

**TxDOT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED MAINLANE IMPROVEMENTS
HORIZON BOULEVARD/BUFORD ROAD
FROM 0.09 MILE WEST OF SH 20 TO 0.06 MILE WEST OF FM 76
CSJ#s: 8056-24-001 AND 0002-02-050**



The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will conduct a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, March 1, 2011**, for the proposed improvements to Horizon Boulevard/Buford Road in the City of Socorro, El Paso County. This project extends from 0.09 mile west of SH 20 (Alameda Avenue) to 0.06 mile west of FM 76 (N Loop Road) in El Paso County.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to present the anticipated social, economic, and environmental effects of the proposed project. The Public Hearing will be held at Salvador Sanchez Middle School at 321 N. Rio Vista Road in the City of Socorro. Prior to the Public Hearing, an Open House will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., to allow for questions and review of project exhibits. TxDOT staff will be available to answer questions during the Open House. The formal Public Hearing presentation will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by a public comment period.

The proposed project consists of widening the existing two-lane divided roadway to a four-lane divided roadway with one 11-foot wide inside mainlane in each direction, a 15-foot wide outside eastbound lane, a 14-foot 3-inch-wide westbound outside lane, a raised median varying from 6 to 13 feet wide, and 6-foot wide concrete sidewalks. The proposed roadway would also offer 10-foot wide center turn bays within the median at all major intersections along Horizon Boulevard.

The proposed signalized intersection of Horizon Boulevard/Buford Road and SH 20 would be widened to accommodate a 6-foot wide raised median, an 11-foot 6-inch-wide left turn lane, one 11-foot wide left turn lane, one 11-foot wide westbound lane, one 12-foot wide right turn lane, one 11-foot wide eastbound lane, one 12-foot 6-inch-wide thru lane, and 6-foot wide sidewalks. Also, three retention ponds would be added along Horizon Boulevard/Buford Road. One retention pond would be located on the south side and two would be located on the north side of the proposed roadway.

The proposed project would require approximately 4.44 acres of new ROW from private property owners and approximately 1.14 acres of new easements from the El Paso Water Improvement District and the Union Pacific Railroad. Consistent with U.S. Department of Transportation policy, as mandated by the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 and the Uniform Relocation Act Amendments of 1987, TxDOT provides relocation resources to all displaced persons without discrimination. All property owners from whom property is needed are entitled to receive just compensation for their land and property. Just compensation is based upon the fair market value of the property. In order to assist those who are required to move from a home or business, TxDOT also provides, through its relocation assistance program, payments and services to aid in movement to a new location. Information concerning relocation services and benefits available to affected residential and commercial property owners and information about the tentative schedules for ROW acquisition and construction will be available at the Hearing and can also be obtained from the TxDOT El Paso District Office.

As part of this project, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is considering a 4(f) *de minimis* determination for impacts to two sites which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. A Section 4(f) *de minimis* finding means that this project would have an impact on the resource, but the FHWA, in consultation with TxDOT and the Texas Historical Commission, has made a preliminary determination that the impacts are so minor that they will not adversely affect the resource's character, activities, or attributes. The FHWA will consider comments received during the hearing before making its determination.

The project's tentative construction schedule, environmental document along with maps and drawings showing the project's location and geometric design will be presented at the Public Hearing. This information is also available for public inspection and reproduction at the TxDOT El Paso District Office, located at 13301 Gateway Boulevard West, El Paso, TX 79928.

All interested persons are invited to attend this Public Hearing. Persons requiring special communication or accommodation needs should contact the TxDOT El Paso District Public Information Officer, Blanca M. Del Valle, at (915) 790-4200 at least

two (2) working days prior to the Hearing so appropriate arrangements can be made. TxDOT will make every reasonable effort to accommodate these needs. The public hearing will be conducted in English and Spanish interpretation will be provided.

Verbal and written comments from the public regarding the proposed project may be presented at the Public Hearing. In addition, written comments submitted after the Public Hearing may be presented by mail to: Kim Johnson, Blanton & Associates, Inc., 5 Lakeway Centre Court, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78734. Comments may also be emailed to kjohnson@blantonassociates.com.

Written comments submitted after the Public Hearing must be postmarked on or before **Friday, March 11, 2011**, to be included in the Public Hearing record. For additional information, please contact Mr. Anthony Lujan, TxDOT Transportation Engineer at (915) 790-4257.