



Notice

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

**FM 756 (PALUXY DRIVE)
From Jeff Davis Drive to FM 344
CSJs: 0492-04-034, 0492-04-041 and 0889-05-009
SMITH County, Texas**

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing to widen FM 756 (Paluxy Drive) from Jeff Davis Drive to FM 344 in Smith 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 Thursday, July 15.** To log onto the virtual public hearing, go to the following web address on the date indicated above: www.txdot.gov, and in the upper right-hand search box, enter the keywords "FM 756 Public Hearing". The virtual hearing will consist of a pre-recorded video presentation and will include both audio and visual components. Please note that the presentation will not be available on the website until the date listed above. Following the virtual public hearing, the presentation will remain available for viewing at the web address indicated above until Friday, July 30 at 11:59 p.m.

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 leave written comments. **The in-person option will be held on Thursday, July 15 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at TxDOT Tyler District Office, 2709 W. Front St., Tyler, TX 75702. Attendance at the in-person option will be by appointment only.** Individuals wishing to attend the in-person option must call (903) 510-9100 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, to make an appointment. 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 903-200-1700 to provide verbal testimony from Thursday, July 15 through Friday, July 30. 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 "FM 756 Public Hearing", once they are prepared.

The proposed project would reconstruct and widen approximately 7 miles of FM 756, from two lanes to four lanes, divided by a 16-foot flush median. The flush median would serve as a two-way left-turn lane. From Jeff Davis Drive to FM 346, the proposed project would include curb-and-gutter, with space available for 5-foot sidewalks to be constructed apart from the roadway, as funds are available. At FM 346, the proposed project would include a grade-separated interchange, with FM 756 passing over FM 346. Additionally, the proposed project would adjust the roadway's alignment from just south of FM 346 to CR 2173 (Carl Dowdy Road).

The proposed project would, subject to final design considerations, require additional right of way and potentially displace 30 residences and three commercial facilities. 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 project webpage, or by calling the TxDOT Tyler District Office at (903) 510-9100.

The proposed project would involve construction in wetlands and action in a floodplain. The draft EA, maps and drawings showing the project location and design are available for review online at the project webpage starting on July 15, 2021, and on file at the TxDOT Tyler District Office between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. 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 TxDOT Tyler District Office, at (903) 510-9100 no later than 4 p.m., July 12, 2021.

Written comments from the public regarding the proposed project are requested and may be submitted by mail to the TxDOT Tyler District Office, Attention: APD, 2709 W. Front St., Tyler, TX 75702. Written comments may also be submitted by email to dylan.mccord@txdot.gov. **All written comments must be received on or before July 30, 2021.** Additionally, as stated above, members of the public may call 903-200-1700 and verbally provide testimony from 12:01 a.m. on July 15, 2021 until 11:59 pm on July 30, 2021.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or virtual hearing or in-person option, please contact Dylan McCord, Environmental Project Manager, by email at dylan.mccord@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.