



Notice
Virtual Public Meeting with In-Person Option

I-14 EXTENSION: I-35 IMPROVEMENTS
I-35 from Loop 121 in Belton to Loop 363/US 190/SH 36 in Temple
CSJs: 0015-14-109, 0231-04-064, 0015-14-133, 0015-14-134
Bell County, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing to improve I-35 from Loop 121 in Belton to Loop 363/US 190/SH 36 in Temple (also referred to as "Segment 1") in Bell County, Texas. 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 on Thursday, May 2, 2024, by 5 p.m.** To log onto the virtual public meeting, go to the following web address at the date and time indicated above: www.TxDOT.gov. On the website, enter search term "I-14 Extension." The virtual public meeting will feature audio and visual elements that mirror what is shared at the in-person public meeting. All comments must be postmarked or received by Friday, May 17, 2024, to be included in official meeting documentation. If you do not have internet access, you may call 254-867-2750 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 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 meeting which will be playing on a screen, review hard copies of project materials, ask questions of TxDOT staff and/or consultants, and leave written comments. **The in-person option will be held on Thursday, May 2, 2024, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Cadence Bank Center, Special Events Room on the 2nd Floor, 301 W. Loop 121, Belton, TX 76513.**

The I-35 improvements in Bell County stretch seven miles from Loop 121 in Belton to Loop 363/US 190/SH 36 in Temple. The proposed improvements include: improving the I-14/US 190/I-35 system interchanges; widening I-35 in Segment 1; and improving overall safety, connectivity and mobility. Currently, the existing typical section along this corridor of I-35 includes three general-purpose lanes and two frontage road lanes in each direction; the proposed typical section would include, in each direction, an additional general-purpose lane for a total of four general-purpose lanes, three express lanes, two to three frontage road lanes and a shared-use path. Segment 1 is part of a larger project that will extend I-14 from its current terminus in Belton to BU 190 in Rogers, comprising a total of three segments.

The proposed project may acquire new Right of Way from Liberty Park on the northwest side of Interstate 35 between Avenue E and Nolan Creek. Potential new ROW would be used to accommodate additional lane capacity related to the I-35 improvements. TxDOT anticipates making a *de minimis* determination for this use 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 Liberty Park may be submitted as described below.

The proposed project may involve construction in wetlands.

The proposed project may involve an action in a floodplain.

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 254-867-



2836. Project materials are also available online at www.TxDOT.gov and search term "I-14 Extension." These materials will also be available in hard copy form for review at the in-person option.

The virtual public meeting 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 meeting or in-person option, please contact Laurel Munshower at 512-537-7117 no later than 4 p.m. CT, Friday, April 26, 2024. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for the Texas Department of Transportation to arrange.

Written comments from the public regarding the proposed project are requested and may be submitted by mail to the TxDOT Waco District Office, Attn: I-14 Extension – Segment 1, 1608 W 6th St, Austin, TX 78703. Written comments may also be submitted by email to I14Extension.Segment1@gmail.com. All comments must be postmarked or received by Friday, May 17, 2024, in order to be included in the official meeting documentation. Responses to comments received will be available online at www.TxDOT.gov and search term "I-14 Extension" once they have been prepared.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project, please contact Chris Mashek, P.E., TxDOT Waco District Project Manager at 254-867-2750, chris.mashek@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.