



## Notice

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

#### I-35 CAPITAL EXPRESS NORTH

From SH 45N to US 290E

CSJs: 0015-10-062, 0015-13-389

Travis and Williamson Counties, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing improvements to I-35 from SH 45N in Williamson County to US 290 East 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 Monday, May 10, 2021, at 9 a.m.** To log onto the virtual public hearing, go to the following web address starting at the date and time indicated above: [my35capex.com](http://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 **Thursday, June 10, 2021** at 11:59 p.m. If you do not have internet access, you may call (512) 766-3472 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 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 Monday, May 10, 2021 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the TxDOT Austin District Office, 7901 N. I-35, Austin, Texas 78753.** Attendance at the in-person option will be by appointment only. Individuals wishing to attend in-person must call (512) 522-6949 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) 721-2832 to provide verbal testimony on May 10, 2021 through 11:59 p.m. on June 10, 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](http://my35capex.com).

I-35 within the proposed project limits is a controlled access interstate highway within an approximately 300-foot wide right-of-way. The proposed improvements would add one, 12-foot wide non-tolled high-occupancy vehicle managed lane in each direction, reconstruct bridges, construct a diverging diamond intersection (DDI) at Wells Branch Parkway, make additional safety and mobility improvements, and add bicycle and pedestrian paths. The proposed right-of-way would typically be 300 to 320 feet wide. The project length is approximately 11.5 miles.

The proposed project would, subject to final design considerations, require additional right-of-way and potentially displace five 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 obtained from the TxDOT district office by calling (512) 832-7000.

The proposed project is anticipated to impact the following property protected under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966: City of Austin's Upper Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt located along I-35 south of Rundberg Lane. The proposed project would require the acquisition of approximately 0.6 acre from Upper Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt. TxDOT anticipates making a *de minimis* determination for this use under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966. Public comment on the effects of the proposed project on the activities, features, or attributes of the Upper Little Walnut Creek may be submitted as described below. This park is a designated public property subject to Chapter 26 of the Parks and Wildlife Code.

The proposed project would involve an action in a floodplain.

At least part of the proposed project would occur within the Edwards Aquifer transition zone.

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 **the TxDOT Austin District Office, 7901 N. I-35, Austin, Texas 78753**. Project materials are also available online at [my35capex.com](http://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. CT, Wednesday, May 5, 2021. 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: Michelle Cooper P.E., 1608 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, TX 78703. Written comments may also be submitted by email to [CapExNorth@txdot.gov](mailto:CapExNorth@txdot.gov). **All written comments must be received on or before Thursday, June 10, 2021.** Additionally, as stated above, members of the public may call (512) 721-2832 and verbally provide testimony from 9 a.m. on May 10, 2021 to 11:59 p.m. on June 10, 2021. Responses to written comments received and public testimony provided will be available online at [my35capex.com](http://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 Michelle Cooper at (512) 832-7138 or [Michelle.Cooper@txdot.gov](mailto:Michelle.Cooper@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.