



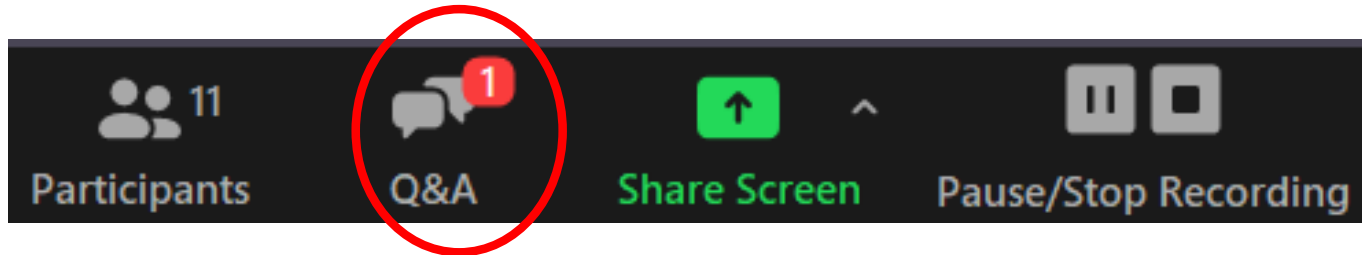
Waco Bus Rapid Transit Project

Live Virtual Public Meeting

June 17, 2021

What to Expect During the Live Virtual Meeting

- ▶ Live presentation will be recorded and placed online at WacoBRTopenhouse.net
- ▶ Only presenters will be speaking
- ▶ Non-presenters will remain muted
- ▶ You may submit questions in the Zoom Q&A feature



- ▶ Following the presentation, the project team will answer as many questions as possible

Welcome

- ▶ **Serena Stevenson**

Waco Transit System – General Manager



Project Team Presenters



Paulette Vander Kamp
Project Manager



Tim Simon, AICP+
Deputy Project Manager



Bill Crowley, PE
Preliminary Engineering Lead



Melinda Jensen
Environmental Lead



Monica Hernandez
Public Involvement Specialist

About Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

Waco BRT

What is Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)?

- ▶ High-quality bus-based transit system
- ▶ Provides safe, reliable and efficient service
 - ▶ Limited stops results in faster operations
 - ▶ Significantly greater service frequency
- ▶ Stations are a focus for redevelopment efforts

