



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing improvements to FM 521 (Almeda Road) from Beltway 8 to FM 2234 (McHard Road) in Harris and Fort Bend Counties, 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 hearing will be held on Thursday, August 25, 2016, at Willowridge High School, Cafeteria, located at 16301 Chimney Rock, Houston, Texas 77053. The public hearing will begin with an open house at 5:30 p.m. followed by a formal presentation at 6:30 p.m.

The purpose of the hearing is to discuss the proposed improvements to FM 521. The proposed project consists of reconstructing and widening the existing two-lane rural undivided facility to a four-lane divided urban arterial from Beltway 8 to 0.3 miles south of FM 2234. The project also includes improvements on FM 2234 from 0.3 miles west of FM 521 to 0.2 miles east of FM 521 and proposed grade separations at the Union Pacific Railroad crossings on FM 2234 and FM 521. Approximately 13.2 acres of additional right-of-way (ROW) would be required for the proposed project.

This project was initially evaluated with a State Environmental Assessment and a public hearing was conducted on May 7, 2015; however, based on the recent inclusion of federal funding, this document has been prepared in accordance with the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act. No significant design modifications have occurred since the previous public hearing held.

A schematic plan showing the location of the project and geometric design, the environmental document prepared for the project, and other information pertinent to the project are on file and available for inspection at the TxDOT Houston District Office, located at 7600 Washington Avenue, Houston, Texas 77007. For specific information regarding the design, construction, or schedule of this project, please contact Kitty Kwok, at (713) 802-5510. Information will also be posted online on the TxDOT website; <http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/get-involved/about/hearings-meetings/houston/082516.html>

The public hearing will provide an opportunity to submit written comments, and a court reporter will be present to record oral comments. Both written and oral comments will be considered equally. Written comments may be submitted in person at the public hearing, or by mail to TxDOT Houston District, Attn: Director of Project Development, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas 77251-1386, or by email to [hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov](mailto:houstonwebmail@txdot.gov). All comments must be submitted within ten (10) working days after the public hearing (**postmarked on or before September 5, 2016**).

All interested persons are invited to attend this public hearing. Materials will be presented in English and Spanish, and Spanish language interpreters will be present. Persons interested in attending the public hearing who have special communication or accommodation needs are encouraged to contact TxDOT's Public Information Office at (713) 802-5072 at least two (2) working days prior to the public hearing. TxDOT will make every reasonable effort to accommodate these needs. The TxDOT offices are open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excluding national holidays.

The Environmental Assessment document for this project has been approved for further processing by the TxDOT Environmental Affairs Division.

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.