



Notice

Virtual Public Hearing with In-Person Option

STATE HIGHWAY 178 (ARTCRAFT ROAD) From the New Mexico State Line to Interstate 10

**CSJ: 3592-01-009
El Paso County, Texas**

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), El Paso District, is proposing to improve State Highway 178 (SH 178), locally known as Artcraft Road, from the New Mexico state line to Interstate 10 (I-10) in El Paso County, Texas. This notice advises the public that TxDOT will be conducting a 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 on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 5 p.m. Mountain Standard Time (MST) and remain available for viewing until Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at 5 p.m. (MST).** To view the presentation and materials, go to the following web address beginning at the date and time indicated above: <https://www.txdot.gov/projects/hearings-meetings.html>.

The presentation will only be available during the dates and times listing above. If you do not have internet access, you may call (915) 790-4340 or (915) 790-4341 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. MST, 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 available on the website; 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 Tuesday, April 4, 2023, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. MST at the El Paso Community College Northwest Campus, Library Building, 6701 S. Desert Blvd., El Paso, TX 79932.**

For both the virtual public hearing and in-person option, members of the public may call (915) 304-5112 to provide verbal testimony from 5 p.m. MST on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, through 5 p.m. MST on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, during the comment period. 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 <https://www.txdot.gov/projects/hearings-meetings.html>.

The proposed operational improvements to SH 178 in Texas include the construction of four direct-connector ramps at the I-10 interchange. Along SH 178, between I-10 and SH 20 (Doniphan Drive), improvements include: access control measures, reconstruction, and extending existing frontage roads in both directions. Additionally, grade separations would be constructed with four elevated lanes over the existing intersections of Westside Drive and Upper Valley Road, including entrance and exit ramps at the two-lane frontage roads. The overall project length is approximately three miles from the New Mexico/Texas state line to the I-10 highway and roughly 1.6 miles along I-10 for the construction

of the direct-connector ramps. The proposed project area encompasses a total of 224 acres, consisting of approximately 212 acres of the existing right of way (ROW) and approximately 12 acres of proposed ROW.

The proposed project, subject to final design considerations, would require additional ROW and potentially displace 16 residences and 10 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 (915) 790-4481.

The proposed project is anticipated to impact the following property protected under both Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 and Chapter 26 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code: **Sunset Terrace Linear Park.**

The proposed project would impact 0.6 percent, or 784 square feet (sq. ft.), of the 124,581-square-foot Sunset Terrace Linear Trail. An additional 22 sq. ft. would be used for temporary construction easement; however, this area would be restored following project construction. The trail, owned by the City of El Paso, is located on the north side of SH 178 between Santiago Street and Berringer Street. The total 806 sq. ft. area that may be used for the purpose of the proposed project is on the south end of the trail, abutting SH 178. TxDOT anticipates making a *de minimis* determination for this use under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966. Public comment on the effects of the proposed project on the activities, features, or attributes of the Sunset Terrace Linear Trail may be submitted as described below.

The proposed project would involve an action in a floodplain.

Furthermore, the project is located within a particulate matter 10 microns or larger (PM10) non-attainment area; therefore, the conformity consultation process was conducted. On February 27, 2023, the conformity Consultation Partners made the determination that the proposed project is not a PM10 project of air quality concern and that a hot-spot analysis is not required.

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 a.m. and 5 p.m. MST at the TxDOT El Paso District Offices, 13301 Gateway Blvd. West, El Paso, TX 79928, (915) 790-4200, with Project Manager, Sheetal Patel, P.E. Project materials are also available online at <https://www.txdot.gov/projects/projects-studies/el-paso/sh178-artcraft-road.html>. These materials will also be available in hard copy form for review at the in-person option of the public hearing.

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 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 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 the El Paso District Public Information Office at (915) 790-4340 or (915) 790-4341 no later than 4 p.m. MST on Wednesday, March 29, 2023. 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 El Paso District Office, Attention Sheetal Patel – SH 178, 13301 Gateway Blvd. West, El Paso, TX 79928. Written comments may also be submitted by email to Sheetal.Patel@txdot.gov. **All written comments must be received on or before Wednesday, April 19, 2023.** Additionally, as stated above, members of the public may call (915) 304-5112 and verbally provide testimony from 5 p.m. MST on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, through 5 p.m. MST on Wednesday, April 19, 2023. Responses to written comments received and public testimony provided will be available online at txdot.gov once they have been prepared.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project, please contact Blasita J. Lopez, public involvement consultant, at (915) 304-5112 or bjarezlopez@hntb.com.

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.