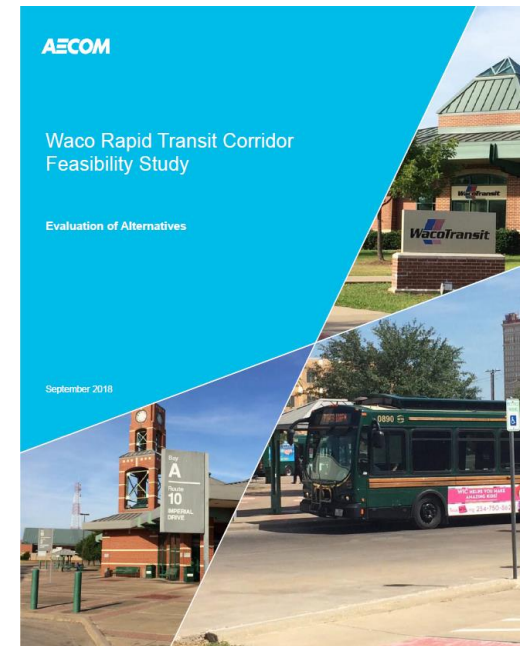


Project Overview

Waco BRT

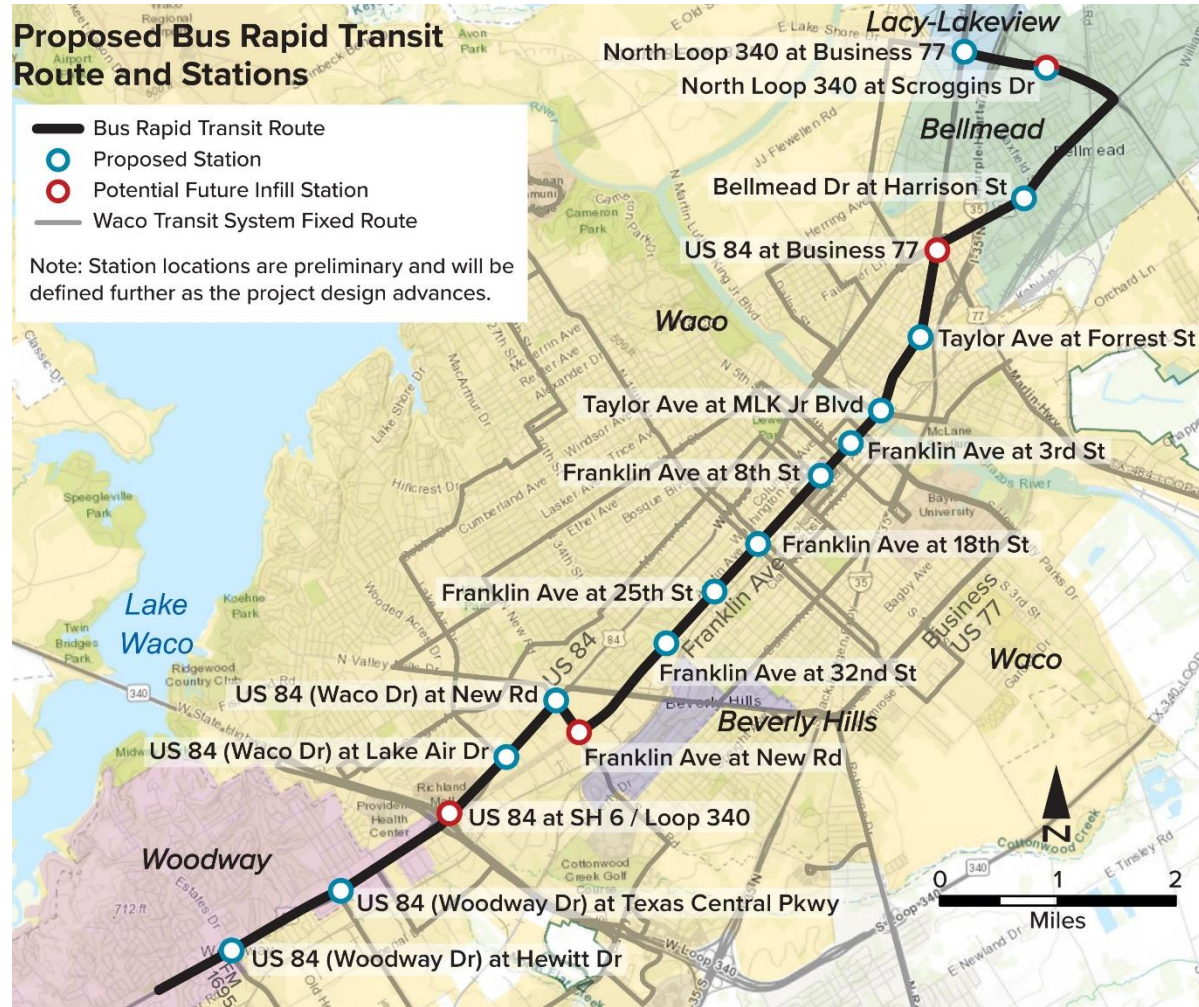
Project Background & Goals

- ▶ **Feasibility Study (June 2017 - March 2018)**
 - ▶ Extensive Public Input
- ▶ **Locally Preferred Alternative (September 2018)**
 - ▶ Route and Station Locations
- ▶ **Goals**
 - ▶ Provide safe, reliable and efficient transit service
 - ▶ Increase access to employment opportunities and critical services
 - ▶ Leverage available local, state and federal funding
 - ▶ Support and promote economic growth



