



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING US 377 CRESSON RELIEF ROUTE

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will conduct a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at Bear Creek Community Church, 18600 Highway 377 S., Cresson, TX 76035. The purpose of the Hearing is to present the proposed new location roadway of U.S. Highway (US) 377 in the City of Cresson. Displays will be available for viewing at 6:30 p.m. with the formal hearing commencing at 7:00 p.m.

US 377 is a four-lane divided highway providing for regional travel from near Interstate Highway 20 (I-20) in the City of Benbrook to just north of the City of Cresson. The highway transitions to a four-lane undivided highway as it passes through the City of Cresson and widens back to a four-lane divided highway south of the city. Within the City of Cresson, US 377 intersects both State Highway (SH) 171 and the Fort Worth and Western Railroad (FWWR) at-grade. The SH 171 intersection is signalized, and the FWWR crossing is regulated by warning lights and gates. The existing right-of-way (ROW) width ranges from 80 feet within the City of Cresson to 300 feet at the southern project limit and is typically 120 feet.

TxDOT Fort Worth District proposes to construct a four-lane relief route west of US 377 and the City of Cresson in Hood and Johnson Counties, Texas. The proposed project is approximately 3.02 miles in length and begins one mile south of the intersection of US 377 and SH 171 and ends approximately one mile north of the intersection. The proposed roadway would be a four-lane divided roadway with two 12-foot wide lanes in each direction, 10-foot wide outside shoulders, and a 48-foot wide median which includes four-foot wide inside shoulders. The proposed relief route would bridge over SH 171 and the FWWR. The proposed relief route would typically require a width of 240 feet of new ROW. Additional ROW width will be required at locations where cut and fill are required for slopes, and near intersections with US 377 at the beginning and end of the project.

At the project termini, grade-separations with 14-foot wide ramps would provide connectivity to existing US 377. At the southern limit, the relief route would bridge over Old Granbury Road and ramps would allow access to the existing highway. At the northern project limit, the relief route would pass under a proposed access road and ramps would provide access. Travel on the proposed access road would be necessary for motorists who want to continue south on existing US 377 or those who have traveled north on the relief route and then want to travel south on existing US 377. Old Granbury Road and the proposed access road would include two 12-foot wide lanes in each direction and 10-foot wide shoulders.

Approximately 115 acres of additional ROW and no easements would be required to accommodate the proposed facility. There would be no residential or commercial displacements required for the proposed project. Access would be controlled along the relief route and no driveways leading directly to the proposed roadway would be allowed.

The proposed project would result in the placement of temporary and permanent dredge or fill material into nine jurisdictional waters of the U.S. locations, including wetlands. Permanent impacts to jurisdictional locations would total 0.61 acre (0.5 acre of streams and 0.11 acre of wetlands). The proposed project would cross the 100-year floodplain.

The proposed project is needed because proximity of the at-grade railroad crossing on US 377 to the SH 171 intersection impedes traffic flow, accidents occur along US 377 near SH 171, and a high level of truck traffic leads to congestion along US 377. Short-term solutions currently in place will not provide extended relief for motorists using US 377 and SH 171. US 377 is on the Texas Highway Trunk System (the Trunk System). This project will update this section of US 377 to

meet TxDOT design criteria for the Trunk System. The purpose of the proposed project is to provide a long-term solution to identified traffic issues at the US 377 and SH 171 intersection.

Maps and other drawings depicting the proposed improvements will be displayed at the public hearing. In addition, the plan layouts and the Environmental Assessment with pertinent information about the proposed project are on file and available for inspection at the following locations:

- TxDOT Stephenville Area Office - 2281 E. Washington, Stephenville, TX 76401; telephone - (254) 965-3511, Buddie Lasater, P.E., Project Manager
- TxDOT Fort Worth District Office - 2501 SW Loop 820, Fort Worth, TX 76133; telephone - (817) 370-6549, Donna Fowler, Fort Worth District Open Records Coordinator
- City of Cresson - 8901 US 377, Cresson, TX, 76035; telephone - (817) 396-4729, Charlotte Huffman, City Secretary

All interested citizens are invited to attend this Public Hearing. Verbal and written comments from the public regarding this proposed project are requested. Written comments may be submitted either in person or by mail to the TxDOT Fort Worth District Office, Mr. Brian Barth, P.E., District Engineer, 2501 SW Loop 820, Fort Worth, Texas 76133. Comments may be presented for a period of 10 days after the hearing and must be received on or before Friday, March 7, 2014 in order to become part of the official hearing record.

The Public Hearing will be conducted in English. Persons interested in attending the hearing who have special communication or accommodation needs, or need an interpreter are encouraged to contact the TxDOT Fort Worth District Office at (817) 370-6610. Requests should be made at least 72 hours prior to the public hearing. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate those needs.