

The cover slide features a collage of images at the top: a Texas Department of Transportation logo, a woman in a yellow safety vest, a construction worker in an orange vest and hard hat, a truck on a road, a public meeting audience, and the Rockwall County logo. The main text is on a light gray background, and the right side shows a highway with traffic.

Public Meeting

Rockwall County Outer Loop Project

From FM 2755 to SH 205
CSJ: 0918-25-027

Rockwall County, Texas
November 9, 2023

SLIDE 1 – Cover Slide

Rockwall County and the Texas Department of Transportation, or TxDOT, welcome you to the Rockwall County Outer Loop public meeting. We appreciate your interest in the project and thank each of you for your participation.

Please note, for those viewing the virtual public meeting, you may pause this presentation at any point to allow more time to view the slides or get a more detailed view of the project design or other exhibits available online. You may also pause the presentation and navigate forward or backward as needed.



HELP #EndTheStreakTX

End the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways.

[TxDOT.gov](https://www.txdot.gov) (Keyword: #EndTheStreakTX)

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#)

#EndTheStreakTX Toolkit



Rockwall County Outer Loop Project
CSJ: 0918-25-027

Public Meeting | November 9, 2023

2

SLIDE 2 – Help End the Streak

November 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on roadways in Texas. That means for over two decades, at least one person has died every single day. We all have a part to play to change that. This message is a reminder – to End the Streak of deaths on Texas highways. We need drivers and passengers to act more responsibly and help us reach our goal of zero deaths by 2050. Texans can play a major role in ending fatal crashes with a few simple driving habits: wear seatbelts, drive the speed limit, put away the phone and other distractions, and never drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs. So, please do your part and share this message with your friends and family.



In-Person and Online Virtual Public Meeting



In-Person Public Meeting

Thursday, November 9, 2023
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Liberty Hall, Rockwall County Courthouse
1111 E Yellow Jacket Lane #401
Rockwall, Texas 75087

Virtual Public Meeting

Thursday, November 9, 2023, 5:30 p.m. to
Friday, November 24, 2023, 11:59 p.m.

<https://www.rockwallcountytexas.com/1234/RCOL-Public-Meeting-2>



The same information will be available at both the in-person and virtual meetings.

Rockwall County Outer Loop Project
CSJ: 0918-25-027

Public Meeting | November 9, 2023

3

SLIDE 3 – In-Person and Online Virtual Public Meeting

An in-person public meeting and a virtual public meeting are being held on the Rockwall County Outer Loop Project to share project information and to obtain feedback from the public regarding the project alternative recommended for further study. The same information is available at the in-person and virtual meetings. This presentation and additional project materials are available online and can be viewed or downloaded by visiting the virtual public meeting. To access the virtual public meeting, go to Rockwall County's website at www.rockwallcountytexas.com/loop and navigate to the "RCOL Public Meeting #2" page on the lefthand side, or use the direct link or QR code provided on this slide.



Public Meeting Purpose



- Inform the public of the project status and present the project alternative recommended for further study.
- Describe the project so the public can determine how they may be affected.
- Offer the public an opportunity to provide input.
- Develop a record of public participation.

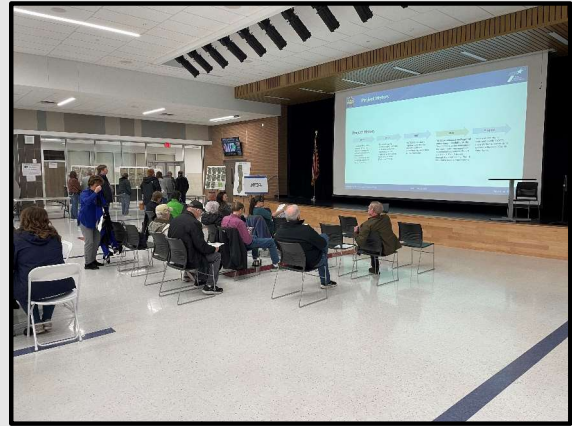


Photo of the Rockwall County Outer Loop In-Person Public Meeting on November 15, 2022.

SLIDE 4 – Public Meeting Purpose

This public meeting has been convened by Rockwall County and TxDOT to receive and consider comments from the public regarding the Rockwall County Outer Loop Project.

You may have attended previous public meetings conducted by TxDOT. However, for the benefit of those who have never attended one, I will explain why and how the Department conducts a public meeting.

This public meeting has four essential purposes:

1. To inform the public of the project status and present the project alternative recommended for further study.
2. To describe the project to the public so the public can determine how they may be affected.
3. To provide the public an opportunity to view information and express their ideas and concerns at this stage in the planning process while the ability to respond to comments is still flexible and before location and design decisions are finalized.
4. And finally, to develop a record of public participation to accompany recommendations for subsequent decisions.

This public meeting is being held in compliance with both federal and state laws. Documentation of this meeting will be made available for the official record.

