



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

US 96
From Recreational Road (RE) 255 to Loop 149
CSJs: 0064-06-057, 0064-07-044, 0064-08-062
Jasper and Sabine Counties, Texas

TxDOT is proposing to reconstruct and widen US 96 from Recreational Road (RE) 255 to Loop 149 in Jasper and Sabine 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 consist of a pre-recorded video presentation and will include both audio and visual components. The presentation will be posted online Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 5 p.m.** To view the virtual public hearing, go to the following web address at the date and time indicated above: www.txdot.gov and search "US 96 from RE 255 to Loop 149." If you do not have internet access, you may call 409-898-5805 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 in-person option for individuals who would like to participate in person instead of online. The in-person option will be held in an open house format. 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 hard copies of project materials, ask questions of TxDOT staff and/or consultants, and leave written comments. **The in-person option will be held on Thursday, April 23, 2026, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Brookeland High School, 187 Wildcat Walk, Brookeland, TX 75931.**

The proposed project would reconstruct and widen US 96 from a two-lane undivided roadway to a four-lane divided highway with a grassy median and add sidewalks and pedestrian facilities where necessary. The proposed project would enhance a critical hurricane evacuation route, upgrade roadway safety features, improve access to and from Southeast Texas ports, and accommodate a projected 52.78 percent increase in freight traffic by 2053. The existing right-of-way width is approximately 120 feet, and the proposed project would require a width of up to 450 feet. The proposed project is approximately seven miles in length.

The proposed project would, subject to final design considerations, require additional right of way and potentially displace two residences and 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 409-898-5805.

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 Beaumont District, 8350 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont, TX 77708 and at TxDOT Maintenance Office, 3304 US 190 W, Jasper, TX 75951. Project materials are also available online at www.txdot.gov. 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 Tanya Avila, Beaumont District, at Tanya.Avila@txdot.gov or 409-898-5745 no later than 4 p.m. CT, Monday, April 21, 2026. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for the Texas Department of Transportation to arrange.

La audiencia pública se llevará a cabo en inglés. Si usted necesita un intérprete o un traductor de documentos porque su idioma principal no es el inglés o tiene alguna dificultad para comunicarse eficazmente en inglés, se le proporcionará uno. Si usted tiene alguna discapacidad y necesita ayuda, se pueden hacer arreglos especiales para atender la mayoría de las

necesidades. Si usted necesita servicios de interpretación o traducción o usted es una persona con alguna discapacidad que requiera una adaptación para asistir y participar en la audiencia pública por favor póngase en contacto con Tanya Avila, Beaumont District, al número 409-898-5745 a más tardar a las 4:00 p.m. hora central, lunes, 21 de abril de 2026. Por favor sepa que es necesario dar aviso con anticipación, ya que algunos servicios y adaptaciones pueden requerir tiempo para que TxDOT los organice.

Written comments from the public regarding the proposed project are requested and may be submitted by mail to the TxDOT Beaumont District, ATTN: US 96, 8350 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont, TX 77708. Written comments may also be submitted by email to bmtprojects@txdot.gov. **All comments must be received on or before Friday, May 8, 2026, to be included in the official public hearing record.** Additionally, members of the public may call 409-203-3314 and verbally provide testimony from 5 p.m. on April 23, 2026, until 11:59 pm on Friday, May 8, 2026. 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 regarding the proposed project or virtual hearing or in-person option, please contact Heather Seamon, Project Manager, at 409-898-5805 or Heather.Seamon@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 July 17, 2025, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.