



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the City of San Antonio (CSA) are proposing improvements to Spur 53 (UTSA Boulevard) from IH 10 to Babcock Road in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. A public hearing for the proposed project will be held on **Monday, March 17, 2014, beginning at 7:00 p.m., at Monroe May Elementary School, 15707 Chase Hill Blvd, San Antonio, Texas 78256**. The section of roadway from IH 10 to Edward Ximenes Boulevard is on the TxDOT roadway system and would be constructed by TxDOT. The section from Edward Ximenes Boulevard to Babcock Road is a city street, and would be constructed by the CSA.

The purpose of the hearing is to discuss the proposed improvements to Spur 53. From IH 10 to approximately 0.62 miles west of IH 10, Spur 53 is a four-lane roadway consisting of 4-12 foot lanes with a 14 foot continuous center turn lanes, curb, and 5 foot sidewalk on the north side of the road. From approximately 0.62 mile west of IH 10 to Babcock Road, Spur 53 is a two-lane roadway consisting of 2-14 foot lanes, with 4 to 6 foot wide shoulder, and curb.

The San Antonio Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) long range plan (MTP 2035) has identified the need for Spur 53 to be upgraded and serve as an urban arterial between IH 10 and Babcock Road in order to enhance mobility. In addition, pedestrian improvements are proposed as the corridor does not accommodate bicycles and pedestrians traveling to and from the adjacent residential areas to the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA).

The scope of improvements is to expand the roadway from two to four lanes. This would be a curb and gutter section and drain to storm sewer. The proposed improvements from approximately 0.62 miles west of IH 10 to Babcock Road would typically consist of 4-11 foot lanes, a 12 foot center turn lane, curb, and a 10 foot shared use path (SUP) on both sides of the roadway (separated from the main lanes). Raised medians, ranging from approximately 4 to 16 feet wide, would also be included at various locations between Edward Ximenes Boulevard and Babcock Road. The remainder of the project would be restriping the existing four lanes to change the outside lanes into a shared use lane, and adding sidewalk. The existing two-lane bridge at Leon Creek would also be widened. The proposed bridge would accommodate 4 lanes, with a center turn, bike lanes, and sidewalk. The posted speed limit would remain at 45 miles per hour.

The existing ROW ranges from approximately 86 feet to 120 feet wide. A total of approximately 0.24 acre of additional ROW would be required from UTSA and SAWS to construct the right turn lane into the campus at James Bauerle Boulevard. The UTSA ROW would be dedicated to TxDOT, and is approximately 0.217 acre. The SAWS easement property to be acquired is approximately 0.023 acre. In addition, a portion of the SUP would be constructed on UTSA property within an approximate 2.30 acre license agreement easement (i.e. a temporary construction easement). This easement is located on the north side of Spur 53, between Edward Ximenes Boulevard and James Bauerle Road. The proposed ROW would be acquired in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended. No relocations or displacements would be required.

This project would be subject to Section 4(f) of the 1966 Transportation Act and Chapter 26-Protection of Public Parks and Recreational Lands of the Parks and Wildlife Code, due to impacts to the temporary construction easement on UTSA property, and the proposed new ROW from UTSA and SAWS. This project is being considered for a de minimis Section 4(f) determination for impacts to these properties. A 4(f) de minimis impact finding means that the project would not adversely affect the activities, features,



or attributes qualifying that property for protection under Section 4(f). The determination would be made by FHWA, in consultation with TxDOT and the officials with jurisdiction over the properties. The FHWA will consider comments received during the Public Hearing before making a final Section 4(f) de minimis determination.

According to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Maps for Bexar County, Texas, the project is located within a FEMA designated 100-year floodplain. The project crosses five drainages. Improvements to existing drainage structures are proposed at two of these drainages, as well as widening the bridge at Leon Creek. No wetlands would be impacted. The project is also located within the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone (EARZ) and the Contributing Zone within the Transition Zone (CZTZ).

A schematic plan showing the location of the project and geometric design, the environmental document prepared for the project, and other information pertinent to the project are on file and available for inspection at the TxDOT San Antonio District Office, located at 4615 NW Loop 410 in San Antonio, Texas. For specific information regarding the design, construction, or schedule of this project, contact Ms. Laura Lopez at 210-615-5839.

Any interested citizen is invited to attend this public hearing. Verbal or written comments about the project may be presented either at the hearing or submitted within ten (10) days after the hearing (Thursday, March 27, 2014) to the following address: Texas Department of Transportation; Attention: Mr. Barrlynn West; P.O. Box 29928, San Antonio, Texas, 78229-0928.

Individuals interested in attending the hearing who have special communication or accommodation needs are encouraged to contact the TxDOT San Antonio District Office at 210-615-5811 at least seven (7) days in advance. Since the hearing will be conducted in English, requests for language interpreters or other special communication needs should be made. TxDOT will make every reasonable effort to accommodate these needs.

A written report will be prepared following the hearing to address comments received at the hearing and during the subsequent 10-day comment period. A copy of the Comment and Response Report will be prepared and made available at the TxDOT San Antonio District Office located at 4615 NW Loop 410 in San Antonio, Texas.