



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

Notice

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

US 77 SINTON IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

From BU 77 South to BU 77 North

CSJ: 0371-04-062, 0372-01-101

SAN PATRICIO County, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing to upgrade U.S. Highway (US) 77 from a 4-lane divided rural highway to a 4-lane divided freeway from Business (BU) 77 South to BU North in San Patricio County, 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 by Thursday, January 13, 2022, at 4:30 p.m.** To log onto the virtual public hearing, go to www.txdot.gov, keyword search "US 77 Sinton 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 through 11:59 p.m. on Friday, January 28. 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, January 13, 2022, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at E. Merle Smith Middle School, 1000 S. San Patricio St., Sinton, Texas 78387.**

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, January 13, 2022, through 11:59 p.m. on Friday, January 28. 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 77 Sinton Improvement."

The primary purpose of the proposed project is to improve safety and mobility by upgrading US 77 at Sinton to interstate standards as part of the future Interstate Highway 69 corridor. The approximately 6-mile project would upgrade the existing 4-lane divided rural highway to a 4-lane divided freeway with continuous frontage roads and entrance/exit ramps. An overpass would be constructed at County Road (CR) 1196 along with intersection improvements. The proposed roadway mainlanes would consist of two 12-ft travel lanes in each direction with 10-ft outside shoulders and 4-ft inside shoulders. Proposed frontage roads would consist of two 12-ft travel lanes with 8-ft outside shoulders and 4-ft inside shoulders. Additional right-

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of-way (ROW) would be required. Existing TxDOT right-of-way (ROW) varies between 230 and 660 feet in width and proposed ROW would vary between 230 and 990 feet in width.

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 (361) 808-2509.

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 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 77 Sinton Improvement."

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 Rickey Dailey, Public Information Officer, Corpus Christi District, at (361) 808-2544 no later than 4:00 p.m. CT, Monday, January 10, 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, January 28, 2022.** Additionally, as stated above, members of the public may call (833) 933-0445 and verbally provide testimony from 4:30 p.m., Thursday, January 13, 2022, until 11:59 p.m. on Friday, January 28, 2022. Responses to written comments received and public testimony provided will be available online at www.txdot.gov, keyword search "US 77 Sinton 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.