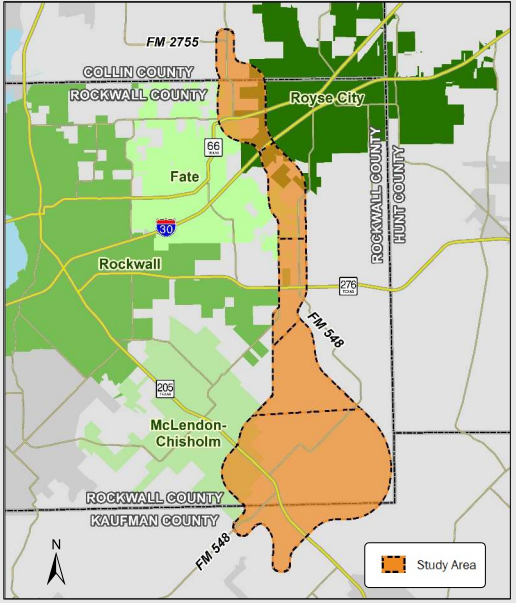


Project Description

Rockwall County Outer Loop

- Project Limits:** From FM 2755 to SH 205
- Project Length:** Approximately 14.4 miles

A feasibility study is being conducted for the Rockwall County Outer Loop, an approximately 14.4-mile-long, new location roadway from FM 2755 to SH 205 in Rockwall County, Texas. The study evaluated alternatives within or near the cities of Fate, Royse City, McLendon-Chisholm, and Rockwall through Rockwall County.



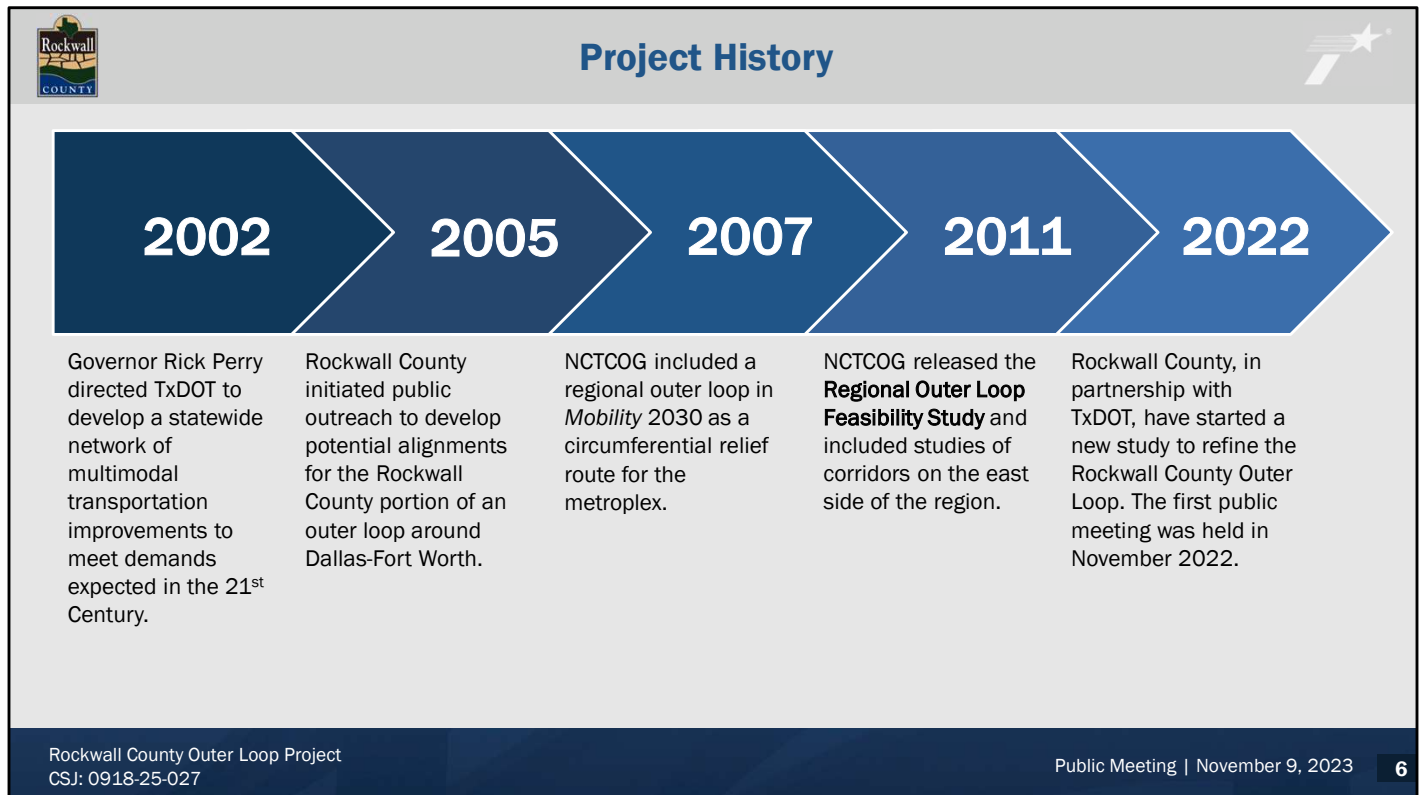
Rockwall County Outer Loop Project
CSJ: 0918-25-027

Public Meeting | November 9, 2023

5

SLIDE 5 – Project Description

A feasibility study is being conducted for the Rockwall County Outer Loop, an approximately 14.4-mile-long, new location roadway from FM 2755 to SH 205 in Rockwall County, Texas. The study evaluated alternatives through Rockwall County within or near the cities of Fate, Royse City, McLendon-Chisholm, and Rockwall.



