



NOTICE
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW & PUBLIC HEARING
Nolana Loop
From FM 1426 (Raul Longoria Road) to FM 88 (Texas Avenue)
CSJs: 0921-02-169 & 361
Hidalgo County, Texas



Hidalgo County, in conjunction with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), as the lead agency, is proposing to widen, reconstruct, and extend Nolana Loop from FM 1426 (Raul Longoria Road) to FM 88 (Texas Avenue) in Hidalgo County, Texas. This notice advises the public that a draft environmental assessment (EA) is available for public review and that TxDOT will be conducting a public hearing on the proposed project. **The hearing will be held on November 20, 2019, at Donna North High School-Auditorium, located at 7250 Val Verde Road in Donna, TX 78537. Displays will be available for viewing at 5:00 p.m. with the formal hearing starting at 6:00 p.m.** The purpose of the hearing is to present the planned improvements and to receive public comment on the proposed project.

The purpose of the Nolana Loop project is to improve mobility and accommodate current and future traffic volumes. The existing roadway is partially located in the City of San Juan and Hidalgo County. An existing 30 to 120-foot-wide Right-Of-Way (ROW) would be used where available. Nolana Loop would be constructed as an 84-foot wide urban type facility consisting of four 12-foot-wide travel lanes, one 16-foot-wide continuous left turn lane, two 10-foot-wide shoulders, and six-foot-wide sidewalks on both sides of the roadway within a proposed 120-foot-wide ROW throughout the length of the (9.8 miles) of project. Drainage would be provided by a storm drain system. Cesar Chavez Road would be improved to include a left turn lane at its intersection with Nolana Loop. Nine existing drainage outfalls located within the project limits would be cleaned of debris, as needed. An existing outfall located between Old La Blanca Road and FM 493 would be shifted approximately 40-feet north of its current location within the existing drainage ditch ROW.

The proposed project would require approximately 82.6 acres of additional ROW, and displace seven residences and one commercial structure. Information about the Relocation Assistance Program, benefits, and services for displacees, as well as information about the tentative schedules for ROW acquisition and construction can be obtained from the Hidalgo County Pct. #2 office at the address listed below. Relocation assistance is available for displaced persons and businesses.

The project would encroach upon 8.3 acres of floodplains; therefore, compliance with the federal Executive Order 11988 on Floodplain Management will occur and no adverse impacts are anticipated. The project would affect Hidalgo County Irrigation District #2, a listed National Registered Historic Place (NRHP), by removing standpipes, and irrigation lines, and introducing new standpipes, pipelines, and siphons. No wetlands or waters of the U.S. will be impacted. The use of a historic resource qualifies under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act and Chapter 26 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code. A Section 4(f) *de minimis* was completed and finding of no adverse effect was obtained from the Texas Historical Commission (THC) in November 2010.

The draft EA, maps showing the project location and design, tentative construction schedules, and other information regarding the project are on file and available for inspection Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the Hidalgo County Precinct #2 office located at 300 W. Hall Acres, Ste. G in Pharr, Texas; please call (956) 787-1891 to schedule an appointment. This information will also be available for inspection at the hearing. To view the materials online visit www.txdot.gov, keyword "Nolana to FM 88." Verbal and written comments from the public regarding the project are requested and may be presented at the hearing, or submitted in person, by mail (address above), email (nolanaloop@co.hidalgo.tx.us), or fax (956-787-4683) to Hidalgo County Pct. # 2, Attn: Armando Garza, Jr. Comments must be received on or before December 5, 2019 to be part of the official hearing record.

The hearing will be conducted in English. Spanish translation services will be available at the hearing. Persons interested in attending the hearing who have special communication or accommodation needs are encouraged to

contact Mr. Armando Garza, Jr. with Pct. #2 at (956) 787-1891. Requests should be made at least two business days prior to the hearing. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate these needs.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or the hearing, please contact Mr. Reza Baddiozamani, P.E., Project Engineer, at (956) 585-1909.

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 16, 2014, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.