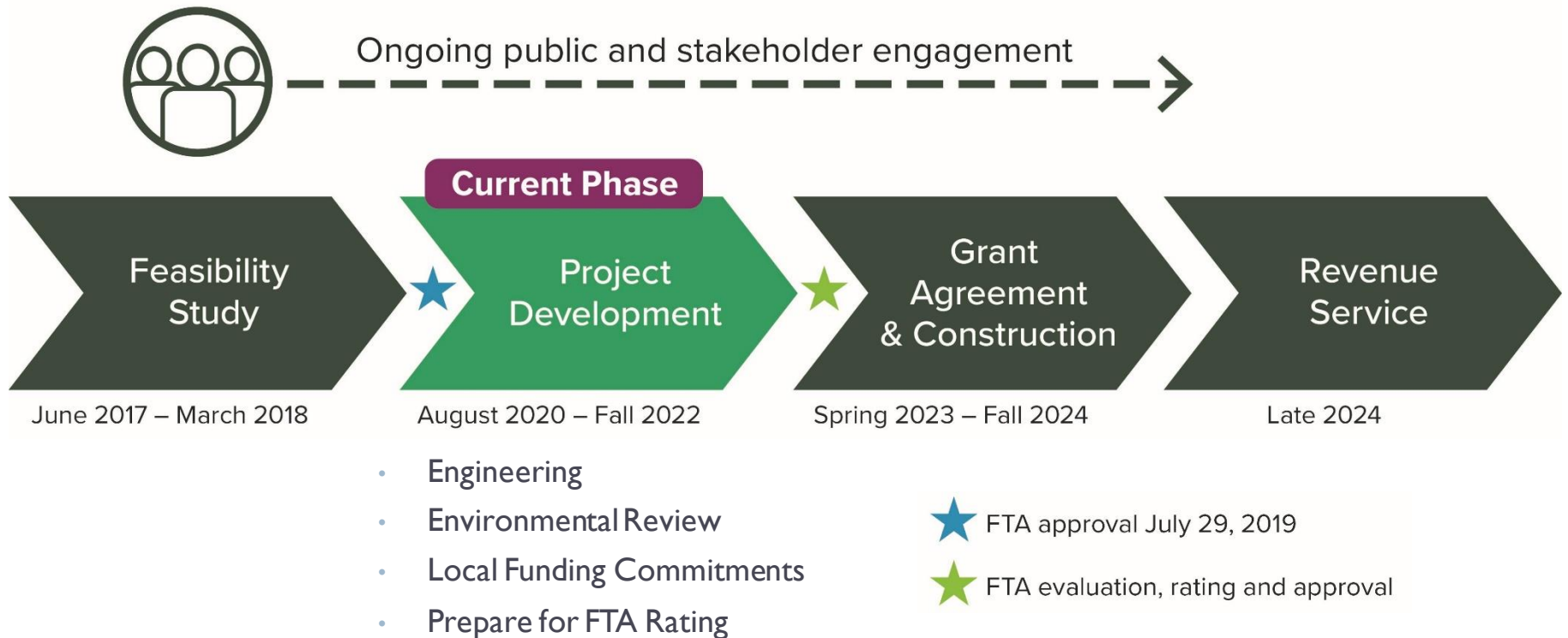
Project Corridor Highlights

- ▶ 13-mile Route
- ▶ 14 Stations
- ▶ 3 Potential Future Infill Stations
- ▶ Buses Every 15-Minutes During Peak Service Hours
- ▶ Extended Service Hours to 10 p.m.
- ▶ Service on Sundays



