



Notice
Virtual Public Hearing with In-Person Option
FARM-TO-MARKET (FM) 1375
FROM FM 149 TO WALKER COUNTY LINE
Control Section Job (CSJ): 1402-03-013
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Houston District, is proposing improvements along Farm-to-Market (FM) 1375 from FM 149 to the Walker County line in Montgomery County, Texas. This notice advises the public that the project team will be conducting a virtual public hearing with an in-person option on the proposed project. **The virtual public hearing will be available starting on Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024, by 5 p.m.** The virtual public hearing will consist of a pre-recorded video presentation and will include both audio and visual components. To view the virtual public hearing presentation and view project information, go to the following web address: www.txdot.gov/projects/hearings-meetings.html.

Please note that the presentation will not be available on the website until the date and time listed above. If you do not have internet access, you may call Gabriel Adame, NEPA public engagement coordinator, at (713) 802-5199 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 4 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. In-person attendees will be able to view the same pre-recorded presentation as posted online, review hard copies of project materials, ask questions of the project team, and leave written comments. **The in-person option will be held on Thursday, Feb. 29, 2024, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Lone Star Community Center at 2500 Lone Star Parkway, Montgomery, TX 77356.**

TxDOT is accepting comments on the proposed project, which may be submitted in any language. For both the virtual public hearing and the in-person open house option, members of the public may call (713) 913-0873 to provide verbal testimony during the comment period. Written comments may also be provided by mail or email as explained below. All comments received before the end of the comment period will be considered equally and will be included as part of the official record. Responses to comments will be prepared by TxDOT, included as part of the hearing and project record, and made available online at the webpage listed above once completed.

The proposed project would widen the existing travel lanes from 10-foot-wide to 12-foot-wide, add five-foot-wide outside shoulders, and include one bridge replacement over Caney Creek and one bridge-class culvert replacement over Green Branch, along FM 1375 for approximately six miles. There would be no right of way acquisition or displacements required for the proposed improvements. The proposed project is located within the Sam Houston National Forest (SHNF). The SHNF is located 50 miles north of Houston and contains 163,037 acres of land between Huntsville, Conroe, Cleveland, and Richards, Texas, that is used for activities such as hiking, horse riding, camping, bicycling, and picnicking.

The proposed project would require the removal of approximately 5.4 acres of trees along FM 1375 within the Special Use Permit Right-of-Way (ROW) granted to TxDOT by the SHNF. The SHNF is protected under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 as a recreational area managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The project team anticipates making a *de minimis* determination for this use under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966. In accordance with Chapter 26 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, this hearing is required to allow the public the opportunity to provide comments on the project's potential impacts.

The proposed project would involve construction in wetlands and actions in floodplains.

Any environmental documentation or studies, 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 review by appointment Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the TxDOT Houston District Office, 7600 Washington Avenue, Houston, Texas 77007 or at the TxDOT Montgomery Area Office, 901 N.

FM 3083, East Conroe, TX 77303. Project materials are also available online at www.txdot.gov/projects/hearings-meetings.html.

The public hearing will be conducted in English and Spanish. If you need an interpreter or document translator because English or Spanish is not your primary language or you have difficulty communicating effectively in English or Spanish, one will be provided to you, free of charge. 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 public hearing, please contact Gabriel Adame, NEPA public engagement coordinator, at (713) 802-5199 or Gabriel.Adame@txdot.gov, no later than 4 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for the project team to arrange.

Comments from the public regarding the proposed project are encouraged. Written comments may be submitted by mail to the TxDOT Houston District Office, advanced project development director, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas 77251-1386. Written comments may also be submitted by email to HOU-PIOwebmail@txdot.gov. Additionally, as stated above, members of the public may call (713) 913-0873 and verbally provide testimony from 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024, until 11:59 p.m. on Friday, Mar. 15, 2024. All comments must be received or postmarked by Friday, Mar. 15, 2024. Responses to comments received will be available online at www.txdot.gov/projects/hearings-meetings.html once completed.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or the public hearing, please contact Adam Wood, environmental project manager, at (713) 802-5267 or by email at Adam.Wood@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.

Please call (713) 802-5199 to request special accommodations or if you have need for interpretation/translation.

Mandarin: 如對出席和參與會議有特殊要求或需要口譯或筆譯，請撥打 (713) 802-5199。

Swahili: Tafadhali piga simu kwa (713) 802-5199 ili kuomba malazi maalum au ikiwa unahitaji ukalimani au utafsiri.

Vietnamese: Xin hãy gọi (713) 802-5199 để yêu cầu cho các điều chỉnh đặc biệt hoặc nếu bạn cần có phiên dịch hoặc biên dịch.

Creole: Tanpri rele (713) 802-5199 pou mande aranjman espesyal oswa si ou bezwen entèprèt oswa tradiktè.