



Notice

**Proposed *De Minimis* for Use of Willow Fork Drainage District Trail
by TxDOT Highway Project State Highway (SH) 99
From Farm-to-Market (FM) 1093 to Interstate (I) 10
Control Section Jobs (CSJs): 3510-04-019, 3510-05-041
Fort Bend and Harris Counties, Texas**

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is improving State Highway (SH) 99 from Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1093 to Interstate (I) 10 in Fort Bend and Harris Counties, Texas. This notice advises the public that TxDOT proposes to temporarily close the Willow Fork Drainage District recreational trail crossing under the SH 99 bridge over Buffalo Bayou, for a six-month period beginning in March and lasting through August 2024, during construction to widen the bridge and ensure pedestrian safety.

The temporary closure would be limited to the area under the SH 99 bridge over Buffalo Bayou (See Figure 1). Trail users would still be able to access the trail east and west of the temporary closure from adjacent neighborhoods located north of Buffalo Bayou.

TxDOT proposes a *de minimis* determination regarding this use under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (23 U.S.C. 138). A *de minimis* impact is one that will not adversely affect the features, attributes, or activities qualifying the property for protection under Section 4(f). 23 CFR 774.17. The temporary closure would not permanently impact or change the trail.

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 Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the TxDOT Fort Bend Area Office at 4235 SH 36, Rosenberg, TX 77471, and the TxDOT West Harris Area Office at 14838 NW Freeway (US 290), Houston, TX 77040.

The purpose of this notice is to provide the public with an opportunity to review and provide comments concerning the effects of the construction on the protected activities, features, or attributes of the Willow Fork Drainage District trail under the SH 99 bridge over Buffalo Bayou. Written comments from the public regarding the proposed use of the trail are requested and may be submitted in any language by mail to the TxDOT Houston District Office, P.O. Box 1386 Houston, Texas 77251-1386. Written comments may also be submitted by email to HOU-PIOwebmail@txdot.gov. All comments must be received on or before Friday, Feb. 23, 2024.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or the use of the trail, 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.