Notice of Draft Environmental Assessment and Virtual Public Hearing with In-Person Option

Hachar-Reuthinger Road from FM 1472 to I-35 Western Frontage Road

CSJs: 0922-33-165, 0922-33-166 | Webb County, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Laredo District, City of Laredo, and Webb County are proposing to construct the new Hachar-Reuthinger Road from FM 1472 to the I-35 western frontage road in Webb 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 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, June 15, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.** To log onto the virtual public hearing, go to the following web address at the date and time indicated above: www.txdot.gov, keyword search "Hachar Road Public Hearing."

Following the virtual public hearing, the presentation will remain available for viewing at the web address indicated above until at least Friday, June 30, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. If you do not have internet access, you may call (956) 712-7416 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, to ask questions and access project materials.

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 virtual 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, June 15, 2023, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Barbara Fasken Recreation Center, 15201 Cerralvo Dr., Laredo, TX 78045**.

For both the virtual public hearing and in-person option, members of the public may call **(956) 230-6658** to provide verbal testimony from Thursday, June 15, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. to Friday, June 30, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. 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, keyword search "Hachar Road Public Hearing."

The proposed Hachar-Reuthinger Road would extend approximately 8.4 miles from FM 1472 (aka Mines Road) to the western frontage road of I-35 approximately 2 miles north of the I-35/Beltway Parkway/Uniroyal Drive overpass. The proposed roadway would be a four-lane, divided facility with two 12-foot travel lanes with 4-foot-wide inside shoulders and 10-foot-wide outside shoulders in each direction. In addition, intersections with turnarounds would be placed along the corridor based on the City of Laredo Thoroughfare Plan.

The project would typically require approximately 400 feet of new right of way along its entire length and would, subject to final design considerations, require approximately 477.3 acres of new right of way and approximately 12.5 acres of temporary construction easements. Although additional right of way would be required, no residential or non-residential structures are anticipated to be displaced at this time. Information concerning services and benefits available to affected property owners and information about the tentative schedule for right-of-way acquisition and construction can be obtained from the TxDOT Laredo District by calling (956) 712-7462.

The proposed project would involve an action in a floodplain. 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 inspection Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5

p.m. at the TxDOT Laredo District, 1817 Bob Bullock LP, Laredo TX, 78043, (956) 712-7445. Project materials are also available online at www.txdot.gov, keyword search "Hachar Road Public Hearing." 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 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, 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 Raul Leal, Public Information Officer, Laredo District, at (956) 712-7416 no later than 4 p.m. CT, on Friday, June 9, 2023. 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 Laredo District Office, ATTN: Chris Kloss, 1817 Bob Bullock LP, Laredo TX, 78043. Written comments may also be submitted by email to Chris.Kloss@txdot.gov. Additionally, as stated above, members of the public may call (**956**) **230-6658** and verbally provide testimony from 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 15, 2023 until 11:59 p.m. on Friday, June 30, 2023. Responses to written comments received and public testimony provided will be available online at www.txdot.gov, keyword search "Hachar Road Public Hearing" once they have been prepared.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project, virtual public hearing, or in-person option, please contact Chris Kloss, Environmental Coordinator, by phone at (956) 712-7445, or by email at Chris.Kloss@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.