

NET RMA

North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority

Priority Project Submittal Form

Please answer all questions.

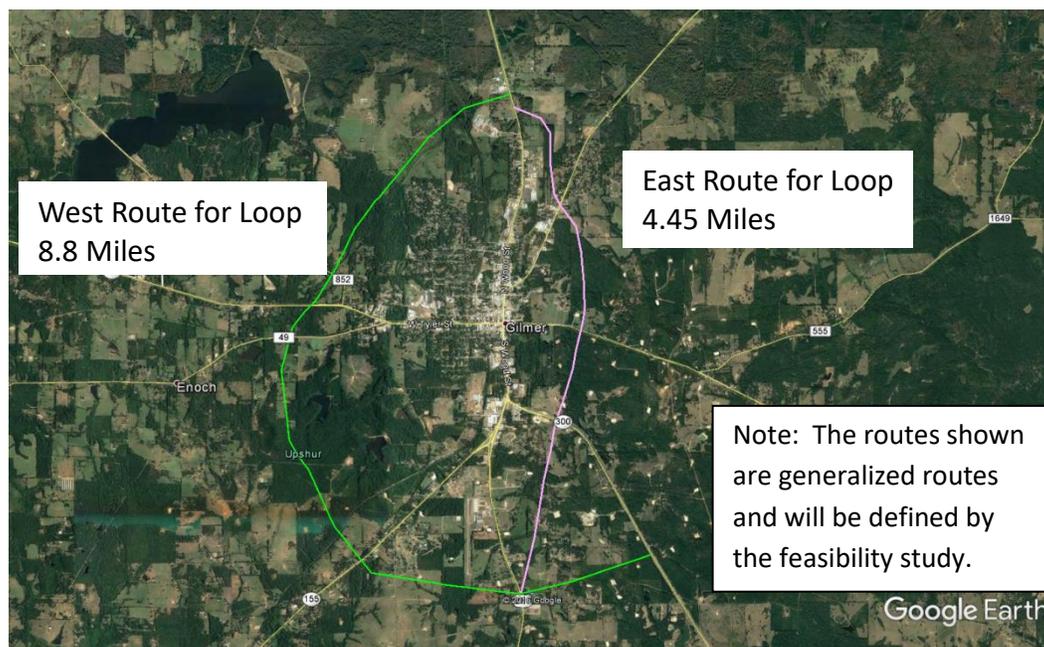
If you need to attach additional pages to answer, please do so.

1. **Name of Project:** Gilmer Loop
2. **County:** Upshur
3. **Description of Project:** Feasibility Study for Gilmer Loop

The Work Scope for the Feasibility Study would include the following:

- A. Initial collect traffic data on existing facilities to allow assessment of two basic bypass options (see the attached slide showing general routing location – this is not a definitive route location).
 - i. East route - 271 south to 271 north and make taking 271 “business” i.e. existing 271 through town exits off of 271 making the bypass the true primary route
 - ii. West route - 271 north to SH 300 on the southeast corner,

Gilmer Loop – West & East Options



- B. Conduct traffic assessment to determine which route provides the desired traffic relief
 - C. Based on which meets local needs and traffic, provide
 - i. basic analysis to “route” to determine length,
 - ii. ROW needs,
 - iii. ENV potential issues,
 - iv. other major issues (railroads, gas wells, etc),
 - v. proposed roadway typical section and concept pavement structure,
 - vi. assessment of location of grade separations,
 - vii. cost estimate for development including Schematic design and ENV permitting, ROW acquisition, utility relocation, construction and construction oversight.
 - D. The cost of the feasibility study will be approximately \$500,000. The scope of the project can be scaled to the amount of the grant received from the NET RMA. The scope of the project will be written to define the project deliverables and set review dates at certain milestones. The contract will be written with a “not to exceed” monetary amount. Upshur County will work with TxDOT on the list of approved firms to conduct the feasibility study.
4. **Reason project is needed:** A loop around Gilmer (a) will improve the traffic safety, especially in the school zones and the major intersections with Texas 154 and Texas 155, and (b)will minimize congestion along US 271 as well as Texas 154, Texas 155, and Texas 300.



Looking north on US 271 at 2:45 pm. Note the number of trucks using US 271.



Looking south bound on US 271 at school zone for elementary and middle schools. Photo was taken about 3:20 pm as parents were turning into school to pick up their children.



Looking south bound on US 271 at approximately 2:45 pm.

5. **Describe the benefits the project will produce:** The feasibility study will identify the possible routes, benefits, and conceptual costs for a Gilmer Loop. Once the possible route options are defined, the benefits enumerated, and the conceptual costs developed, the project can be presented to the city and county governments, the business leaders, the civic leaders, and the community in general.
6. **Is the Project a transportation project?** Yes.

7. **Describe the regional significance of the project:** US 271 is a significant regional north-south highway serving the northeast Texas area from Tyler in the south to Paris near the Texas – Oklahoma border. In terms of its regional significance, US 271 is identified as an "emerging freight corridor" in the January, 2016 TxDOT Freight Transportation Plan. At the behest of TxDOT Commissioner Jeff Austin, NETRMA has drawn together stakeholders from seven counties with a common interest in advancing development of US 271. The traffic flow through Gilmer on US 271 is impacted by 2 school zones as well as 7 traffic signals. A loop around Gilmer will improve the safety through the school by reducing the traffic and will also relieve the congestion on US 271 as well as Texas 154 through town. Please see the photos included in 3. above which show the congestion through Gilmer and in the school zones.
8. **Describe the local community and political support for the project.** Please attach any letters of support you might have. See attached resolutions from Upshur County and Gilmer Industrial Foundation and letter of support from Titus County. Awaiting receipt of resolution from Gilmer City Council.
9. **What local financial support is available for the project?** Local funds have not been appropriated for the feasibility study, so the NET RMA project grant is critical to the feasibility study.
10. **What State and/or Federal financial support likely will be available to develop the project?** TxDOT has currently budgeted approximately \$6 billion specifically for rural transportation work which would include projects such as the Gilmer Loop. It is expected that some Federal funds would also be available since the project directly impacts US 271.
11. **What economic development activities will the project promote?** TxDOT's criteria for prioritizing projects include economic development consideration with the advent of its new LENS system for determining project funding. The department has budgeted \$6 billion specifically for rural transportation work. In addition to increasing safety by diverting traffic from the highly developed congested route passing through Gilmer, the loop will provide access to miles of undeveloped land providing new opportunity for the Gilmer Industrial Development Corporation to work with private sector business.
12. **What is the current status of the project's development?** The project is in the conceptual stage.
13. **Will the project directly produce revenue and if so how?** This project is not a revenue producing project.
14. **What can be contacted if additional information is needed?**
 - a. **Name:** Judge Dean Fowler

- b. **Phone Number:** 903-843-4003
 - c. **E-mail Address:** dean.fowler@countyofupshur.com
- Or**
- a. **Name:** Larry Morse
 - b. **Phone Number:** 903-720-2681
 - c. **E-mail Address:** lbmorse@msn.com

Additional Traffic Photos



Looking south bound at intersection of Texas 155 North and US 271.



Looking north bound on US 271 north of Texas 155 North intersection with US 271.