Project Status and Schedule

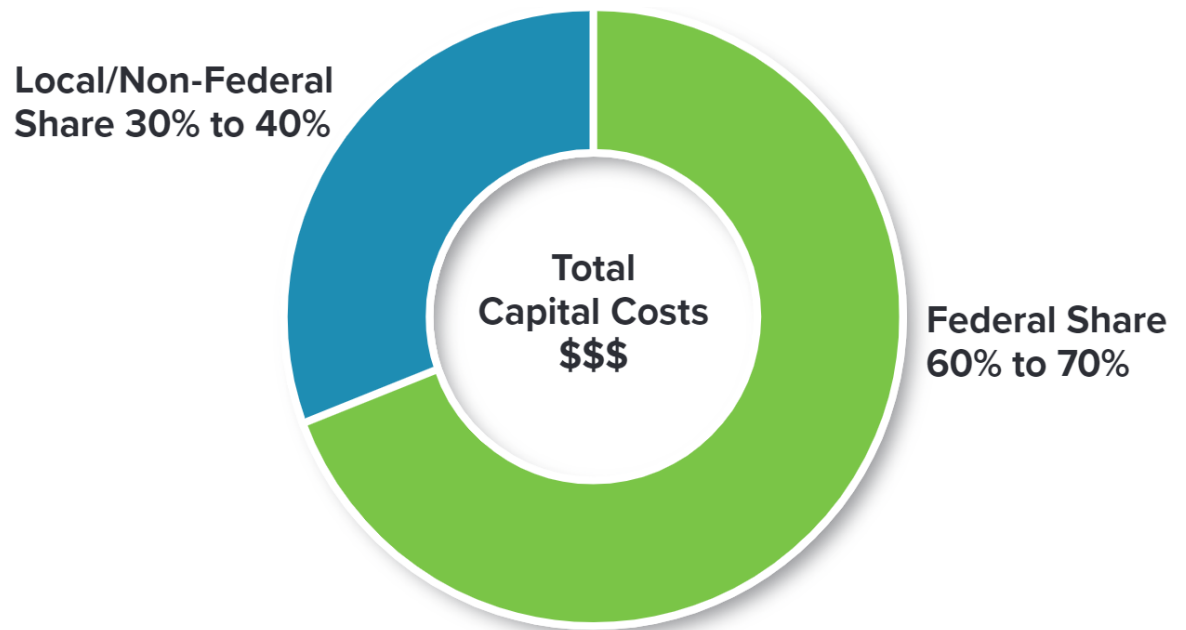
FTA Small Starts Process and Project Schedule



Preliminary engineering and environmental review process set to be completed Summer 2021

Typical Small Starts Project Capital Funding

- ▶ Total project cost < \$300 million
- ▶ Total Small Starts funding sought < \$100 million



Local = State, Regional and Municipal

Station Location Update / Recommendations

Waco BRT

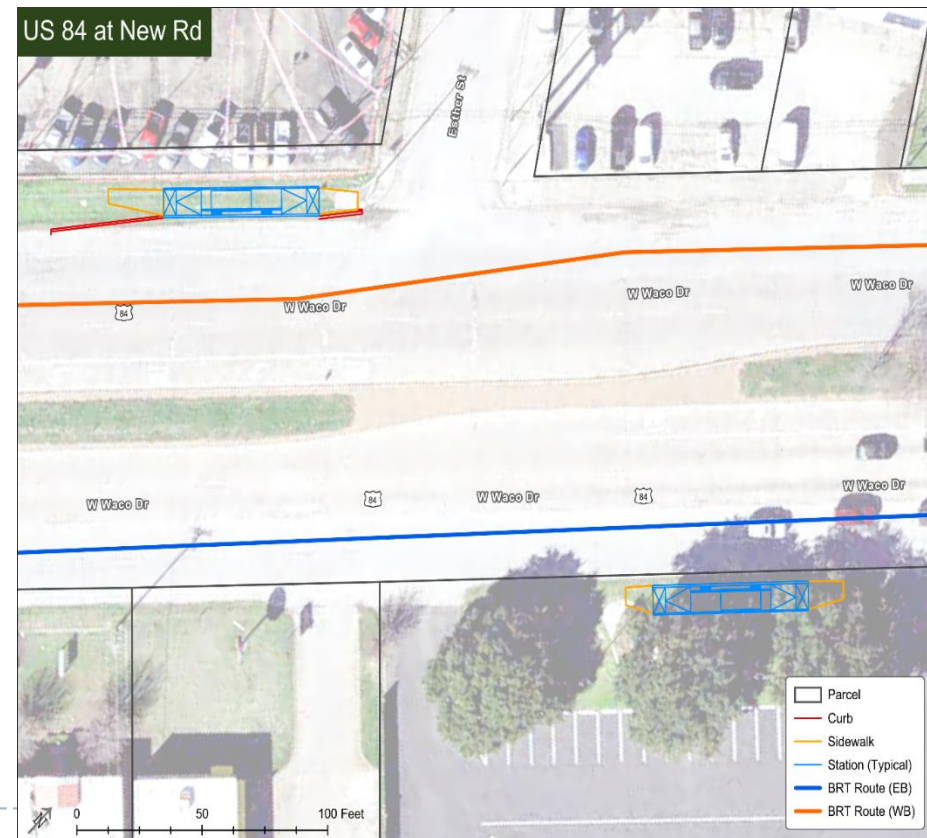
BRT Station Siting Guidelines

- ▶ Available infrastructure
- ▶ BRT station footprint size requirements
- ▶ Impacts to the existing roadway, parking and bicycle/pedestrian network
- ▶ Land availability and type
- ▶ Proximity to other BRT stations and WTS fixed routes
- ▶ Surrounding private development plans



