



Notice
Virtual Public Hearing
State Highway 174
At Brazos River/Lake Whitney
CSJs: 0519-02-019
Bosque and Hill Counties, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) – Waco District is proposing to replace the existing bridge crossing the Brazos River/Lake Whitney on State Highway (SH) 174 in Bosque and Hill Counties. This notice advises the public that TxDOT will be conducting an online virtual public hearing on the proposed project. The virtual hearing will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022 at 6 p.m. in accordance with Chapter 26 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code.

To log onto the virtual public hearing, go to TxDOT’s website: www.txdot.gov and enter the search keywords “SH 174 at Brazos River” in the upper right-hand search box. Project staff will give a presentation which will be a pre-recorded video that 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 TxDOT’s website: www.txdot.gov and enter the search keywords “SH 174 at Brazos River” in the upper right-hand search box until Thursday, Feb 24, 2022 at 11:59 pm. If you do not have internet access, you may call Environmental Coordinator, Michael Rhodes at (254) 867-2739 or email michael.rhodes@txdot.gov between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, to ask questions and access project materials during the project development process. Formal comments may be provided by mail or email as explained below.

Members of the public may call 833-933-0437 to provide verbal testimony immediately following the conclusion of the virtual public hearing presentation at 6 p.m. on Wednesday Feb. 9, 2022 through 11:59 pm on Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022. 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 and enter the search keywords “SH 174 at Brazos River” in the upper right-hand search box

The existing bridge, constructed in 1950, carries vehicular traffic on SH 174 over the Brazos River at Kimball’s Bend on the county line between Hill County and Bosque County. SH 174 is a primary northeast-southwest route for through traffic in Bosque, Hill, and Johnson Counties.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) owns the land on both sides of SH 174. The overall length of the existing bridge is 1,294 feet. The two-lane bridge has an overall roadway width of 26 feet and an overall deck width of 29 feet. The deck provides two 12-foot-wide travel lanes with three-foot-wide shoulders. The proposed bridge would be 1,690 feet long and provide two 12-foot-wide travel lanes with 10-foot-wide shoulders. The proposed project would involve an action in a floodplain.

Although additional right of way would be required, no residential or non-residential structures are anticipated to be displaced at this time. Information concerning services and benefits available to affected property owners and information about the tentative schedule for right-of-way acquisition and construction can be obtained from the TxDOT district office by calling (254) 745-2139.

The proposed project is anticipated to impact the following properties protected under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966: SH 174 Truss Bridge, and Kimball Bend Park and limited use recreational areas on both sides of the river. The proposed project would take approximately 4 acres from Kimball Bend Park and the limited use recreational areas owned and operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers. 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 the Kimball Bend Park and the limited use recreational areas may be submitted as described below.

Any environmental documentation or studies, 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 and enter the search keywords “SH 174 at Brazos River” in the upper right-hand search box.

The virtual public hearing 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, please contact Michael Rhodes, at (254) 867-2739 no later than 4 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 3, 2022. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for the TxDOT 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, 100 South Loop Drive, Waco, TX 76704. Written comments may also be submitted by email to michael.rhodes@txdot.gov. All comments must be received on or before Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022. Responses to comments received will be available online at www.txdot.gov and enter the search keywords “SH 174 at Brazos River” in the upper right-hand search box once they have been prepared.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or the virtual hearing, please contact Environmental Coordinator Michael Rhodes at (254) 867-2739 or email michael.rhodes@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.