



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

I-35 Capital Express Central Project
From US 290 East to US 290 West/State Highway 71
CSJs: 0015-13-388
Travis County, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation is proposing to improve I-35 from US 290 East to US 290 West/State Highway 71 in Travis County, Texas. This notice advises the public that a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) 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 Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023, at 5 p.m.** To access the virtual public hearing, go to the following web address at the date and time indicated above: my35capex.com. Following the virtual public hearing, the presentation will remain available for viewing until Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. If you do not have internet access, you may call (512) 953-7876 between the hours of 9 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 leave written comments. **The in-person option will be held on Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023, from 5-7 p.m. at the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex, 1156 Hargrave Street, Austin, TX 78702.**

For both the virtual public hearing and in-person option, members of the public may call (512) 651-2948 to provide verbal testimony. 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 my35capex.com.

The I-35 Capital Express Central project is approximately 8 miles in length and would include removing the existing I-35 upper decks, lowering the roadway and adding two non-tolled high-occupancy vehicle managed lanes in each direction along I-35. The project will also reconstruct east-west cross-street bridges, add pedestrian and bicycle paths, improve transit accommodations and make additional safety and mobility improvements within the project limits. The typical proposed section for the project generally consists of four mainlanes, two managed lanes, and three frontage road lanes in each direction. Excluding ramps, lane widths are proposed to be typically 11 feet. Existing right-of-way (ROW) width ranges from 200 to 350 feet, and proposed ROW ranges typically from 266 to 771 feet.

The Preferred Alternative (Modified Build Alternative 3) would, subject to final design considerations, require approximately 41.7 acres of additional ROW and potentially displace 107 properties (69



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commercial properties, 2 single-family homes, 1 multi-family complex (24 apartments) and 12 vacant properties. This project would also require approximately 28 acres of easement. 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 ROW acquisition and construction, can be obtained from the TxDOT district office by calling (512) 832-7280.

The proposed project is anticipated to impact the following eleven properties (only portions of each parkland and portions of the hike and bike trail) protected under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966: Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail, International Shores at Town Lake Metropolitan Park_3, Waller Beach at Town Lake Metropolitan Park, Edward Rendon Sr. Metropolitan Park at Festival Beach, Norwood Tract at Town Lake Metropolitan Park, Lady Bird Lake, the historic Town Lake Park System, Dura Tune Service Station, EBBC Building, the Haster House, and the Roberts House, described as follows: The Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail is a 15-mile trail system that circles Lady Bird Lake. Approximately 652 feet of permanent impacts and 1,207 feet of temporary impacts would occur at this trail near the I-35 bridge over Lady Bird Lake. International Shores at Town Lake Metropolitan Park_3 is a 1.33-acre park, located at 1300 East Riverside Drive, on the southeast side of the I-35 bridge over Lady Bird Lake. Approximately 0.6 acres of construction staging area and an additional 0.1 acre of permanent ROW would be required. Waller Beach at Town Lake Metropolitan Park is an approximately 28-acre park located at 30 East Ave, on the northwest side of the I-35 bridge over Lady Bird Lake, south of downtown Austin. Permanent ROW in the amount of approximately 1.2 acres would be required. Edward Rendon Sr. Metropolitan Park at Festival Beach is an approximately 73-acre park located at 2101 Jesse E. Segovia Street, on the northeast side of the I-35 bridge over Lady Bird Lake. A temporary construction staging area totaling approximately 0.7 acres would be required. Norwood Tract at Town Lake Metropolitan Park, located at 1012 Edgecliff Terrace, is an approximately 10-acre park located on the southwest side of the I-35 bridge over Lady Bird Lake. A temporary construction staging area totaling approximately 0.57 acres would be required. Lady Bird Lake is an artificial lake on the Colorado River that stretches through the south side of downtown Austin. Approximately 25 acres of temporary construction staging areas would be required. Additionally, approximately 0.29 acres of permanent incorporation of Lady Bird Lake would result from the construction of a boat dock. The historic Town Lake Park System extends from Waller Creek to Fiesta Gardens (including portions of the Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail, Waller Beach at Town Lake Metropolitan Park, and Edward Rendon Sr. Metropolitan Park at Festival Beach). This property is a one-mile section of Austin's Town Lake Park System. Dura Tune Service Station at 3810 North I-35 is recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C. The proposed project would displace and remove the former Dura Tune Service Station building and would require acquisition of about 0.20 acre, or approximately 65 percent, of the property parcel. The Elgin Butler Brick Company Building, located at 4001 North I-35, is recommended eligible under Criteria A and C. The proposed project would displace and remove the EBBC Main Office (*Austin Chronicle*) building and would potentially acquire the entire 0.33-acre property parcel. The Haster House, located at 3009 North I-35, is recommended eligible under Criteria A and C. The proposed project would displace the Haster House and a small shed to the east of the house and would acquire the entire 0.18-acre Haster House property parcel. The Roberts House, located at 3509 North I-35, is recommended eligible under Criterion A. The proposed project would displace and remove the Roberts House and an associated garage. TxDOT would acquire the entire 0.25-acre Roberts House property parcel.

The proposed project would impact the same six parks and recreational areas listed above and one publicly-owned historic property subject to Chapter 26 of the Parks and Wildlife Code. These parks include: the Ann



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and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail, International Shores at Town Lake Metropolitan Park_3, Waller Beach at Town Lake Metropolitan Park, Edward Rendon Sr. Metropolitan Park at Festival Beach, Norwood Tract at Town Lake Metropolitan Park, Lady Bird Lake, and the publicly-owned historic Town Lake Park System. See paragraph above for a description of takes/uses.

The proposed project would involve an action in a floodplain.

The draft EIS, 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 the following locations:

- TxDOT Austin District Office, 7901 N I-35, Austin, TX 78753
- Carver Library, 1161 Angelina St., Austin, TX 78702
- Ruiz Library, 1600 Grove Blvd., Austin, TX 78741
- Southeast Library, 5803 Nuckols Crossing Rd., Austin, TX 78744
- Montopolis Recreation and Community Center, 1200 Montopolis Dr., Austin, TX 78741

Project materials (including the Draft EIS) are also available online at my35capex.com and TxDOT.gov. These materials will also be available in hard copy form for review at the in-person public hearing option.

The virtual public hearing and the in-person option will be conducted in English along with a video in English and Spanish walking through the Public Hearing information. Additionally, the virtual public hearing will include a Spanish version of the presentation, materials and video. 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 contact Frances Jordan at (512) 953-7876 no later than 4 p.m. CT, Feb. 3, 2023. 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 I-35 Capital Express Central Project Team, 1608 W. 6th Street, Austin, TX 78703 from Jan. 5, 2023, to March 7, 2023. Written comments may also be submitted by email to capexcentral@txdot.gov.

All written comments must be received on or before Tuesday, March 7, 2023. Additionally, as stated above, members of the public may call (512) 651-2948 and verbally provide testimony from 9 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023, until 11:59 pm on Tuesday, March 7, 2023. Comments are specifically invited on the submitted alternatives, information, and analyses, and the summary thereof in the draft EIS. Responses to written comments received and public testimony provided will be available online at my35capex.com once they have been prepared.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project, please contact Tommy Abrego, P.E., Mobility35 Program Manager, at (512) 832-7280 or tommy.abrego@txdot.gov.

If you have questions about the virtual hearing or in-person option, please contact Frances Jordan, at (512) 953-7876, or fjordo-c@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.