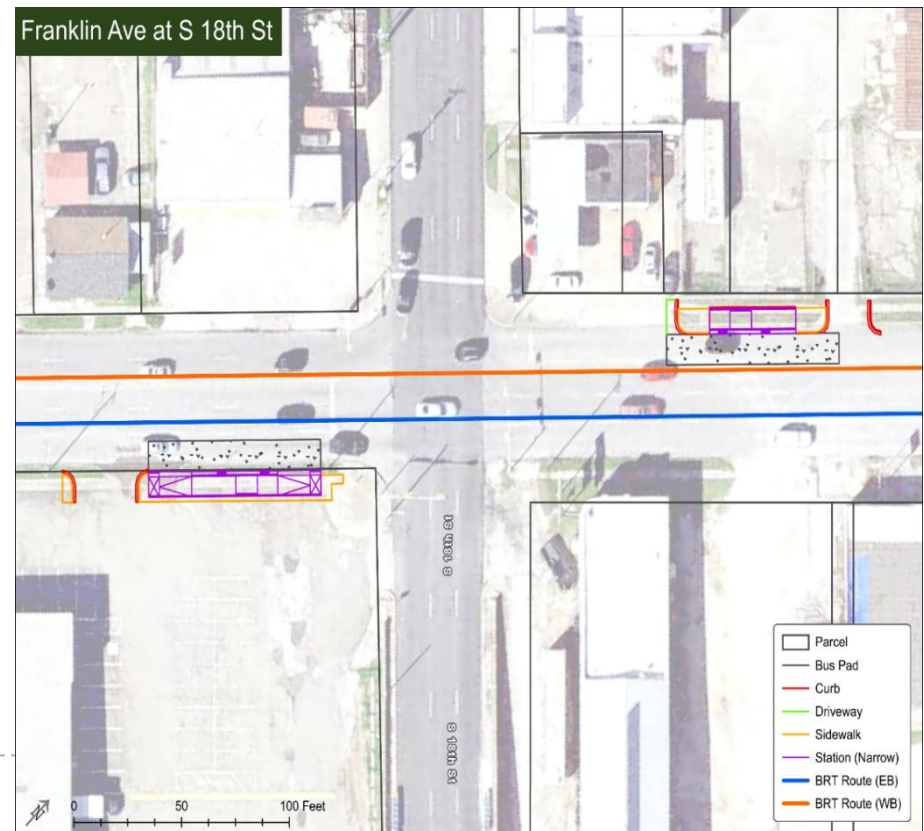
BRT Station Location Updates

- ▶ A **third** BRT station is planned as a potential future infill station
- ▶ New Road station was planned to be located at one of two locations (Franklin Avenue or US-84)
- ▶ Both locations serve the project goals
 - ▶ Imminent US-84 improvements made this the priority location
 - ▶ Long-term planning for intersection improvements at Franklin Avenue and New Road will include considerations for a future infill station



