



Notice

Draft Environmental Assessment Available for Public Review and Public Hearing

IH 20 at Ranger Hill, Brownwood District

IH 20 from 3.5 miles east of LP 254 to SH 16

CSJ: 0007-06-084

Eastland County, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing to construct improvements to Interstate Highway 20 (IH 20) from 3.5 miles east of Loop 254 (LP 254) to State Highway 16 (SH 16) in Eastland County, Texas. Pursuant to Texas Administrative Code, Title 43, Part 1, Chapter 2, Subchapter E, §2.107 and §2.108 and Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Chapter I, Subchapter H, §771.111 and Title 40, Chapter V, §1506, 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 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.

The hearing will be held on August 16, 2016 at Ranger High School cafeteria, 1842 TX-254 in Ranger, Texas. Displays will be available for viewing at 5:30 p.m. with the formal hearing starting at 6:15 pm. The purpose of the hearing is to present the planned improvements and to receive public comment on the proposed project.

The proposed project would consist of interstate improvements that would update the IH 20 design to meet current TxDOT design standards within the approximately three-mile project area. The design would realign IH 20 approximately 500 feet south of the existing alignment to reduce the existing horizontal curvature ("s" curve) to approximately one degree. The proposed design also would reduce the vertical grade from six to approximately three and a half percent and would update the interstate from a superelevation (banking) of eight percent to approximately four percent.

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The proposed interstate would include two 12-foot main lanes in each direction with room for 10-foot shoulders. In addition there would be a new 12-foot climbing (or passing) lane for westbound traffic. The proposed interstate also would consist of construction of two new continuous two-way frontage roads on either side of the IH 20 main lanes. The frontage roads would consist of two 12-foot lanes with a four-foot inside shoulder and an eight-foot outside shoulder. It is anticipated that construction would begin in January 2017 and last approximately three years.

The proposed right-of-way (ROW) would vary from 300 to 1,380 feet for a total of approximately 260 acres, including an existing TxDOT safety rest area. TxDOT would acquire approximately 89 acres of ROW from adjacent private landowners for the expansion of the proposed project. Although additional ROW is required, no residential or non-residential structures would be displaced. Information concerning services and benefits available to affected property owners and information about the tentative schedule for ROW acquisition may be obtained from the district office at the address listed below and at the hearing.

The draft EA, maps showing the project location and design, tentative construction schedules, and other information relative to the project are on file and available for review on the TxDOT website, <http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/studies/brownwood/i20-ranger-hill.html> and for inspection Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the TxDOT Brownwood District office at 2495 Highway 183 North, Brownwood, TX 76802. This information will also be available for inspection at the hearing. Verbal and written comments from the public regarding the project are requested and may be presented at the hearing, or submitted in person or by mail or email to Jason Scantling at the TxDOT Brownwood District, 2495 Highway 183 North, Brownwood, TX 76802, Jason.Scantling@txdot.gov. Comments must be received on or before August 30, 2016 to be part of the official hearing record.

The hearing will be conducted in English. Persons interested in attending the hearing who have special communication or accommodation needs, such as the need for an interpreter, are encouraged to contact (325) 643-0415. Requests should be made at least two days prior to the public hearing. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate these needs.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or hearing, please contact Jason Scantling, P.E., Director of Transportation, Planning, and Development, Brownwood District, TxDOT, 2495 HWY 183 N., Brownwood, Texas 76802, (325) 643-0415.

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