



Notice
Virtual Public Hearing
US 190 at Neches River Bridge Replacements
Neches River Relief Bridge and Neches River Bridge
CSJs: 0213-07-047, 0213-08-074
Jasper and Tyler Counties, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Beaumont District is proposing to replace the existing United States Highway (US) 190 Neches River Relief Bridge and US 190 at Neches River Bridge at B.A. Steinhagen Reservoir in Jasper and Tyler Counties, Texas. This notice advises the public that TxDOT will be conducting an online virtual public hearing (no in-person option) on the proposed project. The virtual public hearing will consist of a pre-recorded video presentation and will include both audio and visual components. The presentation will be posted online on **Tuesday, March 21, 2023, by noon**. To log onto the virtual public hearing, go to the following web address at the date and time indicated above: www.TxDOT.gov and, in the keyword search box in the upper-right hand corner, enter "US 190 at Neches River." If you do not have internet access, you may call the TxDOT Beaumont District Office at 409-898-5732 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.

Members of the public may call 409-203-2579 to provide verbal testimony from noon on March 21, 2023, through 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5, 2023. 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.

The project area would be approximately 1.11 miles in length along US 190 between the cities of Woodville and Jasper and would replace the two existing US 190 bridges described above. The project would construct one bridge adjacent to the north side of the existing bridges and would remove the two existing bridges and approaches. The approach roadways and new bridge would consist of two 12-foot-wide travel lanes (one in each direction) with 10-foot-wide outside shoulders.

The project would be constructed entirely inside of the existing 200 to 300-foot-wide permanent transportation easement (which is used as right of way [ROW] and referred to as such for the purposes of the project), and no new ROW would be required. Approximately 8.90 acres of temporary construction easements are proposed outside of the existing ROW, and a 0.25-acre temporary construction easement is proposed inside the existing ROW.

The proposed project is anticipated to impact (or "use") the following properties protected under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 and Chapter 26 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code: the US 190 at the Neches River Bridge (NBI No. 201220021308074) and Martin Dies Jr. State Park. The US 190 at Neches River Bridge, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is classified as a historic site under Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 and Chapter 26 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, would be replaced as described above. Two temporary construction easements would be required within Martin Dies Jr. State Park. It is anticipated the impacts to the park would meet the threshold for exceptions to the Section 4(f) requirements because the duration of occupancy would be temporary, there would be no change in ownership of the land, there would be no

anticipated permanent adverse physical impacts, there would be no interference with the protected activities, features, or attributes of the property, and the land would be fully restored to conditions at least as good as those which existed prior to the project. Furthermore, it is anticipated the officials with jurisdiction, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, will document agreement that the proposed temporary construction easements meet the thresholds of the exemptions for the Section 4(f) property. Public comment on the effects of the proposed project on the activities, features, or attributes of the US 190 at Neches River Bridge and/or Martin Dies Jr. State Park may be submitted as described below.

The proposed project would involve construction in wetlands and would involve an action in a floodplain.

Environmental documentation, studies, maps/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 Beaumont District Office, 8350 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont, Texas, 77708. An appointment can be made by calling 409-898-5732. Project materials are also available online at www.txdot.gov.

The virtual public hearing will be conducted in English. If you need an interpreter or document translator because English is not your primary language, or if you have difficulty communicating effectively in English, translation 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 participate in the virtual public hearing, please contact the TxDOT Beaumont District Public Information Office at 409-898-5745 no later than 4 p.m., Thursday, March 16. 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 the TxDOT Beaumont District Office, Re: US 190 Neches River, 8350 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont, TX 77708. Written comments may also be submitted by email to bmtprojects@txdot.gov. **All written comments must be received on or before Wednesday, April 5, 2023.** Additionally, as stated above, members of the public may call 409-203-2579 and verbally provide testimony starting from noon on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, until 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5, 2023. Responses to written comments received and public testimony provided will be available online at www.txdot.gov once they have been prepared.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or virtual hearing, please contact the TxDOT Beaumont District Office at 409-898-5732 or 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.