BRT Station Location Updates

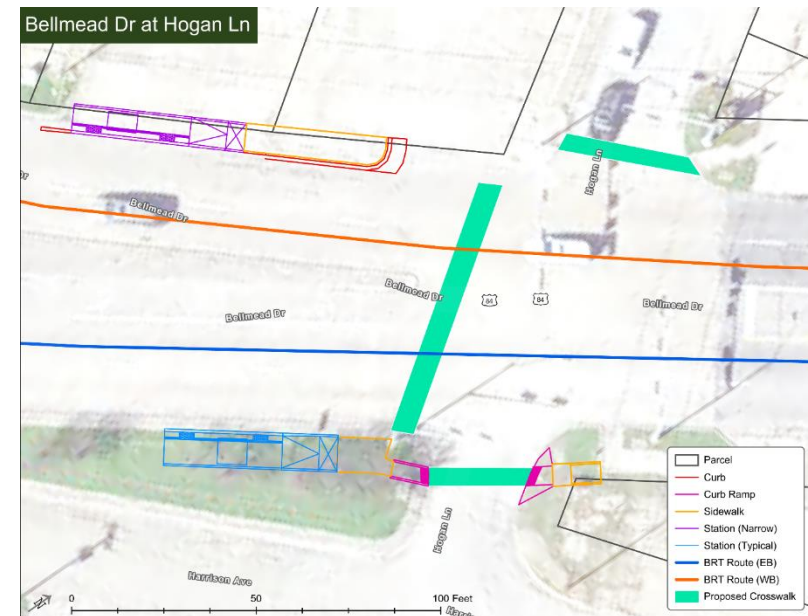
- ▶ The **westbound** BRT platform on Franklin Avenue and 18th Street is now proposed on the east side of 18th Street
- ▶ Survey and Property research has indicated that the near-side Right-of-Way is larger than originally anticipated
- ▶ The revised location will be within existing R/W and in front of a the existing building



BRT Station Location Updates

The Eastbound BRT platform on Waco Dr./ Bellmead Dr. at Hogan Ln is now proposed on the east side of Hogan Ln.

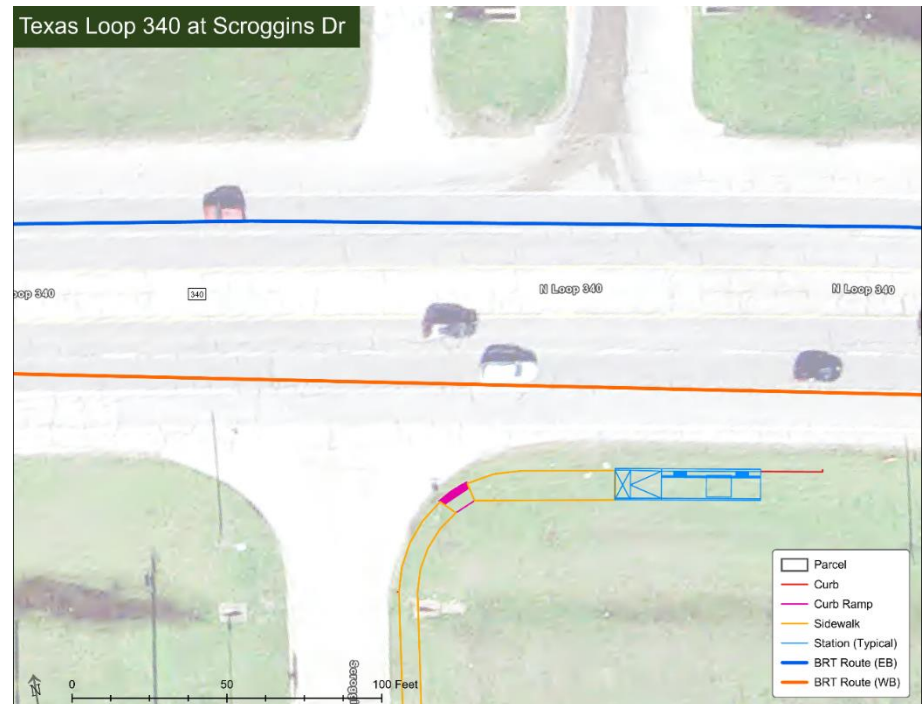
- ▶ Survey and Property research has indicated that the far-side Right-of-Way is larger than originally anticipated.
- ▶ The revised location will be within existing R/W.
- ▶ The necessary driveway modifications at the revised location are anticipated to be less impactful to the adjacent business.



BRT Station Location Updates

The BRT station at North Loop 340 and Scroggins Road will only feature one platform on the south side of the road

- ▶ This location on North Loop 340 is currently not safe for pedestrian crossings
- ▶ Long-term planning will include considerations for the significant improvements that would allow for safe crossing of bicycles and pedestrians to a future BRT platform.



