impacts
- Environmental Justice Communities
- Limited English Proficiency Communities
- Access and Travel Patterns
- Visual Impacts

These assessments will be documented in technical reports which will be available for public review at the time of the public hearing.



SECTION 106 PROCESS: NEXT STEPS



In our first two rounds of public outreach, several individuals requested more information regarding the historic resources process, and some specifically requested Consulting Party status in public meeting comments.

Consulting Parties to date include:

- El Paso County Historical Society
- Sunset Heights Neighborhood Improvement Association
- El Paso County Historical Commission
- City of El Paso Historic Preservation Officer
- National Parks Service National Trails Office
- Three private individuals

Do you know of other people or organizations with specific knowledge of local historic resources that we should contact?

We will continue to provide information at all meetings regarding the Section 106 Process and the Consulting Party role.

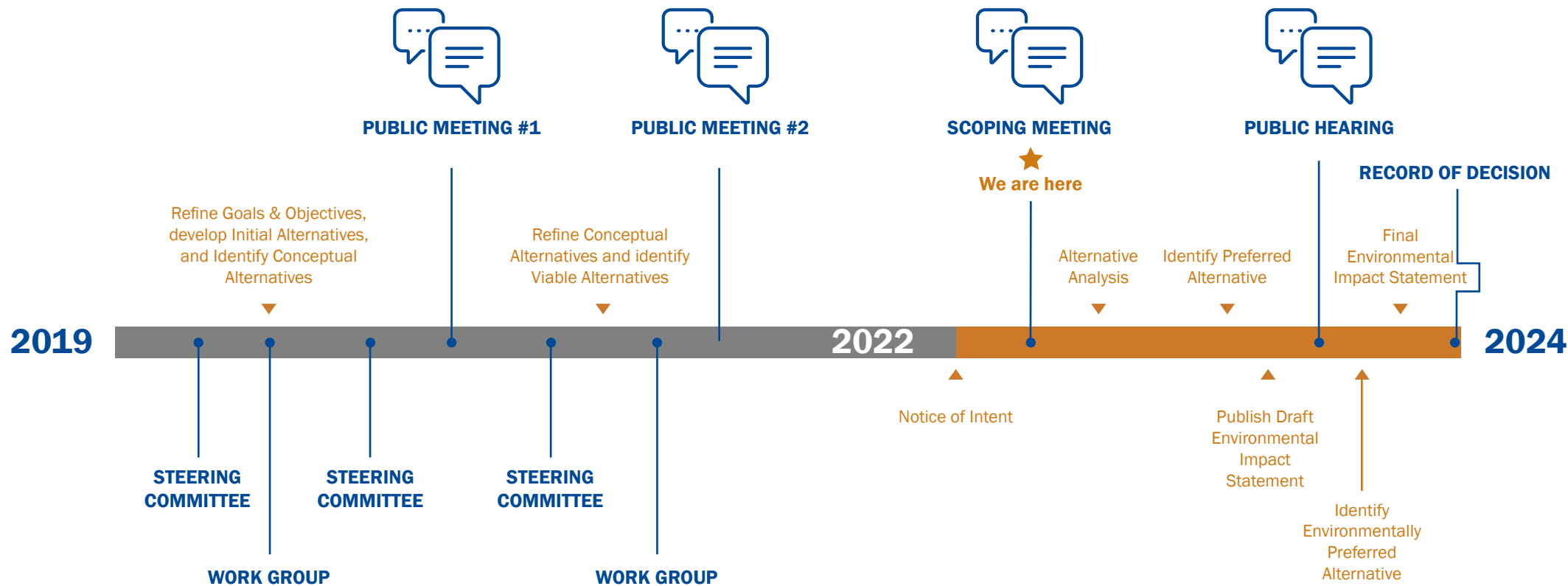
Once a preferred alternative or alternatives are identified, the project team will conduct historic resources surveys and continue coordination with the Consulting Parties.

For more information about the Section 106 Process, please visit the project website to review our D10 Talk





ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT TIMELINE AND NEXT STEPS*



Work on the Downtown 10 project began in 2019 with a series of meetings and workshops with individuals, elected officials, local organizations, and steering committee members. The Downtown 10 project began by initiating the corridor traffic analysis and the existing conditions data collection. Goals and objectives were refined from the Reimagine I-10 Corridor Study and viable alternatives were identified.

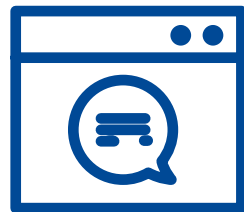
Based on the National Environmental Policy Act process, TxDOT determined the Downtown 10 project will now be classified and prepared as an Environmental

Impact Statement rather than an Environmental Assessment to further evaluate the environmental resources that may be impacted by the project. It is anticipated that the Environmental Impact Statement process will take two years to perform the necessary evaluations to achieve a Record of Decision by the end of 2024. Anticipated construction for the project could start by 2025 if the Record of Decision results in a build scenario and funding is available.

**Subject to Change*



HOW TO COMMENT



Virtual Room:

Comments may be submitted through the Virtual Public Meeting Site



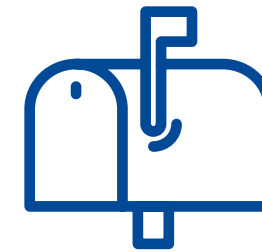
Phone:

Verbal comments may be made by calling (915) 209-0027



Email:

Email comments may be sent to Downtown10@txdot.gov



Mail:

TxDOT El Paso District Office
Attn: Downtown 10/Hugo Hernández
13301 Gateway West
El Paso, TX 79928-5410

Meeting materials are available online at:

www.TxDOT.gov (keyword: "El Paso Downtown 10 - Virtual Public Scoping Meeting with In-Person Option") & www.reimaginei10.com/downtown10

**Deadline for comments to be post-marked or received:
Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023**

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

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