



**NOTICE OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW
AND
PUBLIC HEARING
FARM-TO-MARKET ROAD (FM) 89 (BUFFALO GAP ROAD) IMPROVEMENTS
FROM NEAR CHIMNEY ROCK ROAD TO U.S. HIGHWAY (US) 83
CITY OF ABILENE, TAYLOR COUNTY, TEXAS
CSJS: 0699-01-051 & 0699-01-052**

The City of Abilene and the Abilene Metropolitan Planning Organization, in conjunction with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), as the lead agency, are proposing to improve FM 89 (Buffalo Gap Road) from near Chimney Rock Road to US 83 in Taylor County, TX. 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 documentation/technical reports are available for public review and that TxDOT will be conducting a public hearing on the proposed project. The hearing will be held on **Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at Cooper High School, 3639 Sayles Boulevard, Abilene, TX 79605**. Displays will be available for viewing at 5:00 p.m. with the formal hearing starting at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the hearing is to present the planned improvements and to receive public comment on the proposed project.

The proposed project includes the reconstruction and widening of FM 89 from near Chimney Rock Road to US 83, a distance of 1.14 miles, in the City of Abilene, Taylor County, TX. From near Chimney Rock Road to south of Rebecca Lane, TxDOT is proposing to reconstruct FM 89 to two lanes in each direction with a two-way left-turn lane (flush median) and bicycle and pedestrian accommodations consisting of 14-foot wide shared-use lanes and five to six-foot wide sidewalks. From Rebecca Lane to US 83, TxDOT is proposing to reconstruct and widen FM 89 to three lanes in each direction, adding a 17-foot wide raised median, dedicated left-turn lanes, and bicycle and pedestrian accommodations consisting of 14-foot wide shared-use lanes and five to six-foot wide sidewalks. The proposed sidewalks would meet Americans with Disabilities Act design criteria. The existing right-of-way (ROW) width varies from 115 to 142 feet wide with a usual ROW width of 120 feet. The proposed ROW width varies from 115 to 142 feet wide with a usual ROW width of 130 feet. Approximately 0.5 acre of new ROW and 0.5 acre for a drainage easement would be acquired. No residential or commercial structures would be displaced or relocated due to the proposed improvements; however, five 'other' structures (storage sheds) could potentially be displaced or relocated due to ROW acquisition. Information concerning services and benefits available to affected property owners and information about the tentative schedule for ROW acquisition may be obtained from the district office at the address listed below.

The draft environmental documentation, maps showing the project location and design, tentative construction schedules, and other information regarding the project are on file and available for inspection Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the TxDOT Abilene District Office located at 4250 N. Clack Street, Abilene, TX 79601. This information also will be available for inspection at the hearing. Verbal and written comments from the public regarding the project are requested and may be presented at the hearing, or submitted in person or by mail to Mr. Brandon Vinson, FM 89 Project Manager, TxDOT Abilene District Office, 4250 N. Clack Street, Abilene, TX 79601. Comments must be received on or before **Wednesday, November 29, 2017** to be part of the official public hearing record.

The hearing will be conducted in English. Persons interested in attending the hearing who have special communication or accommodation needs, such as the need for an interpreter, are encouraged to contact the TxDOT Abilene District Public Information Office at (325) 676-6817. Requests should be made at least five days prior to the hearing. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate these needs.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or the hearing, please contact Mr. Brandon Vinson, FM 89 Project Manager, at (325) 676-6857 or email him at Brandon.Vinson@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.