



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

**FM 973**  
**From SH 130 to US 290**  
**CSJ: 1200-03-056**  
**Travis County, Texas**

The Texas Department of Transportation is proposing to realign and widen a portion of FM 973 from SH 130 to US 290 in Travis County, Texas. 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 begin on Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022 at 6 p.m.** To log onto the virtual public hearing, go to [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov), keyword search "FM 973." The virtual hearing will consist of a pre-recorded video presentation and will include both audio and visual components. Please note that the presentation will not be available on the website until the time and date listed above. The presentation will remain available for viewing at the web address indicated above until **Friday, Aug. 26, 2022** at 11:59 p.m. If you do not have internet access, you may call (512) 761-2711 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 hearing 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, 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, Aug. 11, 2022 at ShadowGlen Golf Club, 12801 N. Lexington Street, Manor, TX 78653.** Displays will be available for viewing beginning at 4:30 p.m. with the formal hearing beginning at 6 p.m.

For both the virtual public hearing and in-person option, members of the public may call (512) 394-4532 to provide verbal testimony at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022 through 11:59 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 26, 2022. 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](http://www.txdot.gov).

The proposed project would realign and widen a portion of FM 973 by constructing a roadway, partially in a new location, between SH 130 and US 290 east of Manor in Travis County. The project length is 5.7 miles. The proposed improvements would expand FM 973 from 2 to 6 travel lanes - three in each direction - and include a grassy median and turn lanes in various locations. The project would also include drainage improvements, overpasses, sidewalks and shared-use paths. The proposed right of way would be between 200 and 300-feet.

Although additional right of way would be required, no residential or non-residential structures are anticipated to be displaced at this time. Information concerning services and benefits available to affected property owners and information about the tentative schedule for right-of-way acquisition and construction can be obtained from the TxDOT district office by calling (512) 766-3472.

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 TxDOT Austin District Office, 7901 N. I-35, Austin, TX 78753. Project materials are also available online at [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov), keyword search "FM 973." 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 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 contact Mitzi Ellison at (512) 761-2711 no later than 4 p.m. CT, Monday, Aug. 8, 2022. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for the Texas Department of Transportation to arrange.

Written comments from the public regarding the proposed project are requested and may be submitted by mail to Nancy Ledbetter & Associates, Inc., Attn: FM 973 Project, P.O. Box 14622, Austin, TX 78761. Written comments may also be submitted by email to [FM973Project@gmail.com](mailto:FM973Project@gmail.com). **All written comments must be received on or before Friday, Aug. 26, 2022.** Additionally, as stated above, members of the public may call (512) 394-4532 and provide verbal testimony from 6 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022 until 11:59 pm on Friday, Aug. 26, 2022. Responses to written comments received and public testimony provided will be available online at [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) 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 Robert Ramon, P.E. at (512) 942-6868 or by email at [FM973Project@gmail.com](mailto:FM973Project@gmail.com).

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.