



Notice
Virtual Public Hearing with In-Person Option
US 59 UPGRADE SHEPHERD TO TRINITY RIVER (FUTURE I-69)
From 0.74 miles south of FM 223 (Church Street)
to 0.70 miles north of Trinity River
CSJs: 0177-02-103 and 0177-02-104
San Jacinto and Polk Counties, Texas

TxDOT is proposing improvements to the existing US 59 from approximately 0.74 miles south of FM 223 (Church Street) to 0.70 miles north of the Trinity River in San Jacinto and Polk counties, Texas. This notice advises the public that TxDOT will be conducting an online virtual public hearing on the proposed project with an in-person option. **The virtual hearing will consist of a pre-recorded video presentation and will include both audio and visual components. The presentation will be posted online by Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 5 p.m., and will remain online for at least 15 days.** To view the virtual public hearing, go to www.TxDOT.gov at the date and time indicated above and search: US 59 Upgrade Shepherd to Trinity River. If you do not have internet access, you may call 936-633-4383 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. The in-person option will be held in an open house format. 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 TxDOT staff and/or consultants, and leave written comments. **The in-person option will be held on Thursday, December 19, 2024, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Shepherd High School Cafeteria located at 1 Pirate Lane, Shepherd, TX 77371.**

For both the virtual public hearing and in-person option, members of the public may call 936-205-1795 to provide verbal testimony immediately following the conclusion of the virtual public hearing presentation at 7:00 pm on December 19, 2024, through 11:59 pm on Friday, January 10, 2025. 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, included as part of the hearing and project record, and made available online at www.TxDOT.gov. Responses may be viewed by searching: US 59 Upgrade Shepherd to Trinity River.

The proposed project would involve the reconstruction of US 59 mainlanes providing two lanes in each direction and construction of new one-way two-lane northbound and southbound frontage roads. The project will be designed to meet interstate standards for potential future designation as I-69. Proposed improvements would also include construction of: new Trinity River bridges with turnarounds (U-turns); overpasses with U-turns at FM 1127 and SL424/Lake Pool Road; a U-turn at FM 223 from southbound US 59 to northbound US 59, and pedestrian accommodations along the frontage roads from FM 223 (Church Street) north to SL 424/Lake Pool Road. Existing right-of-way ranges between 190 and 456 feet. The proposed improvements would require additional right-of-way ranging between 455 and 835 feet. The proposed project is approximately six miles in length and extends from Shepherd, Texas in San Jacinto County to north of the Trinity River in Polk County. The proposed project is anticipated to enhance safety, improve mobility, provide a more efficient hurricane evacuation route and provide system connectivity to I-69.

The proposed project would, subject to final design considerations, require additional right of way and potentially displace 12 residences and 24 non-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 right-of-way acquisition and construction, can be obtained from the TxDOT district office by calling 936-633-4395.

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

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 inspection Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at TxDOT Lufkin District Office, 1805 N. Timberland Drive, Lufkin, TX 75901, 936-633-4383. Project materials are also available online at www.TxDOT.gov and may be viewed by searching: US 59 Upgrade Shepherd to Trinity River. These materials will also be available in hard copy form for review at the in-person option.

The virtual public hearing and in-person option will be conducted in English. 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 or in-person option, please contact Rhonda Oaks, PIO, TxDOT Lufkin District, at 936-633-4395 no later than 4 p.m. CT, December 16, 2024. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for the Texas Department of Transportation to arrange.

El Audiencia Pública Virtual con Opción Presencial se llevará a cabo en inglés. Si usted necesita un intérprete o un traductor de documentos porque su idioma principal no es el inglés o tiene alguna dificultad para comunicarse eficazmente en inglés, se le proporcionará uno. Si usted tiene alguna discapacidad y necesita ayuda, se pueden hacer arreglos especiales para atender la mayoría de las necesidades. Si usted necesita servicios de interpretación o traducción o usted es una persona con alguna discapacidad que requiera una adaptación para asistir a y participar en Audiencia Pública Virtual con Opción Presencial, por favor póngase en contacto con Rhonda Oaks, PIO, Distrito de TxDOT Lufkin, al número 936-633-4395 a más tardar a las 4 p.m. hora central, del lunes 16 de diciembre del 2024. Por favor sepa que es necesario dar aviso con anticipación, ya que algunos servicios y adaptaciones pueden requerir tiempo para que TxDOT los organice.

Written comments from the public regarding the proposed project are requested and may be submitted by mail to the TxDOT Lufkin District Office, 1805 N. Timberland Drive, Lufkin, TX 75901. Written comments may also be submitted by email to Jennifer.Adams@txdot.gov. **All written comments must be received on or before Friday, January 10, 2025.** Additionally, as stated above, members of the public may call 936-205-1795 and verbally provide testimony from 5 p.m. on December 19, 2024, until 11:59 pm on Friday, January 10, 2025. Responses to written comments received and public testimony provided will be available online at www.TxDOT.gov once they have been prepared.

If you have any general questions regarding the proposed project or virtual hearing or in-person option, please contact Jennifer Adams, Advance Transportation Planning Director, at 936-633-4383 and Jennifer.Adams@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.