



Notice

**Virtual Public Meeting with In-Person Option
I-35/US 83 Upgrades and UPRR Overpass
From 2.7 Miles North of Uniroyal Interchange to
1.2 Miles North of US 83 Interchange and from
1 Mile North of SH 255 to the US 83/I-35 Underpass
CSJs: 0018-05-094 & 0037-10-040
Webb County, Texas**

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing to upgrade a rural section of I-35 and US 83 from approximately 2.7 miles north of Uniroyal Interchange to 1.2 miles north of US 83 Interchange on I-35 and from approximately 1 mile north of SH 255 to the US 83/I-35 Underpass on US 83 in Webb County, TX. This notice advises the public that TxDOT will be conducting an online virtual public meeting on the proposed project with an in-person option. **The virtual meeting will consist of a pre-recorded video presentation and will include both audio and visual components. The presentation will be posted online by August 17, 2021 at 8 a.m.** To log onto the virtual public meeting, go to the following web address at the date and time indicated above: www.txdot.gov. In the upper right-hand search box, enter the search keywords: "I-35/US 83 Upgrades and UPRR Overpass." 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. Following the virtual public meeting, the presentation will remain available for viewing at the web address indicated above. If you do not have internet access, you may call (956) 712-7445 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. Formal comments may be provided by mail or email as explained below.

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 meeting which will be playing on a screen, review hard copies of project materials, ask questions of TxDOT staff and/or consultants from a socially distanced approach, and leave written comments. **The in-person option will be held on August 17, 2021 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Texas A&M International University Western Hemispheric Trade Building – Room 101, Laredo, TX 78041.**

I-35 is a major trade corridor linking the city of Laredo and the Port of Laredo to other parts of the United States and Canada, while US 83 is part of the Ports to Plains trade corridor and may experience heavy use by oilfield traffic. The proposed 8.9-mile highway improvement project includes widening I-35 to six 12-ft. wide travel lanes with inside and outside shoulders divided by a 3-ft. tall concrete traffic barrier (CTB) and elevated over the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) existing railroad underpass, which would be filled in and raised to match existing ground. The existing two-way, two-lane frontage roads would be converted to one-way two-lane frontage roads and elevated over the UPRR to make the frontage roads continuous, while the I-35/US 83 interchange would be relocated and redesigned to two elevated one-lane Direct Connectors (DC) connecting southbound US 83 and I-35 and northbound I-35 and US 83 main lanes. The proposed project would include approximately 317.8 acres of existing I-35 and US 83 right-of-way (ROW) (ranging 300-900 ft. on I-35, 100-200 ft. on US 83, and 100-200 ft. along the UPRR) and require approximately 152.2 acres of additional ROW along US 83 (ranging from 20-600-ft. on US 83). The purpose of proposed improvements in the city of Laredo and Webb County is to alleviate traffic congestion and improve mobility and safety on these two routes.

The proposed project would, subject to final design considerations, require additional ROW and potentially displace 2 residences and 1 non-residential structure. 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 district office by calling (956) 712-7445. The TxDOT Laredo District staff will be glad to discuss this project with any interested persons.

Environmental studies are ongoing. Any environmental documentation or studies, any 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 Office, 1817 Bob Bullock Loop, Laredo, TX 78043, (956) 712-7445. Project materials are also available online at www.txdot.gov search keywords: "I-35/US 83 Upgrades and UPRR Overpass." These materials will also be available in hard copy form for review at the in-person option. For answers to any environmental questions, please contact Chris Kloss at (956) 712-7445/e-mail: Chris.Kloss@txdot.gov. For answers to questions on engineering issues, please contact Jose Emilio Ramos, P.E. at (956) 712-7437/e-mail: Jose.Emilio.Ramos@txdot.gov.

The virtual public meeting and in-person option will be conducted in English and 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 meeting or in-person option, please contact Raul Leal, Laredo District Public Information Officer, at (956) 712-7416/e-mail: Raul.Leal@txdot.gov no later than 4 p.m. CT, August 12, 2021. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for the 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, 1817 Bob Bullock Loop, Laredo, TX 78043. Written comments may also be submitted by e-mail to Chris.Kloss@txdot.gov. All comments must be received on or before **Wednesday, September 1, 2021**. Responses to comments received will be available online at www.txdot.gov once they have been prepared.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or virtual meeting or in-person option, please contact Chris Kloss, Laredo District Environmental Coordinator, at (956) 712-7445 or at e-mail 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.