SLIDE 6 – Project History

The concept for the Rockwall County Outer Loop began in 2002 under an initiative from the governor of Texas. Rockwall County developed a routing study in 2005 which resulted in a preliminary roadway corridor that was integrated in the North Central Texas Council of Government’s long-range mobility plan in 2007. Four years later, the North Central Texas Council of Governments conducted a feasibility study over 12 counties to identify a regional outer loop around the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. In that feasibility study, the Rockwall County Outer Loop was identified as a segment of independent utility for continued development and further evaluation. This project is an extension of the previous work done by Rockwall County and the North Central Texas Council of Governments to identify, refine, and study potential alignments to advance to a design and environmental study phase.



Regional Outer Loop



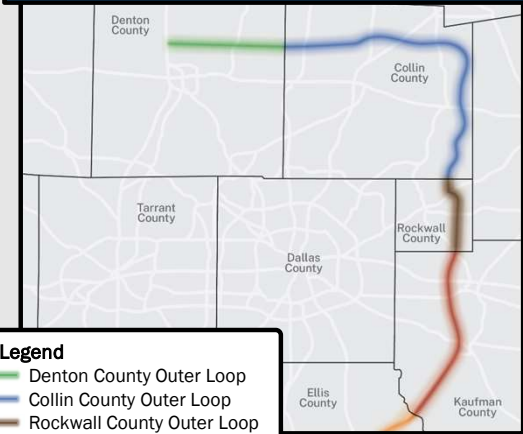
The Rockwall County Outer Loop Project is part of the regional outer loop examined during the 2011 NCTCOG Regional Outer Loop Feasibility Study, spanning 12 counties around the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

Denton County Outer Loop Project:
<https://burnsmcd.mysocialpinpoint.com/dentoncountyouterloop/home>

Collin County Outer Loop Project:
<https://www.collincountytx.gov/Services/Engineering/transportation/outer-loop>

Kaufman County Outer Loop Project:
<https://kaufmanouterloop.com>

Eastern Regional Outer Loop



Legend

- Denton County Outer Loop
- Collin County Outer Loop
- Rockwall County Outer Loop
- Kaufman County Outer Loop

Rockwall County Outer Loop Project
CSJ: 0918-25-027

Public Meeting | November 9, 2023

7

SLIDE 7 – Regional Outer Loop

The Rockwall County Outer Loop Project is part of the regional outer loop examined during the 2011 NCTCOG Regional Outer Loop Feasibility Study. Continuity with other segments of the regional outer loop is part of the Rockwall County Outer Loop Project's purpose and need, described on the next slide.

Each county's' respective portion of the regional outer loop is in different stages of study, planning, or development. For more information on other portions of the eastern regional outer loop, please see the project websites referenced on this slide.



Project Need and Purpose



Need:

The proposed project is needed because there is a lack of north-south connectivity and roadway capacity within Rockwall County to meet local and regional mobility needs and accommodate projected vehicular traffic volume increases on the local roadway network resulting from anticipated development and population growth. A new location roadway is needed within the study area due to the lack of suitable, continuous north-south major arterials.

