



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

I-35 CAPITAL EXPRESS SOUTH
From US 290 West/SH 71/Ben White Boulevard to SH 45 Southeast
CSJs: 0015-13-077, 0016-01-113
Travis and Hays counties, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation is proposing improvements to I-35 from US 290 West/SH 71/Ben White Boulevard in Travis County to SH 45 Southeast in Hays 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 Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 9 a.m.** To log onto the virtual public hearing, go to the my35capex.com. 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 **Wednesday, May 26, 2021** at 11:59 p.m. If you do not have internet access, you may call (512) 766-3472 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 option for individuals who would like to participate in-person instead of online. In-person attendees will be able to view the same video presentation delivered in the online public hearing, review hard copies of project materials, ask socially-distanced questions of TxDOT staff and/or consultants, and leave written comments. **The in-person option will be held on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the TxDOT South Travis/Hays County Area Office, 9725 S. I-35, Austin, TX 78744.** Attendance at the in-person option will be by appointment only. Individuals wishing to attend in person must call (512) 766-3472 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, to make an appointment. In recognition of COVID-19, enhanced safety measures will be applied at the in-person option, including a requirement to have an appointment and follow social distancing practices. If anyone arrives without an appointment they may be asked to wait outside to ensure we maintain appropriate occupancy within the hearing room.

For both the virtual public hearing and in-person option, members of the public may call (512) 501-5451 to provide verbal testimony at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 through 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, May 26, 2021. Formal written comments may also be provided by mail or email as explained below. All verbal testimony and timely written comments will be considered by TxDOT and included as part of the official record. Responses to verbal testimony and comments will be prepared by TxDOT, included as part of the hearing and project record, and made available online at my35capex.com.

Within the project limits I-35 is an access-controlled interstate highway that typically has three to four general-purpose lanes in each direction. The project proposes to add two non-tolled high-occupancy vehicle managed lanes in each direction along I-35 from SH 71/Ben White Boulevard to SH 45 Southeast. The project length is 8.93 miles. The project will also reconstruct bridges, add pedestrian and bicycle paths, and make additional safety and mobility improvements within the project limits. The existing right-of-way width is typically 300 to 420 feet and the proposed right of way would remain typically 300 to 420 feet.

Although additional right of way would be required, no residents or businesses 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) 832-7000.

The proposed project would involve construction in wetlands.

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 South Travis/Hays County Area Office, 9725 S. I-35, Austin, TX 78744 and (512) 282-2113**. Project materials are also available online at my35capex.com. 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 contact Nic Barbera at (512) 766-3472 no later than 4 p.m. CDT, Wednesday, April 21, 2021. 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 Matthew Cho, P.E., Project Manager, 1608 W. 6th Street, Austin, TX 78703. Written comments may also be submitted by email to CapExSouth@txdot.gov. **All written comments must be received on or before Wednesday, May 26, 2021.** Additionally, as stated above, members of the public may call (512) 501-5451 and verbally provide testimony from 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 until 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, May 26, 2021. 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 or virtual hearing or in-person option, please contact Matthew Cho, P.E., Project Manager, at (512) 865-7945 or by email at Matthew.Cho@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 Dec. 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.