



1805 N. TIMBERLAND DR., LUFKIN, TEXAS 75901 | 936.634.4433 | WWW.TXDOT.GOV

October 13, 2023

The Honorable Daryl Melton  
Sabine County Judge  
201 Main Street - PO Box 716  
Hemphill, TX 75948

Re: US 96 Closure Notification for:  
Picnic area at US 96 and Airport Drive  
Sabine County, CSJ: 0064-06-053

Judge Melton,

The Texas Department of Transportation is preparing plans to widen portions of US 96 between SH 21 in San Augustine to the northern side of Brookeland. We are pursuing a "Super 2" design. A Super 2 highway is a two-lane rural highway in which a periodic passing lane has been added to allow faster vehicles to pass. The passing lane typically alternates from one direction of travel to the other within a section of roadway, which allows periodic passing opportunities in both directions in a safe manner. The transitions at the beginning and end of the passing lane allows sufficient room for the diverging and merging traffic.

There is a picnic area near the entrance of the municipal airport south of Pineland that is impacted by the widening. TxDOT has decided to convert these picnic areas into vehicle pull-off areas. Our widening work is staying within the existing right-of-way, and the concrete foundations of the picnic tables fall within the proposed work. TxDOT has no intentions of relocating these picnic areas elsewhere. As you know, US 96 is an evacuation route, and we wish to encourage traffic to continue moving.

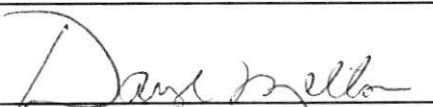
Please indicate your concurrence, or non-concurrence along with brief explanation, and return this letter. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated. You can reach me at (936)633-4349 or by email at [Matt.Brazil@txdot.gov](mailto:Matt.Brazil@txdot.gov) if you have any questions about this project.

Sincerely,

Matt Brazil, P.E.  
Director of Transportation Planning and Development

I concur with the picnic area closure

I do not concur with the picnic area closure due to the following:

Signature:  Date: 10/23/23  
Judge Daryl Melton,  
Sabine County

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