



NOTICE

Draft Environmental Assessment Available for Public Review and Public Hearing

10/69 Interchanges Project

I-10 from Walden Road (County Road 131) to 7th Street and US 69 from Fannett Road (State Highway 124) to 11th Street

CSJs: 0028-13-135; 0739-02-140

Jefferson County, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Beaumont District, as the lead agency, is proposing to reconstruct and expand I-10 from Walden Road (County Road 131) to 7th Street and US 69 from Fannett Road (State Highway 124) to 11th Street in Jefferson County, Texas. This notice advises the public that a draft environmental assessment (EA) is available for public review and that TxDOT will be conducting a public hearing on the proposed project. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2020, at the MCM Elegante Hotel, 2355 I-10 Beaumont, Texas, 77705. Displays will be available for viewing at 5 p.m. with the formal hearing starting at 6 p.m. The purpose of the hearing is to present the planned improvements and to receive public comment on the proposed project.

The proposed project would widen I-10 from Walden Road (County Road 131) to 7th Street and widen US 69 from Fannett Road (State Highway 124) to 11th Street. Between the Cardinal Drive and Eastex Freeway interchanges, the roadway would be widened in each direction from four lanes to five lanes. The roadway approaches to the Cardinal Drive and Eastex Freeway interchanges on I-10 and US 69 would be widened in each direction from two lanes to three lanes. The project also includes new frontage roads for continuity throughout the limits, relocating I-10 ramps, and constructing two-lane direct connectors in each direction where I-10 and US 69 converge within the project limits. In addition, the project includes the removal of the Maury Meyers Bridge (Liberty/Laurel Overpass) to address a height constraint for freight movements and includes upgrading drainage to meet current design standards. The total project length is approximately 5 miles.

Existing right of way (ROW) at the Eastex Freeway interchange varies from approximately 250 feet to 350 feet. Existing ROW at the Cardinal interchange varies from approximately 290 feet to 450 feet. Approximately 11 acres of additional ROW is anticipated as part of the proposed project, mostly within the Eastex Freeway interchange, including potential easements or ROW for drainage. The ROW would remain unchanged at the Cardinal Drive interchange, but the ROW at the Eastex Freeway interchange is proposed to increase approximately 250 feet at its widest part. The proposed project would displace 41 commercial businesses and one government office within 12 commercial properties. No residential displacements are anticipated. Information about the TxDOT Relocation Assistance Program, benefits and services for displacees, as well as information about the tentative schedules for ROW acquisition and construction can be obtained from the TxDOT district office at the address listed below. Relocation assistance is available for displaced persons and businesses.

Waters of the United States (WOUS) and wetlands are located within the proposed project area and may be impacted by the proposed project. Impacts to WOUS and wetlands would be authorized under a U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Section 404 Permit. Permanent impacts would be minimized to the greatest extent possible and all permanent fills would comply with conditions of Section 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act. The proposed project is within a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated 100-year floodway and the FEMA-designated 100-year floodplain. The hydraulic design for this project would be in accordance with current FHWA and TxDOT design policies.

The draft EA, maps showing the project location and design, tentative construction schedules, and other information regarding the 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 Beaumont District Office, 8350 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont, TX 77708 and www.txdot.gov using the keywords: 10/69 Interchanges. This information also will be available for inspection at the hearing. Verbal and written comments from the public regarding the project are requested and may be presented at the hearing or submitted in person or by mail to the TxDOT Beaumont District Office. **Comments must be postmarked on or before Wednesday, April 8, 2020, to be part of the official hearing record.**

The hearing will be conducted in English. Persons interested in attending the hearing who have special communication or accommodation needs, such as the need for an interpreter, are encouraged to contact TxDOT Public Information Officer Sarah Dupre at (409) 898-5745. Requests should be made at least two days prior to the hearing. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate these needs.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or the hearing, please contact the TxDOT Project Manager, at (409) 898-5732 or email bmtprojects@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.



WHEN:

Tuesday, March 24, 2020
5 P.M Open House
6 P.M Formal Presentation

WHERE:

MCM Elegante Hotel
2355 Interstate 10 South, Beaumont, TX 77705

Comments must be received by
Wednesday, April 8, 2020,
and may be submitted at the Public Hearing, or
by mail, email, or online to:

TxDOT Project Manager
8350 Eastex Freeway
Beaumont, Texas 77708
bmtprojects@txdot.gov
(409) 898-5732

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