



Notice

Virtual Public Hearing with In-Person Open House

Farm-to-Market (FM) 149: From Grimes County Line to FM 1791 CSJ: 0720-02-095 Montgomery County, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Houston District is proposing improvements along FM 149 from Grimes County Line to FM 1791 in Montgomery County, Texas. This notice advises the public that the project team will be conducting a virtual public hearing with an in-person open house on the proposed project. **The virtual public hearing will be available starting on Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023, 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: <https://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 Adam Wood, TxDOT Project Manager at 713-802-5267 between the hours of 8 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 open house option for individuals who would like to participate in person. In-person attendees will be able to view the same presentation as posted online, review hard copies of project materials, ask questions of the project team, and leave written comments. **The in-person open house option will be held on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Lone Star Community Center, 2500 Lone Star Pkwy, Montgomery, TX 77356.**

For both the virtual public hearing and in-person open house option, members of the public may call **936-228-9859** to provide verbal comments in any language during the comment period. Written comments may also be provided in any language 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 and add 5-foot outside shoulders along the FM 149 roadway with open ditches for approximately 4.5 miles. A portion of the proposed project is located within the Sam Houston National Forest (SHNF).

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 as a result of approximately 6.1 acres of tree removal within the SHNF. The areas affected by the tree removal within the SHNF are in Management Area (MA) 2- Red-cockaded Woodpecker Emphasis Zones.

In addition, the project is subject to Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 coordination for parks, recreation areas, and wildlife and waterfowl refuges pursuant to Part 23 CFR 774.3(b) for the impacts to the publicly owned recreation area and coordination with SHNF, which has jurisdiction over the recreation area. Since effects to the resource are anticipated to be minimal, this project would constitute a de minimis use of the property under Section 4(f). A Section 4(f) de minimis finding means that the proposed project would not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes that qualify the recreation area for protection under Section 4(f). TxDOT will consider comments received during the public comment period before making a final Section 4(f) de minimis determination.

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 4 p.m. at the TxDOT Houston District Office located at 7600 Washington Avenue, Houston, TX 77007 or at the TxDOT Montgomery Area Office located 901 N. FM 3083, East Conroe, TX 77303. Project materials are also available online at <https://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 no later than 4 p.m., Nov. 9, 2023. 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 **936-228-9859** and verbally provide comments from 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023, until 11:59 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 8, 2023. All comments must be received or postmarked by **Friday, Dec. 8, 2023**. Responses to comments received will be available online <https://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, Project Manager at 713-802-5267 or by email at adam.wood@txdot.gov. If you have any general questions regarding the proposed project design, please contact Micah Schluter, Design Engineer Project Manager, at 936-538-3303 or by email at micah.schluter@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: 如對出席和参与会议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.