



# Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment and Notice Affording an Opportunity for Public Hearing

**US 59: From Business 59 south of El Campo to SH 71**  
City of El Campo, Wharton County, Texas  
CSJs: 0089-07-133, 0089-06-081

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Yoakum District, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the City of El Campo, Texas, proposes to provide frontage roads and convert the existing lanes of U.S. Highway (US) 59 from Business 59 south of El Campo to State Highway (SH) 71 to a controlled access facility that meets Interstate standards. Interchanges and/or slip ramps would be included to provide necessary access to and around the facility. The proposed project length is 2.6 miles (mi).

US 59 within the project area currently consists of two 12-foot (ft) lanes in each direction, 10-ft outside shoulders, 6 ft inside shoulders, and a 42-ft-wide median. Existing US 59 within the project limits meets all Interstate design standards for an urban facility with the exception of access control. A partial frontage road network including entrance and exit ramps is in place, but much of the existing roadway still includes direct access from side streets and driveways to US 59. The existing frontage roads accommodate traffic in both directions. The right-of-way (ROW) along this section varies from 310-580 ft.

The proposed project would consist of the addition of frontage roads to provide access control along the existing US 59 facility. The mainlane typical section would remain the same and include two 12-ft lanes in each direction, 10 ft outside shoulders, 6-ft inside shoulders, and a 42-ft-wide center median. Approximately 30-180 ft of grassy median would be between the mainlanes and the frontage roads. The frontage roads would consist of two 12-ft lanes, 10-ft outside shoulders, 4-ft inside shoulders, and a maximum of a 46-ft-wide grassy ditch on each outside edge. The ROW would be a maximum of 610 ft and would be minimized in locations to avoid potential impacts and displacements. A 5-ft sidewalk would be provided on both sides of the facility between the frontage road and the ROW. Bicycle use would be permitted on the 10-ft outside shoulder of the frontage roads. The existing frontage roads accommodate traffic in both directions because the frontage road network is incomplete. The proposed project includes completing the frontage road network which allows them to be converted to one-way use thereby improving safety and operations. The preliminary construction cost estimate for the proposed project is \$13,239,000.

15.2 acres of new ROW and 123.75 acres of existing ROW would be utilized for construction of the proposed project. Although additional ROW is required, no houses or businesses would be displaced. Information concerning services and benefits available to affected property owners and information about the tentative schedule for ROW acquisition and construction may be obtained from the TxDOT Yoakum District Office.

The proposed project would cross two 100-year floodplains and total approximately 22 acres. One water of the U.S. and two wetlands (0.06 acre) would be impacted by the proposed project and would require a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 14.

The Environmental Assessment, project location map, drawings, and other information about the proposed project are available for inspection at:

**TxDOT Yoakum District Office**

Mr. Paul Reitz, P.E.  
403 Huck Street, Yoakum, Texas 77995  
Phone: (361) 293-4347

**TxDOT Wharton Area Office**

Mr. Ryan Simper, P.E.  
1512 FM 102, Wharton, Texas 77488  
Phone: (979) 532-3141

**City of El Campo**

Ms. Mindi Snyder  
315 E. Jackson St., El Campo, Texas 77437  
Phone: (979) 541-5000

**City of El Campo Civic Center**

2350 N. Mechanic Street  
El Campo, Texas 77437

**Wharton County Library, El Campo Branch**

200 W. Church Street  
El Campo, Texas 77437

Also available online at: [http://cityofelcampo.org/south\\_project.php](http://cityofelcampo.org/south_project.php)

Any interested citizen may request a public hearing covering the social, economic and environmental effects of the proposed location and design for this project. Requests for a public hearing must be submitted in writing on or before **March 20, 2015**, to Mr. Paul Reitz, P.E., Texas Department of Transportation, 403 Huck Street, Yoakum, Texas, 77995. If such a request is received, a public hearing will be scheduled. Adequate notice will be published to announce the date and location of the hearing.

If you have general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project, you may contact Mr. Paul Reitz, P.E. with TxDOT at (361) 293-4347 or by email at [paul.reitz@txdot.gov](mailto:paul.reitz@txdot.gov) in lieu of requesting a public hearing. If these questions are not answered to your satisfaction, a public hearing should be requested.

*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 the Federal Highway Administration and TxDOT.*