



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

INSPIRATION ROAD/MILITARY PARKWAY LOOP
From Interstate Highway 2 (I-2) to FM 1016
CSJ: 0921-02-395
HIDALGO County, Texas

The City of Mission in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing to widen Inspiration Road/Military Parkway Loop from Interstate Highway 2 (I-2) to FM 1016 in the City of Mission, Hidalgo County, Texas. This notice advises the public that a draft environmental assessment (EA) is available for public viewing and 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 Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. through Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 11:59 pm.** To log onto the virtual public hearing, go to the following web addresses beginning at the time and date indicated above: www.missiontexas.us or www.txdot.gov keyword "Inspiration Road/Military Parkway Loop" in the search box. Please note that the presentation will not be available on the website until the date and time listed above. If you do not have internet access, you may call Mr. J.P. Terrazas, P.E., RPIC at (956) 580-8662 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 online public hearing, which will be playing on a screen, review hard copies of project materials, ask questions of City of Mission staff, consultants and/or TxDOT staff from a socially distanced approach, and leave written comments. **The in-person option will be held on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Leal Elementary School Cafeteria, 318 S. Los Ebanos Road, Mission, TX 78572.**

For both the virtual public hearing and in-person option, members of the public may call (956) 565-6458 to provide verbal testimony immediately following the conclusion of the virtual public hearing presentation at 5:00 p.m. on April 25, 2023 through 11:59 p.m. on May 10, 2023. 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 the City of Mission and TxDOT and will be included as part of the official record. Responses to verbally provided testimony and comments will be prepared by the City of Mission, included as part of the hearing and project record, and will be made available online at www.missiontexas.us or www.txdot.gov keyword "Inspiration Road/Military Parkway Loop" in the search box.

The proposed improvements along Inspiration Road, from approximately 220 feet south of the I-2 frontage road to Military Parkway, would be to widen the existing two-lane roadway to four lanes with an existing right of way of 60 to 140-foot-wide and proposed right of way of 80 to 140 feet-wide. The proposed roadway would consist of a varying 64 to 84 foot-wide urban divided roadway consisting of four 11 to 14-foot-wide travel lanes, two 0 to 10-foot-wide shoulders, a 12 to 16-foot-wide continuous left turn lane, and 5 to 6-foot-wide sidewalks on both sides of the roadway; a length of 2.5 miles. The proposed improvements along Military Parkway, from County Road 2791 to FM 1016 includes an approximate 0.3

mile section of incidental construction west of Inspiration Road for a transition. The proposed improvements would be to widen and reconstruct the existing two lane roadway to a four lane urban divided roadway within an existing right of way of 80 to 150-foot wide and proposed right of way of 120 to 200 feet-wide. The proposed roadway would consist of an 84-foot-wide urban roadway consisting of four 12-foot-wide travel lanes, one 16-foot-wide continuous left turn lane, two 10-foot-wide shoulders, and a six-foot-wide sidewalk on both sides of the roadway with the exception of the section of the levees which would be a five-foot-wide sidewalk along the north side only; a length of 2.0 miles. Drainage would be provided by an underground storm drain system. In addition, a new outfall, the regrading of an existing outfall, the realignment of three intersections (CR 2791, Inspiration Road and West Military Road); and at the Los Ebanos Road intersection, a transition would be provided.

The proposed project would, subject to final design considerations, require additional right of way and potentially displace one commercial 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 right of way acquisition and construction, can be obtained from the City of Mission offices at the address provided below.

The proposed project would require the acquisition of right of way from the Bentsen Palm Community Park, a city owned park, located approximately 0.7 miles south of Mile 1 South Road and consists of a 54.298 acre tract of land that includes a two-mile walking trail, baseball/softball fields, basketball/tennis courts, restrooms, playgrounds and a pond with a pier. Approximately 0.4 acres of right of way would be needed, 14 palm trees relocated and 0.45 miles of the walking trail would be removed and replaced. No recreational structures associated with the park will be impacted. The project would require portions of the City of Mission Hike and Bike Trail to be realigned. The Hike and Bike Trail is an approximate five mile long trail with a parking lot and two pedestrian bridges that begins at Nature Park at FM 1016 and ends near the World Birding Center on FM 2062. A half mile section of the trail would be realigned at the Inspiration Road/Military Parkway Loop intersection then along the irrigation canal. The proposed project would require widening and reconstructing approximately 0.7 miles of roadway on top of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV) Flood Control System levee on the land side, away from the levee face and the floodway. TxDOT anticipates making a *de minimis* determination for these uses under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966. Public comment on the effects of the proposed project on the activities, features, or attributes of the Bentsen Palm Community Park, Mission Hike and Bike Trail and the IBWC levee may be submitted as described below. This public hearing also satisfies the requirements of Chapter 26 of the Parks and Wildlife Code.

The proposed project would involve construction in wetlands.

The draft EA, 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 City of Mission offices, 1201 E. 8th Street, Mission, TX 78572 (956) 580-8662. Project materials are also available online at www.missiontexas.us or www.txdot.gov keyword "Inspiration Road/Military Parkway Loop" in the search box. 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 you have difficulty communicating effectively, 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 Velma Garcia, L&G Engineering, at (956) 565-9813 no later than 4 p.m.

CT, April 21, 2023. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time to arrange.

Written comments from the public regarding the proposed project are requested and may be submitted by mail to the City of Mission, Attn: Mr. J.P. Terrazas, P.E., RIPC, 1201 E. 8th Street, Mission, TX 78572.

Written comments may also be submitted by email to jpterrazas@missiontexas.us. **All written comments must be received on or before May 10, 2023.** Additionally, as stated above, members of the public may call (956) 565-6458 and verbally provide testimony from 5:00 p.m. on April 25, 2023 until 11:59 pm on May 10, 2023. Responses to written comments received and public testimony provided will be available online at www.missiontexas.us or www.txdot.gov keyword "Inspiration Road/Military Parkway Loop" in the search box once they have been prepared.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project, the virtual hearing or in-person option, please contact Mr. J.P. Terrazas, P.E., RPIC at (956) 580-8662 or by email at jpterrazas@missiontexas.us.

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.