



## I-35 CAPITAL EXPRESS CENTRAL PROJECT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement and feedback is a main component of the I-35 Capital Express Central Project. As part of the environmental process, TxDOT is evaluating how this project may potentially impact the human and natural environment. This includes undertaking the most rigorous level of environmental analysis with the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the I-35 Capital Express Central project. Community engagement from a diverse group of stakeholders affiliated by geographic proximity, special interest or similar situations is a key element during this process. It allows TxDOT to develop a project that reflects public values and addresses issues affecting the community's well-being.

Since 2020, the Capital Express Project has:

- Reached over 18,000 participants.
- Received over 9,000 comments.
- Held 63 meetings with agencies.
- Held 52 meetings with community members and leaders.
- Held 3 public meetings with a virtual option.
- Held 5 CapEx VOICE meetings.

### How TxDOT has engaged with the community

- Hosted various meetings including:
  - Virtual agency and public scoping meetings in December 2020 and March 2021 to gather input on the coordination plan, project schedule and purpose and need, range of alternatives and how the alternatives would be analyzed.
  - Pop-in meetings in summer 2021 to reach underserved and vulnerable populations, by setting up tables outside high-traffic areas, such as transit stations and shopping centers.
  - In-person and virtual public meetings in August 2021 to gather input on the results of the alternatives evaluation and the design for the build alternatives. An online self-guided public meeting was available for 45 days to review the in-person meeting materials and submit comments about proposed project improvements.
- Created CapEx VOICE (Volunteer Opportunity in Community Engagement), a community working group with regular meetings that discuss topics important to the community. Representatives from various community advocacy organizations have been active in meeting discussions.
- Conducted outreach to local elected officials to receive their input and assist in identifying community leaders that represent underserved populations.
- Attended and presented project updates to multiple community groups and stakeholders.
- Implemented bilingual community outreach/engagement initiatives, notifying these stakeholders about public involvement opportunities through digital and print advertising.
- Developed a dedicated [I-35 Capital Express Central project website](#) to provide a user-friendly experience and repository for sharing information and gathering feedback.

## What's next?

TxDOT continues to host regular CapEx VOICE meetings to discuss project updates with the community, including a new aesthetics design program, Live35 (Locally Influenced Visual Enhancements), to focus on community-facing aspects of the project, such as shade structures, enhanced bike lanes, sidewalks and landscaping. TxDOT will host pop-up meetings in communities of color to share details about the project and gather feedback. The preferred alternative will be identified in the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and presented at a public hearing.



*Pop-up Meeting Table*

## Contact information

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For additional information visit: [my35capex.com/Central](https://my35capex.com/Central) or [my35.org/capital.htm](https://my35.org/capital.htm).