Texas Department of Transportation

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Notice

Draft Environmental Assessment Available for Public Review and Public Hearing
Interstate Highway 35 Widening and Reconstruction
From US 380 to 0.7 Mile North of FM 3002
CSJs: 0195-02-074, 0195-02-076, 0195-03-087, and 0195-01-116
Denton and Cooke Counties, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing to widen and reconstruct IH 35 from US 380 (University Drive West) to approximately 0.7 mile north of FM 3002 (Lone Oak Road) in Denton and Cooke counties, Texas. This notice advises the public that a draft environmental assessment (EA) is available for public review and that TxDOT will be conducting a public hearing on the proposed project. **The hearing will be held on Thursday, April 4, 2019 at the Sanger High School Cafeteria, located at 100 Indian Lane, Sanger, TX 76266.** Displays will be available for viewing at **6 p.m. with the formal hearing starting at 7 p.m**. The purpose of the public hearing is to present the proposed project to the public and receive comments.

The proposed improvements would begin north of the IH 35 east/west split in the City of Denton and extend north along IH 35 through the City of Sanger to just north of FM 3002 in Cooke County, for a total distance of approximately 15.1 miles. The proposed action would construct three main lanes in each direction and two frontage road lanes in each direction along this section of IH 35. In addition, the existing interchanges would be reconstructed and the existing two-way frontage roads would be converted to one-way operation.

The section of IH 35 proposed for improvement is currently a four-lane divided freeway with frontage roads in a usual right of way (ROW) width of 300 feet. The proposed ROW is variable in width, ranging from 350 feet within the rural sections to 390 feet in the proposed urban sections. Approximately 256 acres of additional ROW and 4.7 acres of permanent easements are required to accommodate the proposed improvements. The proposed project would displace 5 residences and 22 commercial structures. Information about the TxDOT Relocation Assistance Program, benefits and services for displaces, can be obtained from the TxDOT district office at the address listed below. Relocation assistance is available for displaced persons and businesses.

The proposed project is located within the 100-year floodplain associated with Pond Creek, Clear Creek, Moore's Branch, and Milam Creek and some of their associated tributaries. The hydraulic design for the proposed project would be in accordance with current TxDOT and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) design policies and standards.It is anticipated that the proposed project would result in fill within waters of the U.S., and would require Section 404 permitting for authorization. The USACE would likely consider the proposed project as having 22 single and complete projects for Nationwide Permit authorization.

One historic property would experience direct effects by the proposed project. Because the proposed project would take ROW from a property that is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the project is subject to Section 4(f) coordination pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327. Effects to the resource are minimal and resulted in a finding of No Adverse Effect; however, the total property take constitutes a *de minimis* use of the property under Section 4(f). The proposed project would require approximately 2.01 acres, or 2.7% of ROW from a publically-owned parcel designated as future parkland by the City of Sanger. A Section 4(f) *de minimis* finding means that the proposed project would not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes that qualify the future parkland for protection under Section 4(f). The City of Sanger and TxDOT will consider comments received during the environmental process before making a final Section 4(f) *de minimis* determination.

The Draft EA, maps showing the project location and design, and other information regarding the project are on file and available for inspection Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the TxDOT Dallas District Office, 4777 E. Highway 80, Mesquite, TX 75150-6643, at (214) 320-4480, and online at www.keepitmovingdallas.com under Upcoming Public Hearing/Meeting. This information will also be available for inspection at the hearing. Verbal and written comments from the public regarding the project are requested and may be presented at the hearing, or submitted in person or by mail to the TxDOT Dallas District Office. **Written comments must be received on or before April 19, 2019 to be part of the official hearing record.**

The hearing will be conducted in English. Persons interested in attending the hearing who have special communication or accommodation needs, such as the need for an interpreter, are encouraged to contact the TxDOT Dallas District Public Information Office at (214) 320-4480. Requests should be made at least two days prior to the hearing. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate these needs. If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or the hearing you may contact Mr. Nelson Underwood, P.E., via phone at (214) 320-6628 or by email at nelson.underwood@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 16, 2014, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.