



## Notice

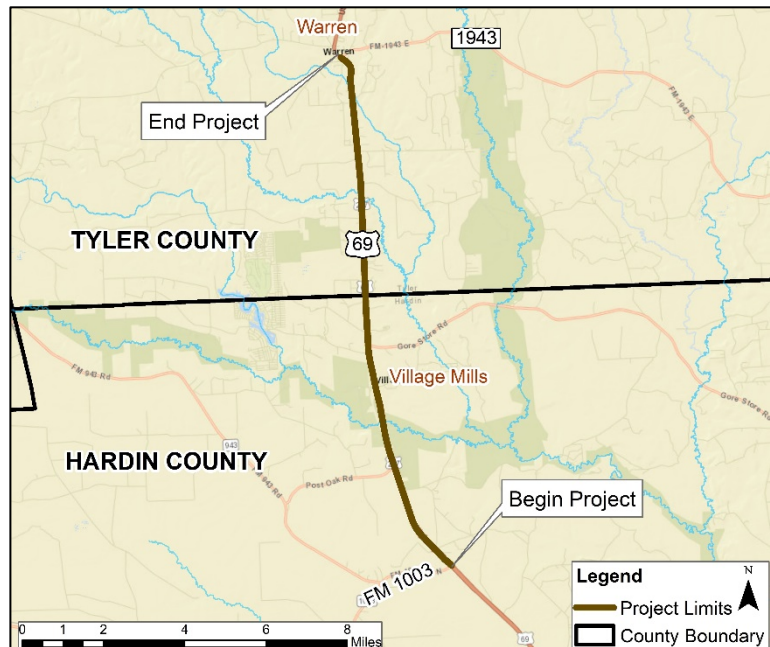
### Draft Environmental Assessment and Virtual Public Hearing with In-Person Option



Scan with your mobile or tablet to be directed to the project webpage.

**US 69 Corridor: Gateway to the Big Thicket**  
From 0.1 miles south of Black Creek to Hardin County Line  
CSJ No. 0200-08-049  
From Tyler County Line to 0.75 miles south of FM 1003  
CSJ No. 0200-09-069  
Hardin and Tyler Counties, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (“TxDOT”) Beaumont District is proposing to widen and improve US 69 from FM 1003 in Kountze to FM 1943 near Warren in Hardin and Tyler counties, 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 be held on Thursday, Nov. 19, 2020, at 4 p.m.** To log onto the virtual public hearing, go to the following web address at the date and time indicated above: [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) and search: “US 69 Corridor” or scan the above QR bar code. Project staff will give a presentation, which will be a pre-recorded video and will include both audio and visual components. Please note the presentation will not be available on the website until the time and date listed above. Following the virtual public hearing, the presentation will remain available for viewing at the web address indicated above until **Friday, Dec. 18, 2020, at 11:59 p.m.** If you do not have internet access, you may call (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.



**Project Location Map**

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 project materials on a screen, ask questions of TxDOT staff and/or consultants from a socially distanced approach and leave written comments. **The in-person option will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020, and Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4-7 p.m. at the TxDOT Beaumont District Office, 8350 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont, TX 77708.** Attendance at the in-person option will be by appointment only. Individuals wishing to attend the in-person option must call Kari Anne Sutton, Consultant Public Involvement Specialist, at (512) 560-5108 between the hours of 8 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 wear a face mask, submit to a temperature check prior to entry, 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 (409) 402-0151 to provide verbal testimony immediately following the conclusion of the virtual public hearing presentation at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 19, 2020, through 11:59 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18, 2020. 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](http://www.txdot.gov) and search: "US 69 Corridor."

US 69 is currently a two-lane, undivided roadway with shoulders and no median. The existing right-of-way (ROW) width is typically 100 feet wide but varies up to 120 feet wide in limited locations. The proposed project would widen and improve US 69 within the project limits to a four-lane, divided roadway with shoulders, an evacuation lane on the northbound lanes, and a median. The proposed ROW would be approximately 300 feet wide. The project would include two 12-foot travel lanes in each direction with 4-foot inside shoulders and a 10-foot outside shoulder on the southbound lanes, and a 12-foot outside shoulder on the northbound lanes that would also serve as a hurricane evacuation lane. Hurricane evacuation lanes are roadway shoulders that may be used as travel lanes during times of significant congestion such as during mandatory evacuations.

The project would also extend the existing 10-foot hike-and-bike trail along the entire length of the project limits, in an effort to improve potential connectivity to the existing hike-and-bike trails within the Big Thicket National Preserve. Public input from the open house and interactive online survey have been considered and incorporated into the project design where appropriate.

The proposed project would, subject to final design considerations, require additional ROW and potentially displace five residences and two other 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 ROW acquisition and construction, can be obtained from the TxDOT Beaumont District office by calling (409) 898-5732.

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 available online at [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) and search: "US 69 Corridor." 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 Sarah Dupre, Public Involvement Officer, TxDOT Beaumont District at (409) 898-5745 no later than 4 p.m. CT, Monday, Nov. 16, 2020. 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, 8350 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont, TX 77708. Written comments may also be submitted by email to [bmtprojects@txdot.gov](mailto:bmtprojects@txdot.gov). **All written comments must be received on or before Friday, Dec. 18, 2020.** Additionally, as stated above, members of the public may call (409) 402-0151 and verbally provide testimony from 5 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 19, 2020, until 11:59 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18, 2020. Responses to written comments received and public testimony provided will be available online at [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) and search: "US 69 Corridor," 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 the TxDOT Project Manager at (409) 898-5732 or via email at [bmtprojects@txdot.gov](mailto:bmtprojects@txdot.gov).