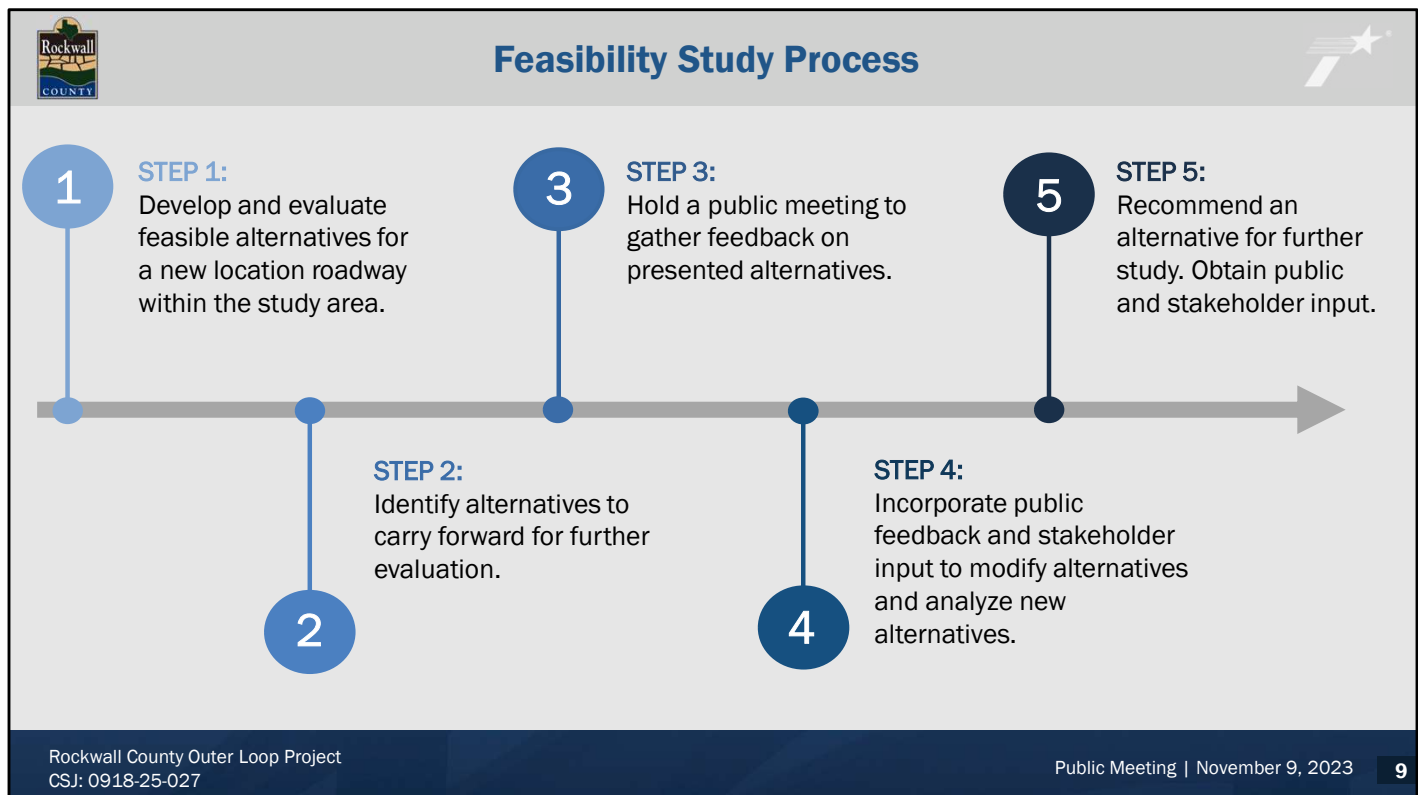
Purpose:

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve north-south connectivity and mobility at the local and regional level and accommodate population and traffic volume growth by providing a new roadway that would connect to existing highways and the planned Outer Loop in Collin and Kaufman counties.

SLIDE 8 – Project Purpose and Need

The proposed project is needed because there is a lack of north-south connectivity and roadway capacity within Rockwall County to meet local and regional mobility needs and accommodate projected vehicular traffic volume increases on the local roadway network resulting from anticipated development and population growth. A new location roadway is needed within the study area due to the lack of suitable, continuous north-south major arterials.

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve north-south connectivity and mobility at the local and regional level and accommodate population and traffic volume growth by providing a new roadway that would connect to existing highways and the planned Outer Loop in Collin and Kaufman counties.



SLIDE 9 – Feasibility Study Process

A feasibility study is being conducted for the Rockwall County Outer Loop Project and consists of the following five steps to-date:

- Step one: Develop and evaluate feasible alternatives for a new location roadway within the study area.
- Step two: Identify alternatives to carry forward for further evaluation.
- Step three: Hold a public meeting to gather feedback on presented alternatives.
- Step four: Incorporate public feedback and stakeholder input to modify alternatives and analyze new alternatives.
- Step five: Recommend an alternative for further study. Obtain public and stakeholder input.

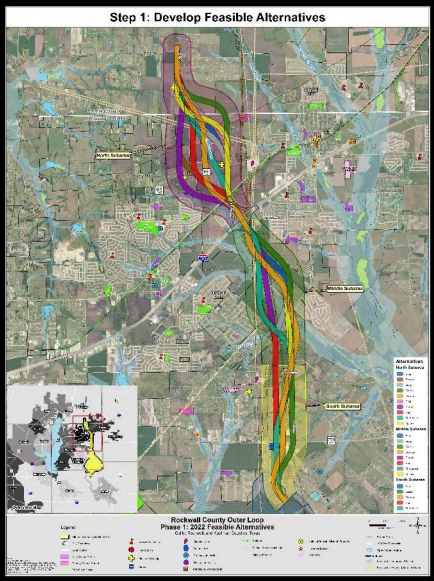
The following slides will further explain each step in the feasibility study process.

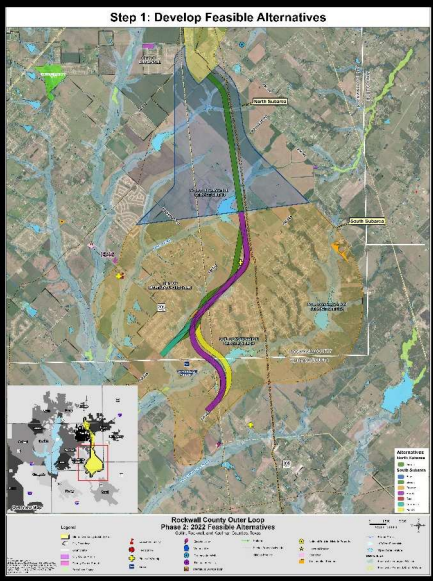


Step 1: Develop Feasible Alternatives



Note: The full-size maps are available to view at the in-person public meeting and on the virtual meeting website.





