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## **Notice of Public Scoping Meeting SH 68**

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will hold a Public Scoping Meeting for State Highway 68 (SH 68) to allow the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed project's purpose and need, draft coordination plan, and other relevant project information. The Public Scoping Meeting will be held in an open house format between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., on March 15, 2016 at the Donna North High School located at 7250 N. Val Verde Rd., Donna, TX 78537. No formal presentation will be given, but project staff will be on hand to provide information and answer questions. Attendees are invited to come and go at their convenience.

Currently, the project is described in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) as a four-lane divided rural highway facility with future main lanes and overpasses in eastern Hidalgo County from US 83/IH 2 to US 281/IH 69C. The facility described in the MTP and STIP has a total project length of approximately 22 miles.

The purpose of the project is to improve north/south mobility, increase travel capacity for local and regional traffic, and provide an alternate north-south evacuation route during emergency events. The project need is a lack of sufficient north/south mobility corridors for local and regional traffic and for additional emergency evacuation routes, which are the result of historical and continuing population and traffic growth in the region.

All interested citizens are invited to attend this meeting to express their views and discuss the proposed project with TxDOT representatives. Information and exhibits detailing the project's history, study area, draft coordination plan, preliminary study corridors, and draft purpose and need will be available for review during the open house period. This information will also be available for public review after the meeting at the TxDOT Pharr District office (located at 600 W. IH-2, Pharr, Texas) Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., at the SH 68 project office located at 4711 S. Alamo Rd. Suite 106 Edinburg, Texas 78542 from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and at other times by appointment. In addition, you can go online at [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) keyword "SH 68". For general questions or concerns regarding the proposed SH 68 project, you may contact Margil Maldonado, Jr., P.E., at (956) 702-6134 or by e-mail at [Margil.Maldonado@txdot.gov](mailto:Margil.Maldonado@txdot.gov). You may also contact the SH 68 Project hotline at (956) 460-9299 OR [sh68@rjrivera.com](mailto:sh68@rjrivera.com).

A bilingual court reporter will be available at the meeting to receive verbal comments. Written comments from the public regarding this project are also welcome and will be accepted at the meeting and for a period of 30 calendar days following the meeting (April 14, 2016). Written comments may be submitted either in person or by mail to Robin Gelston, at the TxDOT Pharr District Office located at 600 W. IH-2, Pharr, TX, 78577. Written comments must be postmarked by April 14, 2016 to be included in the official record of the meeting. Additionally, comments may be e-mailed to [robin.gelston@txdot.gov](mailto:robin.gelston@txdot.gov) or [sh68@rjrivera.com](mailto:sh68@rjrivera.com). Comments may also be submitted by visiting the SH 68 Project web page at [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) keyword "SH 68."

Spanish-speaking team members and Spanish translation services will be available at the meeting to assist with translation needs. Persons with special communication and/or accommodation needs who are interested in attending the meeting are asked to contact Norma Robledo at (956) 702-6161, or at [Norma.Robledo@txdot.gov](mailto:Norma.Robledo@txdot.gov), at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting. TxDOT will make every reasonable effort to accommodate these needs.

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.