



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Proposed Border Safety Inspection Facility Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge Port of Entry

The Texas Department of Transportation Pharr District (TxDOT) in cooperation with City of Pharr, Hidalgo County, and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will hold a PUBLIC HEARING to discuss the proposed Border Safety Inspection Facility (BSIF) project at the Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge Port of Entry in Hidalgo County. This hearing will allow the public to have the opportunity to view the project details and provide comments. The hearing details are as follows:

**Tuesday, February 15, 2011
TxDOT Pharr District Office
Conference Center
600 W. US 83 Expressway
Pharr, Texas 78577
Exhibit Viewing Period: 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm
Presentation: 6:00 pm**

The proposed project is approximately 1.35 miles in length and extends from the Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge Port of Entry, east and north to US 281 Military. It involves construction of a state of the art inspection facility, construction of a new city street (Capote Central) and improvements to Spur 29 ("I Road") for access to and from the facility, and removal of the temporary inspection facility located on leased property just north of the U.S. Customs General Services Administration (GSA) facility. The proposed project would improve safety and preservation of highway infrastructure by providing a permanent facility for safety and weight compliance inspection of commercial vehicles prior to their entering the highway system in the United States.

The inspection facility would be located at the southeast quadrant of the US 281/SP 600 intersection approximately 0.5 miles east of SP 600 and 0.4 miles south of US 281, just east of the existing GSA facility. It would include static and weigh-in-motion scales, multiple inspection bays with enclosed inspection stations, a separate hazardous material inspection area, short and long term parking, an administrative building with employee parking, security controls, and on-site storm water detention. Employee and service access would be provided along a new 2 lane, 40 foot-wide urban street (Capote Central) constructed within 60 feet of right of way (ROW) that would connect to Spur 29 ("I Road") just north of the inspection facility. Spur 29 ("I Road") would be reconstructed and widened to a 2 lane, 44 foot-wide rural roadway within 120 feet of ROW from the inspection facility connection approximately 0.36 miles south of US 281, north to US 281 to accommodate commercial vehicles exiting the inspection facility.

Approximately 48.81 acres of additional ROW would be required for this project, which includes 3.56 acres for the new city street (Capote Central), 5.25 acres for roadway improvements along Spur 29 ("I Road"), and 40.00 acres for the inspection facility. No relocations or displacements would be required. The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act of 1970 would be followed in the acquisition of the required ROW. The proposed project area is located outside the 100-year floodplain; therefore there would be no impact to the floodplain. The project would also have no impact to any waters of the U.S., including wetlands or other special aquatic sites.

Under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, projects that use land from public parks, recreation areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, or historic sites (public or private), must be evaluated for potential impact. The proposed project would not require the use of nor substantially impair any public park,

recreation area, or wildlife and waterfowl refuge lands, but does include upgrades to underground pipes and addition of culverts to an existing irrigation canal involving an irrigation system listed as a historic property on the National Register of Historic Places. The proposed improvements would not affect or diminish the qualities and characteristics that contribute to the architectural significance of the system owned by Hidalgo County Irrigation District No. 2 (formally known as the Louisiana-Rio Grande Canal Company Irrigation System). TxDOT historians and the Texas Historical Commission (THC) have concurred that the proposed project would have no adverse affect on this historic property and complies with FHWA *de minimis* Section 4(f) guidelines. As such, a *de minimis* Section 4(f) determination from FHWA will be requested for this project.

All interested citizens are invited to attend this hearing and express their views on the project. Verbal or written comments may be presented at the public hearing. Comments may also be submitted up to 10 days after the public hearing, on or prior to February 25, 2011, by mail to the Pharr District Engineer, Mario R. Jorge, P.E. at P.O. Box 1717, Pharr, Texas 78577-1717, by facsimile to (956) 702-6110, or by email to Robin.Gelston@txdot.gov. Location maps and drawings showing the proposed location and design of the project, the environmental document, the tentative construction schedule, and other project information are on file and available for viewing and copying at the TxDOT District Office, located at 600 W. Expressway 83 in Pharr, Texas.

For additional information on the project, please call Pablo Anguiano, P.E. at the Pharr District Office at (956) 702-6134. Spanish translations will be available at the public hearing. Persons interested in attending the hearing and having questions regarding special communication or accommodation needs may contact Robin Gelston at (956) 702-6130 at least five days prior to the public hearing.