Rockwall County Outer Loop Project
CSJ: 0918-25-027

Public Meeting | November 9, 2023

10

SLIDE 10 – Step 1: Develop Feasible Alternatives

The first step of the feasibility study was to develop feasible alternatives. The study area was divided into two phases, Phase 1 and Phase 2, and five subareas. Phase 1 consisted of three subareas and Phase 2 consisted of two subareas. Alignment alternatives were developed for each subarea.

Please note. All full-size maps throughout the feasibility study are available to view at the in-person public meeting and on the virtual meeting website.



Evaluation Measures



 Engineering / Design Features Length, Right of Way Areas	 Impacts to Natural & Section 4(f) Resources Parks, Historic, Archeologic, Floodplain, Wetlands
 Community & Socio-Economic Impacts # of Displacements, Minority/Low Income, Hazmat Sites	 Transportation Performance Access, Regional Mobility, Consistency with Thoroughfare Plans
 Major Infrastructure & Federal Property Railroads, Airports, Electric & Utility Infrastructure, Soil and Water Conservation Reservoirs and Dams	 Other Measures Costs, Local Support (Cities, County, Agencies, Public)

Rockwall County Outer Loop Project
CSJ: 0918-25-027

Public Meeting | November 9, 2023

11

SLIDE 11 – Evaluation Measures

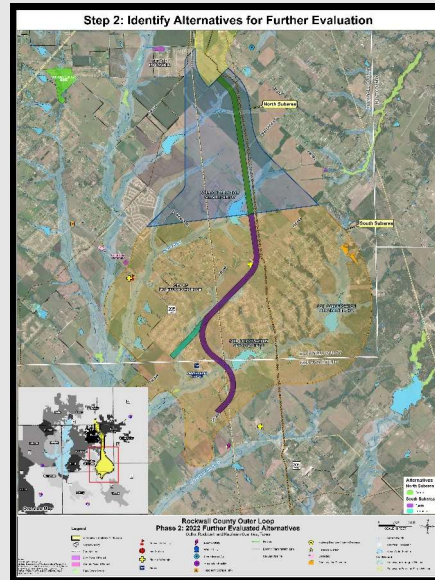
Each feasible alternative was evaluated using 41 different quantitative measures. Criteria categories included engineering and design features, community and socio-economic impacts, major infrastructure and federal property, natural and Section 4(f) resources, transportation performance, and other general measures. The results of the evaluation were used to determine which alternatives to carry forward for further evaluation.

Step 2: Identify Alternatives for Further Evaluation

Rockwell County Outer Loop Phase 1/2022 Further Feasible Alternatives

Legend:

- Alternative 1 (Purple)
- Alternative 2 (Green)
- Alternative 3 (Yellow)
- Alternative 4 (Orange)
- Alternative 5 (Red)
- Alternative 6 (Blue)
- Alternative 7 (Light Blue)
- Alternative 8 (Dark Blue)
- Alternative 9 (Light Green)
- Alternative 10 (Light Purple)
- Alternative 11 (Light Orange)
- Alternative 12 (Light Red)
- Alternative 13 (Light Blue)
- Alternative 14 (Dark Green)
- Alternative 15 (Dark Purple)
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- Alternative 100 (Dark Purple)



Public Meeting | November 9, 2023

12

The project team identified the displayed alternatives for further evaluation. These alternatives were determined to minimize impacts, while still meeting the project's need and purpose.



Step 3: Conduct Public Meeting #1



A public meeting was held on November 15, 2022 to gather input from the public.
A total of 323 comments from 303 commenters were received.

Comments included the following major themes:

- Proposed project need and purpose,
- Project timeline,
- Requests to consider specific routes,
- Concerns about impacts to property and home value,
- General project support or opposition,
- Concerns about environmental impacts, including air quality, traffic noise, wildlife habitat, and historical resources,
- Safety, and
- Future development and growth.

To view the November 15, 2022 Public Meeting Documentation, scan the QR code or go to the URL below.



URL: www.rockwallcountytexas.com/DocumentCenter/View/9098/RCOL_2022-11-PM-Doc_FINAL

Rockwall County Outer Loop Project
CSJ: 0918-25-027

Public Meeting | November 9, 2023

13

SLIDE 13 – Step 3: Conduct Public Meeting #1

A public meeting was held on November 15, 2022 to gather input from the public on the alignments identified for further evaluation. The public meeting resulted in 323 comments from 303 commenters. Major themes from the comments are listed on the slide.

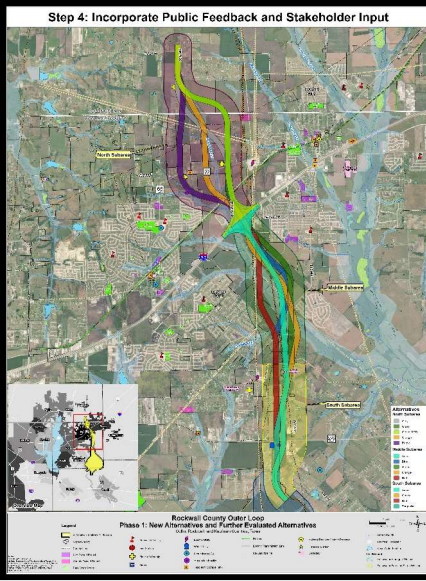
Responses to each comment received are available online in the comment/response matrix within the public meeting documentation. To access the previous public meeting documentation, please go to the link provided or scan the QR code on the slide.

