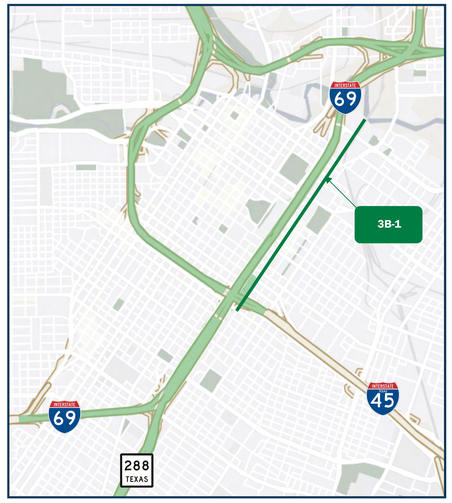
I-45 NHHIP Segment 3B-1
Overview

For additional information about the Project, visit us online at: www.txdot.gov/nhhip

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SEGMENT 3B-1 PROJECT LIMITS



- **Contract Awarded:** June 2024
- **Contractor:** Harper Brothers Construction
- **Project Cost:** $121.8 million
- **Construction Began:** October 2024
- **Anticipated Completion:** Early 2028

DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS FROM ST. EMANUEL STREET TO BUFFALO BAYOU

TxDOT is improving drainage in the East Downtown area by building a new outfall system that connects St. Emanuel Street to Buffalo Bayou.

The project also includes installing large drainage box culverts, a new detention pond, and reconstructing portions of St. Emanuel Street to enhance water flow and reduce flooding.

Once the underground utilities are completed, TxDOT is committed to restoring the area to its preconstruction condition. No changes will be made to traffic flow or roadway configuration.

The construction work for this project focuses solely on improving the underground drainage system to better serve the community and surrounding businesses.

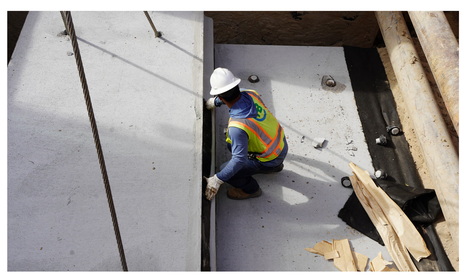
Active public engagement will continue throughout construction to keep nearby residents and businesses informed.

To find out about the latest construction closure and detour information, please scan the QR Code here:

WHAT'S NEXT

While there are several areas under and around St. Emanuel Street where storm sewer boxes and pipes have been placed, there are other areas where the large 12' x 12' boxes need to be installed.

Crews began that work in summer 2026 along Chartres Street between Commerce and Runnels and then they are scheduled to make their way south.





CONSTRUCTION – SPRING AND SUMMER 2026





1 Detention Pond Progress

An area of Segment 3B-1 where construction was not paused during the World Cup was the large detention pond being built between Runnels Street and Buffalo Bayou. Crews are moving forward digging and shaping the pond, which will be able to hold nearly 76 million gallons of stormwater when finished. The new storm sewer boxes and pipes being installed underneath St. Emanuel Street will drain north into this pond.





3 Installation of 8' x 8' Storm Sewer Boxes Underneath St. Emanuel between Polk and Leeland Streets

Crews have begun installing 8' x 8' storm sewer boxes underneath St. Emanuel Street in this area.

These boxes will serve as the important connection from the St. Emanuel Street drainage system to the new pump station being constructed in Segment 3B-2 at Jefferson and Chartres Streets.





2 Installation of 96" Storm Sewer Pipes Underneath St. Emanuel between Jefferson and McIlhenny Streets

The construction team has completed installing dozens of 8-foot diameter storm sewer pipes in this area, a run of about 1800 feet. Crews lifted each pipe and placed it into a hole 50 feet deep. Once they lowered the pipe all the way down, ballasts pushed it south and the space was ready for the next one. After this work was finished, St. Emanuel Street opened back up between Jefferson Street and St. Joseph Parkway.





4 Improvements Before World Cup

Before the 2026 FIFA World Cup, TxDOT needed to make improvements on and along St. Emanuel Street so the area could be ready for the Fan Fest event in East Downtown. Crews built temporary and permanent sidewalks with ramps, placed down new sod, and filled and covered any holes in the construction areas.

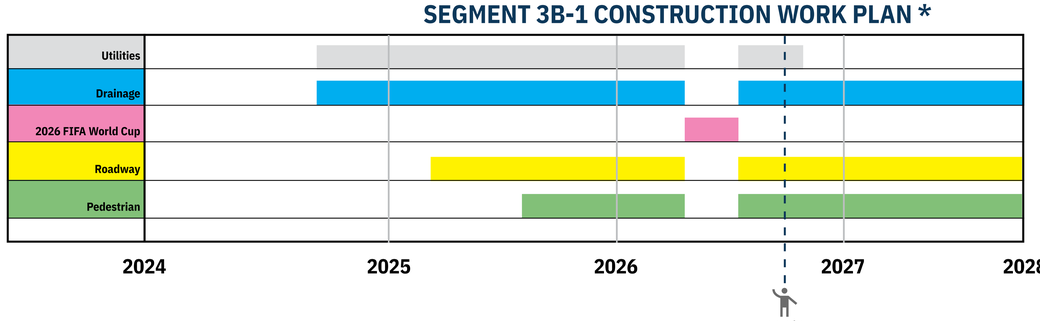
This allowed fans enjoying the World Cup games places where they could walk and bike safely. Most Segment 3B-1 construction was on pause from June 1 – August 1 to accommodate the fan events.

SEGMENT 3B-1 CONSTRUCTION ELEMENTS



* This is the final condition for 3B-1, but St. Emanuel will ultimately be a one-way northbound street after Project 3D construction.

SEGMENT 3B-1 CONSTRUCTION WORK PLAN *



* The Construction Work Plan is preliminary and subject to change.

The work plan may be revised if the change benefits the overall project schedule, if mitigation efforts are required to keep the project moving and if approved by TxDOT with proper notifications.

Texas Department of Transportation

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