

NOTICE

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND PUBLIC HEARING

United States (US) 69 at Pine Island Bayou From Tram Road to Cooks Lake Road

CSJs: 0065-06-063 and 0065-07-060 Jefferson and Hardin Counties, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will be conducting a public hearing on the proposed improvements to US 69 at Pine Island Bayou from Tram Road to Cooks Lake Road in Jefferson and Hardin Counties to receive public comments. The hearing will be held on **Tuesday, April 11, 2017, at Roy Guess Elementary School, 8055 Old Voth Road, Beaumont, Texas 77708**. Displays will be available for viewing at 5:00 PM with the formal hearing starting at 6:00 PM. In addition, TxDOT will present the associated draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for public review, 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.

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve mobility and relieve hurricane evacuation congestion. TxDOT proposes to improve US 69 at Pine Island Bayou by providing continuous northbound and southbound frontage roads along US 69 between Tram Road and Cooks Lake Road. This project would include new frontage road bridges over Pine Island Bayou. The project would maintain access to the existing U-turn north of Pine Island Bayou, while removing the existing U-turn located south of Pine Island Bayou. The project would not require the acquisition of additional right-of-way; therefore, no residential or commercial displacements would occur as a result of the project.

In response to comments received at the Public Meeting held May 3, 2016, the existing ramp adjacent to the US 69 southbound bridge will be removed, and a new ramp will be constructed approximately 150 feet upstream of the current location. The new boat ramp will feature additional enhancements including an improved parking area, lighting, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility.

The project limits are located within a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated 100-year floodplain. The hydraulic design for this project would be in accordance with current Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and TxDOT design policies. The proposed project would not increase the base flood elevation to a level that would violate applicable floodplain regulations and ordinances.

The draft EA, 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 Beaumont District Office, 8350 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont, Texas 77708, (409) 898-5854 and online at <http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/studies/beaumont/us69-pine-island-bayou.html>. 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 the TxDOT Beaumont District Office. Comments must be received on or before Wednesday, April 26, 2017 to be part of the official hearing record.

The hearing will be conducted in English. Persons interested in attending the hearing who have special communication or accommodation needs, such the need for an interpreter, are encouraged to contact Sarah Dupre, TxDOT Beaumont District, at (409) 898-5747. Requests should be made at least two 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 Andrew Lee, TxDOT Beaumont District Bridge Engineer, at (409) 898-5854 or Andrew.Lee@txdot.gov.