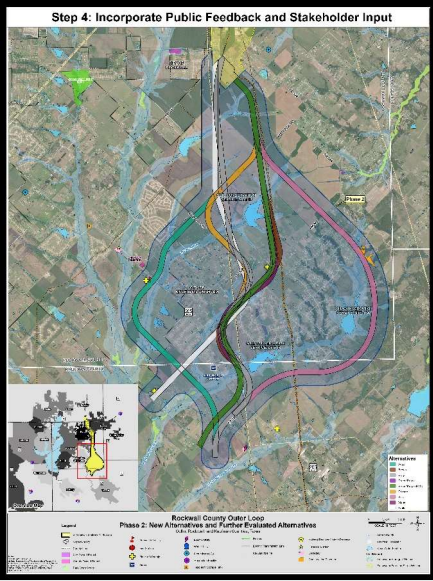


Step 4: Incorporate Public Feedback and Stakeholder Input



Note: The full-size maps are available to view at the in-person public meeting and on the virtual meeting website.





Rockwall County Outer Loop Project
CSJ: 0918-25-027

Public Meeting | November 9, 2023

14

SLIDE 14 – Step 4: Incorporate Public Feedback and Stakeholder Input

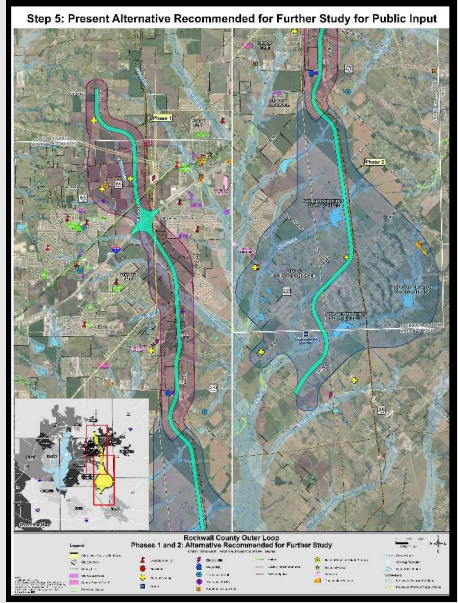
Alternatives presented at the 2022 public meeting were further evaluated based on public feedback and stakeholder input. To address public requests to consider alternate routes, and through continued stakeholder coordination, some previously presented alternatives were modified and a variety of new alternatives were developed. The same evaluation criteria were then applied to the new and/or modified alternatives with the addition of number of homes within 500 feet and refinement of types of open space. Phase 2 north and south subareas were combined for this round of analysis.



Step 5: Present Alternative Recommended for Further Study



Note: The full-size maps are available to view at the in-person public meeting and on the virtual meeting website.



