



**NOTICE AFFORDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC HEARING**  
**U.S. 281 MILITARY HIGHWAY**  
**FROM FM 3248 (ALTON GLOOR BLVD.) TO FM 1421**

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) proposes improvements to U.S. Highway (US) 281 in Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas. The proposed roadway widening would extend along US 281 from Farm-to-Market (FM) 3248 northwest to FM 1421, a distance of approximately 5.2 miles. In accordance with the Texas Administrative Code Title 43, Part 1, Chapter 2, Subchapter 3, Rule §2.107, a public meeting was held on April 1, 2015, to provide information regarding the proposed project and to gather input from the public.

The existing facility is a two-lane undivided major rural arterial that serves as a designated Hurricane Evacuation Route through rural communities in southern Cameron County. The current roadway is located within an existing 100-foot right of way and measures between 38 and 62 feet wide with 12-foot travel lanes (one in each direction), discontinuous 2- to 12-foot shoulders, and intermittent center left-turn lanes. Currently, the speed limit on US 281 ranges from 45 to 60 miles per hour (mph).

The proposed improvements include widening the roadway from two to four lanes, adding intermittent right-turn lanes, adding dedicated center left-turn lanes at major intersections, and improving drainage infrastructure. Continuous shoulders would also be constructed and would measure between five and eight feet wide, depending on location. The majority of improvements would be constructed within the existing 100-foot right of way. Additional right of way totaling approximately 2.3 acres would be required to provide for the enhanced safety and operational improvements; no temporary or permanent easements are anticipated to be required for construction. No changes to the existing speed limit have been proposed as part of this project. The proposed five- to eight-foot shoulders on each side of the roadway would accommodate use by bicyclists and pedestrians travelling along this stretch of US 281.

Although additional right of way is required, no residences or businesses would be displaced. Information concerning services and benefits available to affected property owners and information about the tentative schedule for right of way acquisition may be obtained from the TxDOT Pharr District office. No adverse impacts to communities, including to minority populations and low-income populations, would occur as a result of the improvements.

Maps showing the project location and design, the draft Environmental Assessment (EA), the tentative construction schedule, and other information relative to the proposed project are on file for review during regular business hours at the TxDOT Pharr District office, 600 W. I-2, Pharr, Texas 78577. The draft EA and Public Meeting Summary and Analysis will be made available online at: [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov).

Any interested citizen may request a public hearing regarding the social, economic, and environmental effects of the proposed project. Requests for a public hearing must be submitted in writing on or before October 27, 2015 to: **Robin Gelston, TxDOT Pharr District, 600 W. I-2, Pharr, Texas 78577.**

For any questions regarding the proposed project, please contact Eddie Espinoza, P.E., at the address above, by telephone at (956) 702-6210, or by email at [Eddie.Espinoza@txdot.gov](mailto:Eddie.Espinoza@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 16, 2014, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.*