



Notice
Draft Environmental Assessment and Virtual Public Hearing with In-Person Option
North United States Highway (US) 59 Loop
From International Boulevard to East Corridor Road (Airport)
CSJs: 0086-14-058, etc.
Webb County, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), City of Laredo, Webb County and the Webb County-City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority are proposing to upgrade North US 59 Loop (formerly known as State Loop 20 and Bob Bullock Loop) to a full urban interstate expressway from International Boulevard to East Corridor Road (Airport) in Laredo, 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 be held on Monday, April 12, 2021 at 8 a.m.** To log onto the virtual public hearing, go to the following web address www.txdot.gov at the date and time indicated above and type “North US 59 Loop” into the search box at the top right corner of the webpage. The hearing will consist of a virtual room 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 hearing, the presentation will remain available for viewing at the web address indicated above until **Tuesday, April 27, 2021, at 11:59 p.m.** If you do not have internet access, you may call (956) 712-7445 between the hours of 8 a.m. to 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 TxDOT staff and/or consultants from a socially distanced approach, and leave written comments. **The in-person option will be held on Monday, April 12, 2021 from noon to 8 p.m. at the TxDOT Laredo District Office, 1817 Bob Bullock Loop, Laredo, Texas 78043.** Attendance at the in-person option will be **by appointment only**. Individuals wishing to attend the in-person option must call (956) 712-7445 between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, to make an appointment. In recognition of COVID-19, enhanced safety measures will be applied at the in-person option, including a requirement to have an appointment and follow social distancing practices. If anyone arrives without an appointment, they may be asked to wait outside to ensure we maintain appropriate occupancy within the hearing room.

For both the virtual public hearing and in-person option, members of the public may call (956) 307-9984 to provide verbal testimony immediately following the conclusion of the virtual public hearing presentation from 8 a.m. on April 12, 2021, through 5 p.m. on April 27, 2021. 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, keywords “North US 59 Loop”.

The existing North US 59 Loop is typically a six-lane roadway with signalized intersections at the major street crossings. The proposed project would upgrade 5.9 miles of North US 59 Loop (formerly known as Loop 20 and Bob Bullock Loop) to a full urban interstate expressway from International Boulevard to East Corridor Road (Airport) in Laredo, Webb County, Texas. The upgrades would include three 12-foot travel lanes in each direction, a center concrete traffic barrier, inside and outside shoulders and appropriately placed on-off ramps. The main lanes would be constructed between three-lane frontage roads. Main lane overpasses are proposed at Jacaman Road, University Boulevard, Del Mar Boulevard and Shiloh Boulevard intersections.

The typical right-of-way width would be expanded from the current 150-foot to 400-foot, which would require the acquisition of approximately 192 acres of additional right of way. Sidewalks and an adjacent dual-use pathway are also proposed. Exceptions to the proposed 400-foot wide right of way would be eight proposed storm water

detention ponds that would be located adjacent to the existing and proposed new right of way. These proposed storm water detention ponds extend anywhere from 190-feet to approximately 620-feet from the proposed right of way and vary in size from 1.3 acres to 5.8 acres.

The proposed project would, subject to final design considerations, require additional right of way and potentially displace two non-residential structures. No residential displacements are anticipated. 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 (956) 712-7445.

The draft EA, any maps and drawings showing the project location and design, tentative construction schedules, and other information regarding the proposed project are available online at www.txdot.gov, keywords “North US 59 Loop”. 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 Raul Leal, Public Information Officer, TxDOT Laredo District Office at (956) 712-7416 or email to Raul.Leal@txdot.gov no later than 4 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST), Wednesday, April 7, 2021. 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, 1817 Bob Bullock Loop, Laredo, Texas 78043. Written comments may also be submitted by email to Chris.Kloss@txdot.gov. **All written comments must be received on or before Tuesday, April 27, 2021.** Additionally, as stated above, members of the public may call (956) 307-9984 and verbally provide testimony from 8 a.m. on April 12, 2021, until 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 27, 2021. Responses to written comments received and public testimony provided will be available online at www.txdot.gov, keywords “North US 59 Loop” once they have been prepared.

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