



NOTICE OF OPEN HOUSE FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO IH 35

On Thursday, February 25, 2010, Williamson County, in coordination with the Texas Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration, will conduct an Open House. The purpose of the Open House is to elicit input and comments from the public regarding potential impacts to the natural, cultural, social and economic environment from improvements to northbound Interstate Highway (IH) 35, from State Highway (SH) 29 to north of Westinghouse Road, a distance of approximately 2.7 miles. Improvements include construction of the northbound frontage road, ramps and bridges from Blue Spring Boulevard to SH 29. Improvements also include widening of the existing northbound frontage road from 3,200 feet north of Westinghouse Road to north of Blue Spring Boulevard, and construction of a southbound-to-northbound IH 35 turnaround bridge on the north side of the RM 2243 overpass.

The Open House will be held in the Community Room of the Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter, 1855 S.E. Inner Loop, Georgetown, Texas. The Open House will be held in a come-and-go format between the hours of 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM – a formal presentation will not be made. Those wishing to attend are encouraged to do so at their convenience anytime between the hours of 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM. Maps of the project area and other displays will be available for review and comment. Representatives from TxDOT and the County will be on hand to provide information and to answer questions.

On August 8, 1989, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for an environmental assessment (EA) addressing improvements to IH 35 in central Williamson County. The limits of the EA extended from Loop 384/Farm to Market (FM) Road 3406 in Round Rock to Loop 418 (Bus. 81) in Georgetown, a distance of approximately 10.5 miles. A re-evaluation of the EA is currently being prepared to evaluate the improvements from SH 29 to Blue Springs Boulevard only.

The purpose of the proposed improvements is to enhance mobility and safety within the project area. Proposed work would occur only within the existing right-of-way and would be limited to the east side of IH 35 only. No additional right-of-way would be required for these proposed improvements.

The proposed project is included in the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) Transportation Improvement Program and the CAMPO Mobility 2030 Plan.

Preliminary maps and exhibits of the proposed project will be on display at the Open House, and are currently available for review at the Williamson County Road and Bridge Office located at 3151 S.E. Inner Loop, Georgetown, Texas and at the TxDOT Georgetown Area Engineer's Office located at 2727 S. Austin Avenue, Georgetown, Texas.

The Open House will be conducted in English. Persons interested in attending the Open House who require auxiliary aids or services, such as interpreters, are requested to contact Connie Watson, Williamson County, Public Information Officer, telephone (512) 943-1663, fax (512) 943-1662, or email cwatson@wilco.org at least five business days prior to the Open House so that appropriate arrangements may be made. Williamson County and TxDOT will make every reasonable effort to accommodate communication or accessibility needs.

All interested citizens are encouraged to attend the Open House and provide input on the project. Verbal and written comments may be presented at the Open House. Written comments not submitted during the Open House may be submitted to: District Environmental Coordinator, Texas Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 15426, Austin, Texas 78761-5426. All comments received by Monday, March 8, 2010, will be included in the official record of the Open House.