



Notice
Draft Environmental Assessment and Virtual Public Hearing
with In-Person Option
State Highway 249 (SH 249)
From Beltway 8 North (BW 8 N) to Interstate Highway 45 North (I-45 N)
CSJ: 0720-03-131
Harris County, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Houston District is proposing improvements along SH 249 from BW 8 N to I-45 N in Harris County, Texas. This notice advises the public that a draft environmental assessment (EA) is available for public review and that TxDOT will be conducting an online virtual public hearing on the proposed project with an in-person option.

The virtual public hearing will consist of a pre-recorded video presentation and will include both audio and visual components. The presentation will be posted online starting on Tuesday, August 23, 2022, at 5 p.m. To log onto the virtual public hearing and to view the presentation and materials, go to the following web address beginning at the date and time indicated above: www.txdot.gov, and type "SH 249 from Beltway 8 N" in the search box.

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 (713) 802-5262 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 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, instead of online. In-person attendees will be able to view the same presentation delivered in the online public hearing, which will be playing on a screen; 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, August 25, 2022, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Drive, Building A, Houston, TX 77088.**

For both the virtual public hearing and in-person option members of the public may call (346) 922-3035 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 www.txdot.gov, keyword search "SH 249 from Beltway 8 N" once prepared.

TxDOT has previously held two public meetings for this project, November 2, 2017, and June 12, 2018. Proposed alternatives were presented at these public meetings. After the public meetings, the project team reviewed the comments received, further evaluated design options, and refined the design to a preferred alternative. The purpose of this public hearing is to afford the public an opportunity to review and provide comments on the preferred alternative.

The TxDOT Houston District Office proposes to reconstruct and widen SH 249 (from BW 8 N to I-45 N) from a six-lane roadway to an eight-lane divided roadway, for a total distance of 7.2 miles. The roadway improvements would construct four lanes in each direction with 6 to 30-foot-wide raised medians to separate traffic. Ten-foot-wide sidepaths would be constructed on both sides of the roadway on the edge of the right-of-way (ROW). Bus turnouts are no longer included in the current design based on a request from METRO. Three stormwater detention facilities would also be added along the project corridor. The proposed ROW width of the facility would be approximately 162 to 180-feet. The project study limits are approximately 7.2 miles long; the construction limits for the project are approximately 6.8 miles.

The proposed project would, subject to final design considerations, require additional ROW and potentially displace nine residences and 14 commercial structures. Relocation assistance is available for displaced persons and businesses. Information about TxDOT's Relocation Assistance Program, 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 District Office by calling (713) 802-5291.

The proposed project would include construction in a non-jurisdictional wetland. The project would involve an action in a floodplain; however, the project would not involve a significant encroachment in the floodplain. It was determined that no potentially jurisdictional waters of the United States, including wetlands or special aquatic sites, would be impacted by the proposed project.

The draft EA, 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 and at the TxDOT North Harris Area Office located at 16803 Eastex Frwy., Humble, TX 77347. Please call 281-319-6400 to schedule an appointment at the Area Office. Please call 713-802-5262 to schedule an appointment at the District Office. Project materials are also available online at www.txdot.gov, keyword search "SH 249 from Beltway 8 N", or by calling Sarah Wyckoff, Environmental Coordinator, at (713) 802-5262 or by email at Sarah.Wyckoff@txdot.gov.

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 have difficulty communicating effectively in English or Spanish, 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 public hearing, please contact Sarah Wyckoff, Environmental Coordinator, at (713) 802-5262 no later than 4 p.m., Thursday, August 18, 2022. 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 (346) 922-3035 and verbally provide testimony beginning at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, August 23, 2022. All comments must be received or postmarked on or before Monday, September 12, 2022. Responses to comments received will be available online at www.txdot.gov, keyword search "SH 249 from Beltway 8 N" once they have been prepared.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or the public hearing, please contact Sarah Wyckoff, Environmental Coordinator, at (713) 802-5262 or by email at Sarah.Wyckoff@txdot.gov, or Sam Ainabe, Engineering Project Manager at (713) 802-5260 or by email at Samuel.Ainabe@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.