



Notice of a Virtual Public Meeting

**Notice
Virtual Public Meeting
FM 70 from SH 286 to US 77 and SH 286 from south of FM 2444 to FM 70
CSJs: 0326-01-061, 1558-03-030**

Nueces County, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation is proposing to construct passing lanes and widen shoulders on FM 70 from the SH 286/FM 70 intersection to US 77, and also on SH 286 from south of Farm to Market (FM) 2444 to FM 70 in Nueces County, Texas. This notice advises the public that TxDOT will be conducting an online, virtual public meeting on the proposed project. The virtual public meeting will be available online from 4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, 2020, to 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 27, 2020. To log on to the virtual public meeting, go to www.txdot.gov between Nov. 12 and 27 and enter keyword "[FM 70](#)." Project staff will give a pre-recorded presentation that will include both audio and visual components. Please note that the presentation will not be available on the website until the date listed above. For anyone that may not have internet access, please call Jason Alvarez at (361) 808-2495 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, in order to ask questions about the project, and access project materials that will be presented at the meeting. In addition, formal comments may be provided by mail or email as explained below.

TxDOT is evaluating this stretch of FM 70 to improve safety and mobility along the project area. Therefore, the proposed project would:

- Construct passing lanes and widen shoulders.
- Add sections of 12-foot passing lanes throughout the project.
- Widen shoulders to 10-feet on each side of the roadway.
- Regrade ditches and widen drainage structures.

TxDOT is proposing to construct intermittent passing lanes and improve drainage along FM 70 and SH 286, for a total of approximately 25 miles. The project would require the acquisition of approximately 300 acres of additional ROW. No easements are proposed. The existing ROW width varies from 80 to 120 feet, and the proposed typical ROW width would be 150 feet. The project is located in southern Nueces County, between the cities of Bishop and Corpus Christi.

The proposed project would, subject to final design considerations, require additional right-of-way and potentially displace two residences and two 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 Jason Alvarez, P.E., at (361) 808-2495 or by email at Jason.Alvarez@txdot.gov.

The proposed project is anticipated to impact the following property which may be protected under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966: the Chapman Ranch at the intersection of FM 70 and SH 286. The proposed project would involve construction in waters of the U.S. as well as an action in a floodplain.

TxDOT makes every reasonable effort to accommodate the needs of the public. The virtual public meeting will be in English and Spanish. If you have a special communication accommodation or a need for an interpreter, or if you have a disability and need assistance, arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. For either request, please call Linda Vela at (210) 349-3273 no later than Monday, Nov. 9, 2020. Also, please be aware that advance notice is requested as some accommodations may require time for TxDOT to arrange.

TxDOT requests written comments from the public regarding the proposed project, and these may be submitted online via the virtual public meeting, by mail to TxDOT Corpus Christi District Office, c/o Kimberly Amy, 1701 S. Padre Island Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78416, or by email to FM70@pozcam.com. All comments must be received on or before Friday, Nov. 27, 2020. Responses to comments received will be available online at www.txdot.gov, keyword "[FM 70](#)," once they have been prepared.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or the virtual meeting, contact Jason Alvarez, P.E., at (361) 808-2495 or by email at Jason.Alvarez@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 Dec. 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.