

NOTICE

Draft Environmental Assessment Available for Public Review and Public Hearing Loop 375 (Purple Heart Memorial Highway)

From Spur 601 (Liberty Expressway) to US 62/180 (Montana Avenue)

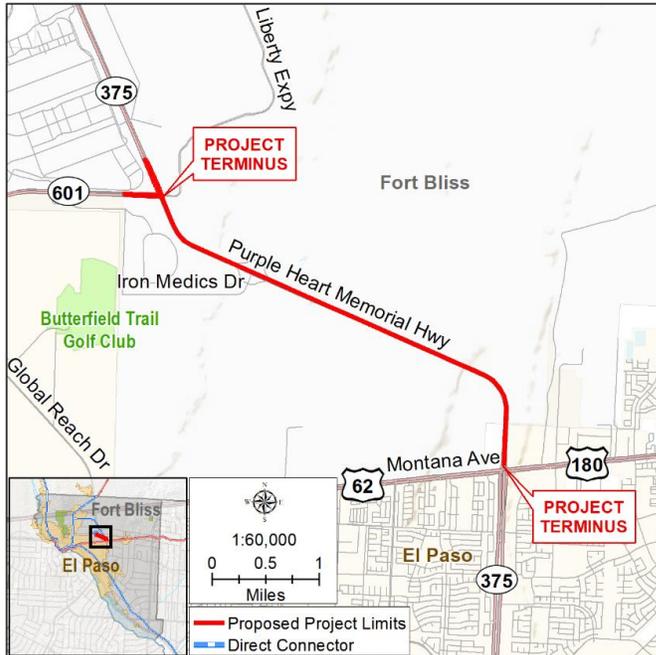
CSJs: 2552-02-028, 1046-03-005 and 1046-03-096

El Paso County, Texas

Tuesday, August 28, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.



The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) El Paso District, as the lead agency, is proposing to improve Loop 375 (Purple Heart Memorial Highway) from Spur 601 (Liberty Expressway) to US 62/180 (Montana Avenue) in El Paso, Texas. This notice advises the public that a draft environmental assessment (EA) is available for public review and that TxDOT will be conducting a public hearing on the proposed project. The hearing will be held on **Tuesday, August 28, 2018** at **REL Washington Elementary School, 3505 Lee Trevino Drive, El Paso, TX 79936**. Displays will be available for viewing at 6:00 p.m.



with the formal hearing starting at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the hearing is to present the planned improvements and to receive public comments on the proposed project.

The proposed project is intended to improve mobility and reduce congestion by widening Loop 375 from the existing four-lane facility to a six-lane facility (three lanes in each direction), with three-lane frontage roads on either side of Loop 375 and a hike and bike trail along the southbound Loop 375 frontage road, which would be constructed in the first phase. The proposed project would also provide improvements to the Loop 375 and Spur 601 intersections by constructing three direct connectors, which would be constructed in a subsequent phase(s). The length of the proposed project is approximately 5.3 miles along Loop 375 and 0.1 mile along Spur 601. Approximately 109.9 acres of new right-of-way and permanent easement would be required for the proposed improvements. No residential or non-residential structures would be displaced. The project is located within a PM₁₀ air quality non-attainment area; therefore, the conformity consultation process was conducted. On July 9, 2018, the conformity Consultation Partners made the determination that, in accordance with 40 CFR 93.116(a), the proposed project is not

of local air quality concern. Both the Amended 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the 2017-2020 Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) were initially found to conform to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) State Implementation Plan by Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Authority on June 5, 2014 and December 19, 2016, respectively; however, the proposed project is not consistent with this conformity determination, because the project would require the addition of a third direct connector. TxDOT will not take final action on this environmental document until the proposed project is consistent with a currently conforming MTP and STIP. No impacts to threatened and endangered species are anticipated. One NRHP-eligible archeological site was documented in the project limits. Mitigation to resolve the adverse effects of the proposed project are currently being conducted.

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 El Paso District, 13301 Gateway West, El Paso, TX 79928, (915) 790-4200, and online at www.txdot.gov, search keywords: **Loop 375 (Purple Heart Memorial Highway)**. This information will also be available for review at the hearing. Verbal and written comments from the public regarding this project are encouraged and may be presented at the hearing, sent by mail to **Blanton & Associates, Inc., Attn: Loop 375 (Purple Heart Memorial Highway), 5 Lakeway Centre Court, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78734**, or by email to: kjohnson@blantonassociates.com. Comments must be postmarked or received on or before **Wednesday, September 12, 2018** to be part of the official hearing record.

The hearing will be conducted in English, and a Spanish interpreter will be present. Persons interested in attending the hearing who have special communication or accommodation needs are encouraged to contact TxDOT El Paso District Public Information Officer Jennifer Wright at (915) 790-4200. Requests should be made at least five (5) working days prior to the hearing. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate these needs.

If you have general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or the hearing, please contact Godwin Ubanyionwu, P.E., TxDOT Project Manager at (915) 790-4359 or Godwin.Ubanyionwu@txdot.gov.