



Notice
Draft Environmental Assessment and Virtual Public Hearing with In-Person Option

FM 812
From US Highway (US) 183 to State Highway (SH) 21
CSJs: 1149-01-023 and 1149-02-026
Travis and Bastrop Counties, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing to realign and widen FM 812 from US 183 to SH 21 in Travis and Bastrop counties, Texas, and a portion of FM 973 from 0.1-miles north of McAngus Road to 0.2-miles south of FM 812. This notice advises the public that a draft environmental assessment (EA) is available for public review and that TxDOT will be conducting an online virtual public hearing on the proposed project with an in-person option. **The virtual hearing will consist of a pre-recorded video presentation and will include both audio and visual components. The presentation will be posted online by Jan. 11, 2024, at 5 p.m.** To log onto the virtual public hearing, go to the following web address at the date and time indicated above: www.txdot.gov, keyword search "FM 812 from US 183". Following the virtual public hearing, the presentation will remain available for viewing at the web address indicated above and comments must be submitted or postmarked by Friday, Jan. 26, 2024, to be a part of the public hearing summary report. If you do not have internet access, you may call (737) 272-7027 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, to ask questions and access project materials during the project development process.

Additionally, TxDOT is providing an in-person option for individuals who would like to participate in person instead of online. In-person attendees will be able to view the same presentation delivered in the online public hearing, which will be playing on a screen; review hard copies of project materials; ask questions of TxDOT staff and/or consultants; and leave written comments. **The in-person option will be held on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Camino Real Elementary School located at 2380 FM 812, Dale, TX 78616.**

For both the virtual public hearing and in-person option, members of the public may call **(512) 655-9797** to provide verbal testimony immediately following the conclusion of the virtual public hearing presentation at 7 p.m. on Jan. 11, 2024, through 11:59 pm on January 26, 2024, to be a part of the official meeting record. Formal written comments may also be provided by mail or email as explained below. All verbally provided testimony and timely written comments will be considered by TxDOT and included as part of the official record. Responses to verbally provided testimony and comments will be prepared by TxDOT, included as part of the hearing and project record, and made available online at www.txdot.gov, keyword search "FM 812 from US 183".

The project would expand the roadway to a four-lane undivided roadway with a center left-turn lane from US 183 to Peterson Rd in the town of Elroy and a four-lane divided roadway from Peterson Rd to SH 21. The project would provide a shared-use path on both sides of FM 812 to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists.

The proposed project would, subject to final design considerations, require additional right of way and potentially displace or impact nine residences and eight non-residential structures. Relocation assistance is available for displaced persons and businesses. Information about the TxDOT Relocation Assistance Program and services and benefits for those displaced and other affected property owners, as well as information about the tentative schedule for right-of-way acquisition and construction, can be found by going to www.txdot.gov/business/right-of-way/landowner-bill-of-rights.html. The proposed project is anticipated to impact the following property protected under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966: the Emil Thure and Annie Nelson Farm Historic District.

The proposed project would involve an action in a floodplain.

The draft EA, any maps and drawings showing the project location and design, tentative construction schedules, and other information regarding the proposed project are on file and available for inspection Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Austin District Office, 7901 North I-35, Austin, TX 78753. Project materials are also available online at www.txdot.gov, keyword search "FM 812 from US 183". These materials will also be available in hard copy form for review at the in-person option.

The virtual public hearing and in-person option will be conducted in English. If you need an interpreter or document translator because English is not your primary language or you have difficulty communicating effectively in English, one will be provided to you. If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. If you need interpretation or translation services or you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation to attend and participate in the virtual public hearing or in-person option, please call Amanda Cecil Roper at (346) 708-9553 no later than 4 p.m. CT, on Jan. 8, 2024. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for TxDOT to arrange.

Written comments from the public regarding the proposed project are requested and may be submitted by mail to Stantec, 15990 North Barkers Landing Rd, Suite 125, Houston, TX 77079. Written comments may also be submitted by email to FM812Project@gmail.com. **All written comments must be received on or before Friday, Jan. 26, 2024.** Additionally, as stated above, members of the public may call **(512) 655-9797** and verbally provide testimony from 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024, until 11:59 pm on Friday, Jan. 26, 2024. Responses to written comments received and public testimony provided will be available online at www.txdot.gov, keyword search "FM 812 from US 183" once they have been prepared.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or virtual hearing or in-person option, please contact Megan Dutton, at (737) 272-7027 or Megan.Dutton@txdot.gov.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.
