



Draft Environmental Assessment Available for Public Review and Opportunity for a Public Hearing

UNITED STATES HIGHWAY 59 (US 59)

Fostoria Road near the Montgomery/Liberty County Line to State Loop 573

CSJ: 0177-03-096

Montgomery/Liberty County, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)-Beaumont District is proposing roadway improvements along approximately 4.7 miles of the existing alignment of US 59 extending from Fostoria Road near the Montgomery/Liberty County line to State Loop 573 in Liberty County, Texas. This notice advises the public that a draft environmental assessment (EA) is available for public review and that TxDOT is affording an opportunity for a public hearing on the proposed project.

The purpose of the proposed improvements is to upgrade US 59 to meet interstate standards and later serve as I-69. The proposed improvements include expanding the existing 4-lane divided highway to a 6-lane divided freeway with continuous 2-lane frontage roads in each direction. Bridges would be replaced or added at Pin Oak Road, the East Fork of the San Jacinto River, and at the connector to Loop 105. A short segment of right-of-way (ROW) on the west side of US 59 between Pin Oak Road and Loop 105 would be expanded by 20 to 83 feet to accommodate the additional improvements. The proposed project would include installation of sidewalks on the outside of the proposed southbound frontage road and the construction of 8-foot wide, shared use lanes for bicycles on the northbound and southbound frontage lanes. The proposed project also includes associated drainage improvements. No roadway construction activities would occur within Montgomery County; however the project includes the construction of a detention basin near the Montgomery/Liberty County line.

A total of approximately 24 acres of new ROW would be required for the improvements. The proposed project would potentially impact covered parking, a gasoline dispensing area, and displace two commercial businesses. Information about the TxDOT Relocation Assistance Program, benefits and services for displacees, as well as information about the tentative schedules for ROW acquisition and construction can be obtained from the TxDOT district office at the address listed below. Relocation assistance is available for displaced persons and businesses.

The proposed project is located within the 100-year floodplain. The hydraulic design for the proposed project would be in accordance with current TxDOT and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) design policies and standards. A total of 4.40 acres of waters of the United States were found within the proposed project ROW, consisting of 1.65 acres of jurisdictional waters and 2.75 acres of adjacent wetlands.

The draft EA, maps showing the project location and design, the tentative construction schedule, and other information relative to 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 Texas Department of Transportation Beaumont District Office, at 8350 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont, Texas 77708.

Any interested person 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 August 25, 2017 to Scott Ayres, Planning Engineer, 8350 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont, Texas 77708. Additionally, any comments on the draft EA can be submitted to the address included above. If you have general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or the opportunity for the public hearing, you may contact Mr. Scott Ayres, P.E. at (409) 892-7311 or scott.ayres@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.