Texas Department of Transportation

1701 SOUTH PADRE ISLAND DRIVE, CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78416 | 361.808.2300 |

Notice
Virtual Public Hearing with In-Person Option

US 281 ALICE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
From BU 281R North of Alice to BU 281R South of Alice
CSJs: 0254-07-008 and 0254-07-010
Jim Wells County, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing to upgrade approximately 9 miles of the existing U.S. Highway (US) 281 roadway to interstate standards from north of Alice to south of Alice in Jim Wells County, Texas. This notice advises the public 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 by Thursday, June 30, 2022, at 4:30 p.m.** To log onto the virtual public hearing, go to www.txdot.gov, keyword search "US 281 Alice Improvement". The virtual public hearing materials will include the pre-recorded presentation, project fact sheet, and preliminary project layout. Following the virtual public hearing, the presentation will remain available for viewing at the web address indicated above until at least Friday, July 15, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. If you do not have internet access, you may call (361) 808-2509 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 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. 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 from a socially distanced approach, and leave written comments. **The in-person option will be held on Thursday, June 30, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at TxDOT Alice Area Office, 1071 North US Highway 281, Alice, TX 78332.**

For both the virtual public hearing and in-person option, members of the public may call (833) 933-0445 to provide verbal testimony immediately following the conclusion of the virtual public hearing presentation at **4:30 p.m.** on **Thursday, June 30, 2022** through 11:59 p.m. on Friday, July 15, 2022 . 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, keyword search "US 281 Alice Improvement."

The primary purpose of the proposed project is to improve safety and mobility by upgrading US 281 in Alice to interstate standards. The project would upgrade the existing 4-lane divided highway to a 4-lane divided freeway. The existing roadways would become the frontage roads. Existing overpasses are located at SH 44 and FM 1554. A new overpass would be constructed over CR 116 and CR 117 and two new bridges would be built over San Diego Creek. South of CR 116, the existing roadway would be realigned within existing TxDOT ROW. Throughout the project limits, existing ramps may be shifted north or south to safely maintain access to the roadway. The existing ROW varies

between 290 and 600 feet in width. No new ROW is needed to complete the proposed US 281 improvement project. No residential or non-residential structures would be displaced.

The proposed project would involve an action in a floodplain.

Any environmental documentation or studies, 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 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the Corpus Christi District office at 1701 S. Padre Island Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas 78416 and by calling (361) 808-2509. Project materials are also available online at www.txdot.gov, keyword search "US 281 Alice Improvement".

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 Rickey Dailey, Public Information Officer, Corpus Christi District, at (361) 808-2544 no later than 4:00 p.m. CT, **Monday, June 27, 2022**. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for the Texas Department of Transportation to arrange.

Written comments from the public regarding the proposed project are requested and may be submitted by mail to the TxDOT Corpus Christi District Office, 1701 S. Padre Island Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas 78416. Written comments may also be submitted by email to kimberly.amy@txdot.gov. **All written comments must be received on or before Friday, July 15, 2022.** Additionally, as stated above, members of the public may call (833) 933-0445 and verbally provide testimony from **4:30 p.m.** on **Thursday, June 30, 2022** through 11:59 p.m. on Friday, July 15, 2022. Responses to written comments received and public testimony provided will be available online at www.txdot.gov, keyword search "US 281 Alice Improvement." 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 Kimberly Amy, Environmental Coordinator, at (361) 808-2509 or kimberly.amy@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.