

Public Involvement

US 90

Proposed as an added capacity project and developing an Environmental Assessment, as a minimum, TxDOT Beaumont District would afford the opportunity of a public hearing.

Project Purpose

US 90

The proposed project will improve mobility, reduce congestion, and enhance safety by providing a consistent and uniform roadway section between Liberty and Ames. On US 90 from FM 563 to SH 146, the bottleneck between SH 146 and East Street would be eliminated and lane balance would occur. On US 90 from SH 146 to FM 160, the additional travel lanes and continuous left turn lane would improve traffic flow for thru traffic and provide an opportunity for enhanced safety by separating the turning movements from thru traffic with the continuous left turn turning lane and paved shoulders.

Project Need

US 90

US 90 is a major east-west roadway that connects the cities of Beaumont and Houston, as well as several smaller towns in between. The US 90 roadway is also designated as a hurricane evacuation route. Growth in the region, mainly in Houston and Beaumont, has resulted in greater traffic volumes on US 90 and is predicted to continue to increase in the foreseeable future. The proposed project is related to the roadway section of US 90 from FM 563 in Liberty to FM 160 in Ames. For FM 563 to SH 146, the roadway section lacks uniformity related to the lanes and shoulders and a bottleneck exists between SH 146 and East Street. This inconsistent roadway geometry reduces roadway capacity for handling the current and projected travel demand and provides an opportunity for operator confusion with thru lanes converting to exclusive turn lanes. For SH 146 to FM 160, roadway capacity is compromised because the turning movements conflict with thru traffic movement and no designated turning lanes/bays exist at intersections and/or driveways for safe vehicular maneuvers into or out of main lane traffic flow.

Natural/Cultural Resources

US 90

The environmental process for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended is incomplete. A limited reconnaissance including the local knowledge of the TxDOT Area Engineer for Liberty County and a review of readily available desktop data by TxDOT Beaumont District environmental staff revealed that an Environmental Assessment would be prepared to identify potential social, economic, and environmental issues and assess the impacts of the project. As a minimum, the No Build and the Build scenario will be evaluated. The No-Build scenario would not have the impacts of the Build scenario; however, the No-Build scenario is anticipated to have a negative impact as traffic increases and US 90 becomes more congested. The Build scenario is expected to improve mobility and safety. For a Build scenario, it is anticipated that a Section 404 Individual Permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would be required and the TCEQ Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Construction General Permit would be applicable.