Rockwall County Outer Loop Project
CSJ: 0918-25-027

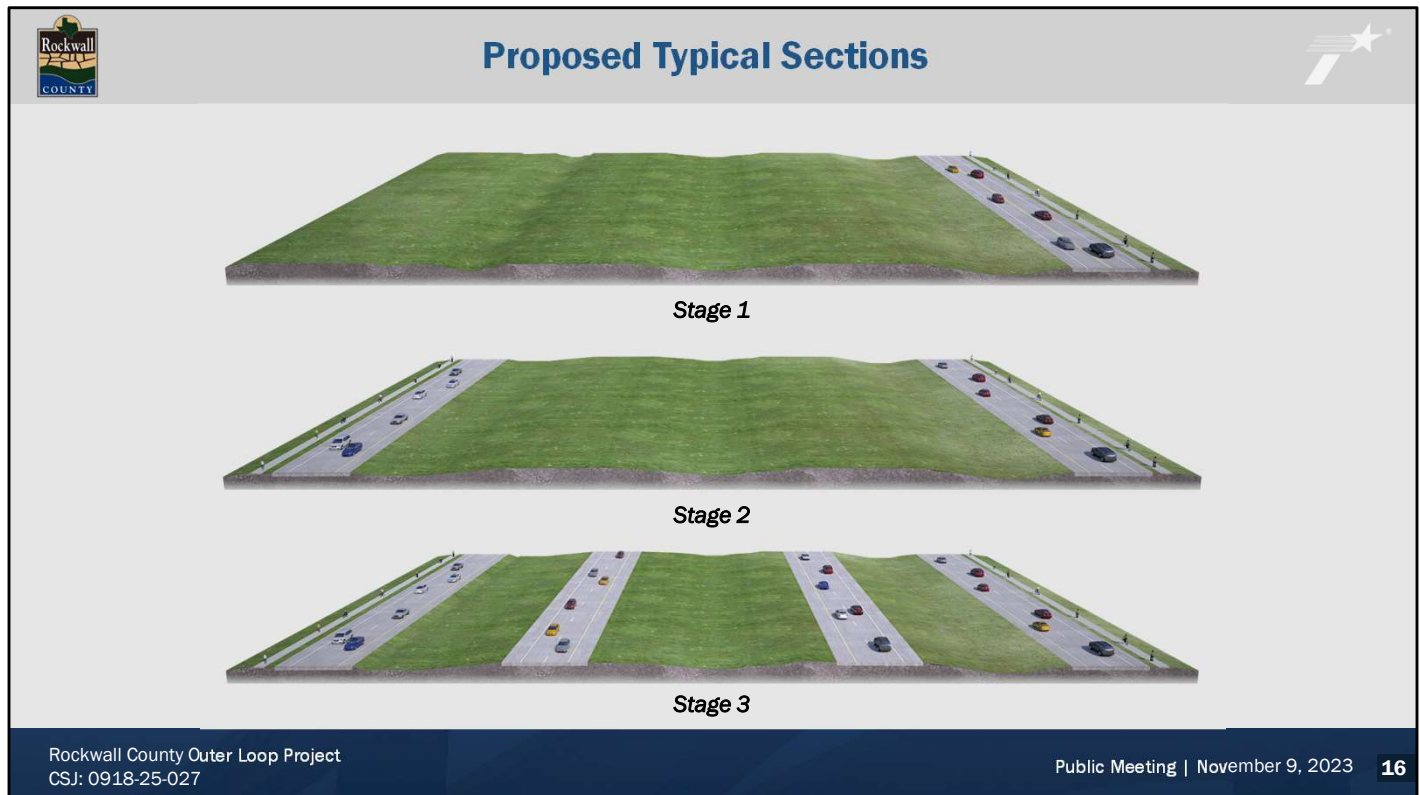
Public Meeting | November 9, 2023

15

SLIDE 15 – Step 5: Present Alternative Recommended for Further Study

Based on evaluation criteria considered, the Phase 1 Hybrid and Phase 2 Modified Green/Purple alternatives are recommended for further study. The project team is seeking your feedback to further refine the alignment. Instructions on how to submit comments will be provided at the end of this presentation.

Following this public meeting, stakeholder and public input will be incorporated into schematic development and the environmental studies. Next steps and the tentative project timeline are covered on Slide 18.



SLIDE 16 – Proposed Typical Section

The project would be constructed in stages that are contingent on traffic volumes and available funding.

The proposed typical 500-foot-wide right-of-way for all stages would be acquired according to applicable policies and procedures prior to Stage 1.

Stage 1 would construct one frontage road with two lanes, one in each direction.

Stage 2 would add the other side of the paired frontage road for a total of four frontage road lanes, two lanes in each direction. Each frontage road would be converted to one-way operation. The median would be left open for future stages.

Stage 3, the ultimate proposed project configuration, would include the addition of a four-lane access-controlled highway, two main lanes in each direction between the frontage roads. The remaining median would be left open to allow space for future transportation-related developments to be studied separately. The proposed project would also include two shared-use bicycle and pedestrian paths with one on the outside of each frontage road.



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Assignment to the Texas Department of Transportation



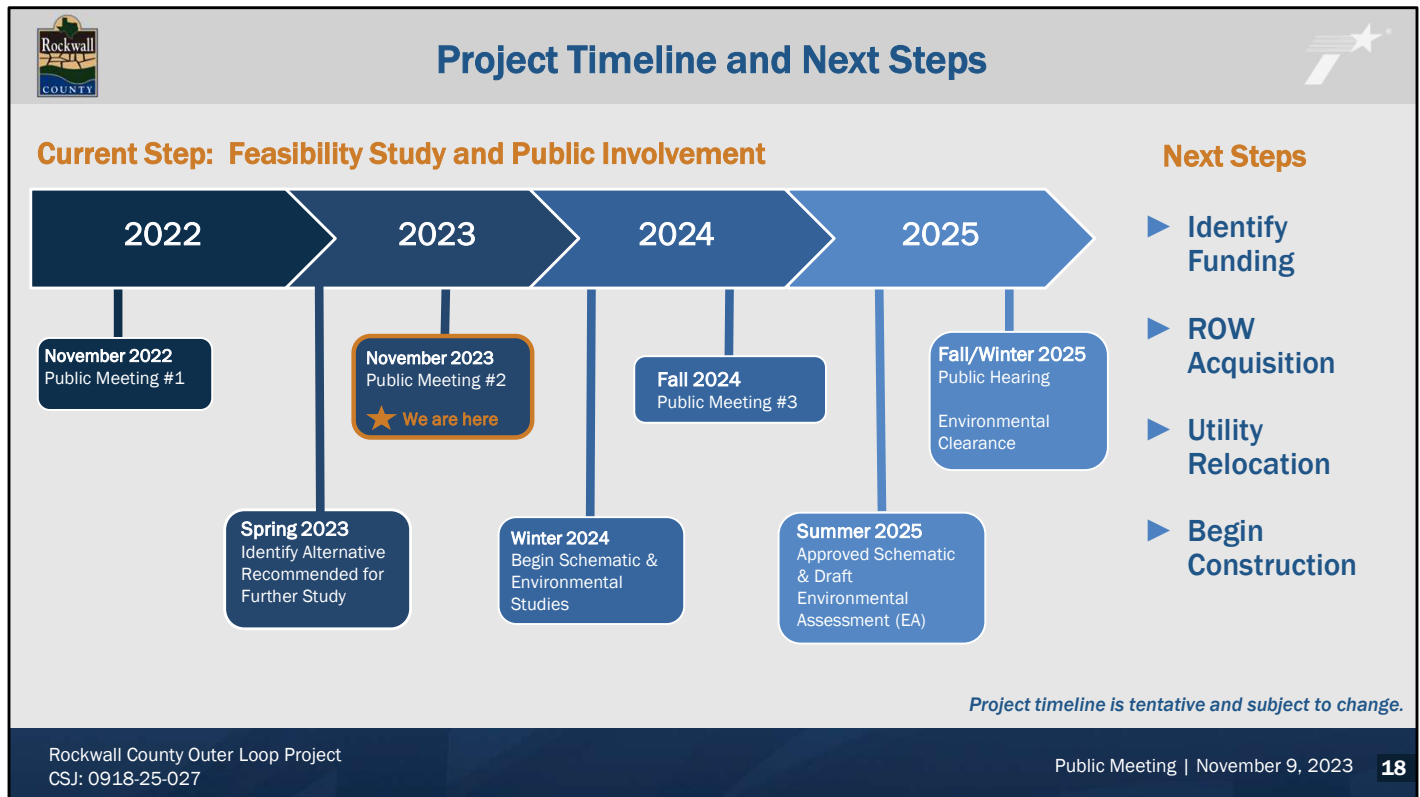
The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