Station Design Update

Waco BRT

BRT Station Design Update

- ▶ Four platform designs being considered
 - ▶ Franklin Avenue will feature raised platform designs for near-level boarding, 40-foot in length
 - ▶ 10' wide or 12' wide



BRT Station Design Update

- ▶ Four platform designs being considered
 - ▶ Station platforms **NOT** on Franklin Avenue are to be at a curb height of 7", 32-foot in length
 - ▶ 8' wide or 10' wide



Environmental Analysis/NEPA

Waco BRT

Environmental Analysis

- AECOM is completing the NEPA documentation completed for the project in accordance with 23 CFR Part 771.118 FTA Categorical Exclusions (CE) for submittal to FTA
- FTA Region 6's “D-list CE” is a streamlined NEPA document consisting of a worksheet with a checklist, brief narrative components and supporting documentation



Environmental Resources

Land Use/Zoning

Traffic

Noise/Vibration

Environmental Justice

Historic/Cultural Resources*

Section 4(f) Resources

Biological Resources

Property Acquisition/Relocations

Wetlands

Water Quality

Air Quality

Hazardous Materials

Prime/Unique Farmlands

Safety/Security

Construction Impacts

Mitigation Measures

**Required specific supporting documentation for the D-list CE in accordance with the Texas Historical Commission and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act*

Environmental Preliminary Findings

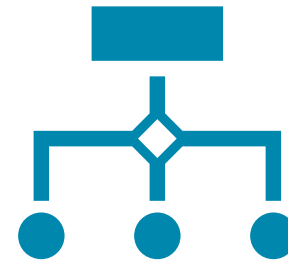
- The proposed project is primarily contained within existing ROW.
 - Natural Environment – no significant loss of wildlife habitat or adverse impacts to air or water quality.
 - Physical Environment – no adverse impacts, including to sites currently listed or eligible for listing under the National Register of Historic Places.
 - Texas Historical Commission coordination is ongoing. Concurrence to be received by July 1, 2021
 - Social/Economic Environment – No adverse impacts to community cohesion, neighborhood access, or other community impacts. Access to jobs and critical services would be improved.
- Draft Categorical Exclusion documentation to be submitted to FTA June 2021

Next Steps

Waco BRT

Next Steps

- ▶ Route Realignment
- ▶ Funding Evaluation and Rating
- ▶ Final Design



Public Involvement

Waco BRT

Public Involvement To Date

- ▶ Project Kickoff / Reintroduction (Mid-October)
- ▶ Station Siting / Preliminary Engineering / NEPA Process (Early December)
- ▶ Final Preliminary Engineering / NEPA Documentation of Environmental Analysis (Mid-June)

What We've Heard

- ▶ The community supports the Waco BRT project and the benefits it will provide
- ▶ Key benefits the community attributes to the Waco BRT project:
 - ▶ Transit improvements
 - ▶ Quality of life from having transportation access to jobs, schools, shopping and medical facilities
 - ▶ Environmental and economic benefits
- ▶ A majority of the station location comments were in support of the proposed station locations
- ▶ Additional comments included requests for:
 - ▶ Electric vehicle considerations to address air quality issues
 - ▶ Additional BRT routes to reduce the need for transfers



Share Your Input

- ▶ Please submit your comments by July 2, 2021



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WacoBRTopenhouse.net

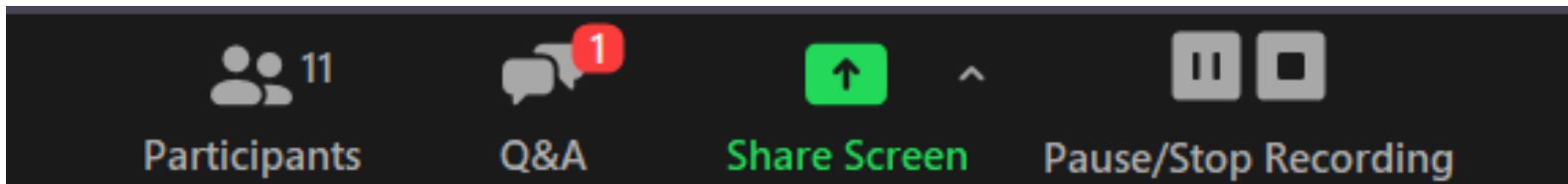
Questions / Comments

Waco BRT

Questions and Comments

- ▶ We welcome your questions and comments

**Please Enter Questions and Comments
HERE**





Thank You

Waco BRT