



Notice of a Virtual Public Hearing

Notice
Virtual Public Hearing
Interstate Highway (I)-45
From the Galveston Causeway Bridge to 61st Street
CSJ: 0500-01-119
Galveston County, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Houston District is proposing to reconstruct and widen I-45 from the Galveston Causeway Bridge to 61st Street in Galveston County, Texas. This notice advises the public that TxDOT will be conducting an on-line virtual public hearing on the proposed project. The virtual hearing will be held on Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. To log onto the virtual public hearing, go www.txdot.gov, keyword search "I-45 Galveston" at the date and time indicated above: Project staff will give a presentation which will be a pre-recorded video and will include both audio and visual components. Please note that the presentation will not be available on the website until the time and date listed above. If you do not have internet access, you may call (713) 802-5242 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.

Members of the public may call 713-955-7814 to provide verbal testimony immediately following the conclusion of the virtual public hearing presentation at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 4, 2021 through 11:59 pm on Friday, March 19, 2021. 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, and included as part of the hearing and project record, and made available online at www.txdot.gov, keyword search "I-45 Galveston", approximately 3 months following the close of the comment period.

The proposed I-45 improvements would include reconstructing and widening I-45 from the Galveston Causeway Bridge to 61st Street and adding a direct connector from northbound 61st Street to northbound I-45. The proposed project would require approximately 2.8 acres of additional right-of-way (ROW).

The proposed project would, subject to final design considerations, require additional ROW and potentially displace three commercial structures. The project would not displace any 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 ROW acquisition and construction, can be obtained from the TxDOT Houston District office by calling (713) 802-5242.

The proposed project would involve construction in wetlands. The proposed project would involve an action in a floodplain.

Environmental studies conducted to date, maps and drawings showing the project location and design, tentative construction schedules, and other information regarding the proposed project are available online at www.txdot.gov, keyword search "I-45 Galveston".



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The virtual public hearing will be conducted in English, though the pre-recorded presentation will also be available in Spanish. 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, please contact the ADA Liaison, at (713) 802-5008 no later than 4 p.m. CT, Friday, February 26, 2021. 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 Houston District Office, Advanced Project Development Director, PO. Box 1386, Houston, TX 77251. Written comments may also be submitted by email to [hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov](mailto:houston@txdot.gov). All written comments must be received or postmarked on or before Friday, March 19, 2021. Additionally, as stated above, members of the public may call 713-955-7814 and verbally provide testimony from 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 4, 2021 until 11:59 pm on Friday, March 19, 2021. Responses to written comments received and public testimony provided will be available online at www.txdot.gov, keyword search "I-45 Galveston" approximately 3 months following the close of the comment period.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or the virtual hearing, please contact the Project Manager at (713) 802-5242 or at Derek.Fregia@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.