La revisión ambiental, consultas y otras acciones requeridas por las leyes ambientales federales aplicables para este proyecto, están siendo o han sido realizadas por TxDOT de conformidad con la Reglamentación 23, Sección 327 del Código de Estados Unidos y un Memorando de Entendimiento con fecha del 9 de diciembre de 2019, ejecutado por la FHWA (Administración Federal de Carreteras) y TxDOT.

SLIDE 17 – National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Assignment to the Texas Department of Transportation

Prior to December 16, 2014, the Federal Highway Administration, or FHWA, received and approved documents prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act, known as NEPA; however, on December 14, 2014 the Texas Department of Transportation assumed responsibility from FHWA through a Memorandum of Understanding to review and approve certain assigned NEPA environmental documents. This Memorandum of Understanding between TxDOT and FHWA was updated on December 9, 2019. The review and approval process apply to this project. Environmental studies will be conducted for the Rockwall County Outer Loop 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.

Notices for this public meeting were advertised in Spanish in *Al Día*, and in English in the *McKinney Courier-Gazette*, *Rockwall County Herald-Banner*, *Royse City Herald-Banner*, *Dallas Morning News*, and on the TxDOT.gov website under “Hearings and Meetings.” Notice of the public meeting was mailed to study area property owners, elected and public officials, project stakeholders, and previous public meeting participants.



SLIDE 18 – Project Timeline and Next Steps

Schematic design and environmental studies are anticipated to begin in winter of 2024. A third public meeting is expected to be held in fall of 2024. A final approved schematic and draft environmental assessment, or EA, are expected to be completed in summer of 2025, followed by a public hearing and then environmental clearance in mid-to-late 2025.

After the public hearing and environmental clearance, TxDOT and Rockwall County will identify funding, begin the right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation processes, and then begin construction.



We Request Your Feedback



Please submit your comments using any of the four methods below by **Friday, November 24, 2023**, to be included in the Public Meeting Documentation.



Comment Online

Click the provided link on the website
www.rockwallcountytexas.com/1234/RCOL-Public-Meeting-2



Email Us

RCOL@halff.com



Mail-in Comments

Halff
Attn: Matt Craig, P.E.
1201 North Bowser Road,
Richardson, TX 75081



Leave a Voicemail

(903) 218-7909

Questions about the project?
Please contact the Halff Consultant Project Manager, Matt Craig, P.E. at RCOL@halff.com or (214) 346-6200

Rockwall County Outer Loop Project
CSJ: 0918-25-027

Public Meeting | November 9, 2023

19

SLIDE 19 – We Request Your Feedback

Your feedback is requested on the Rockwall County Outer Loop Project. Comments will be accepted in four ways, which are outlined here on the slide. All comments will be fully considered and responded to in the project record and made part of the environmental documentation for Rockwall County Outer Loop. The public meeting documentation, including responses to comments, will be made available at www.rockwallcountytexas.com/loop once it is completed. All comments must be received or postmarked by Friday, November 24, 2023, to be included in the official public meeting documentation.

Project questions are welcomed throughout the entire project development process. If you have questions or comments throughout project development, please contact the Consultant Project Manager, Matt Craig, P.E., during regular office hours at (214) 346-6200 or by email at RCOL@halff.com.



SLIDE 20 – Thank You

Thank you. We sincerely appreciate your participation and interest concerning the Rockwall County Outer Loop Project. Your questions, comments, and concerns will receive careful consideration. This concludes the public meeting presentation.