



Notice
Draft Environmental Assessment Available for Public Review
and
Public Hearing

Farm-to-Market (FM) 723
From Avenue D to FM 1093
CSJs: 0188-09-040 and 0188-09-042
Fort Bend County, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), as the lead agency, is proposing to widen FM 723 from Avenue D to FM 1093 in Fort Bend County, Texas. This notice advises the public that the approved 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 September 6, 2018 at Briscoe Junior High, 4300 FM 723, Richmond, Texas 77406. Displays will be available for viewing at 5:30 p.m. with the formal hearing starting at 6:30 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 from Avenue D to south of the Brazos River would include four 11-foot lanes (two in each direction) and 5.5-foot wide sidewalks on both sides of the road within the existing right-of-way (ROW) (typically 60 ft.). The Brazos River bridge would not be modified. From north of the Brazos River Bridge to FM 1093, the roadway would be widened to four 12-foot lanes (two in each direction) and 12-foot outside shoulders. The roadway would be divided by an 18-foot raised median, with intermittent median openings and left turn lanes. The typical proposed ROW width between the Brazos River Bridge and FM 1093 is 180 feet. Six-foot sidewalks would be constructed within the ROW on both sides of the roadway beginning from the Brazos River Bridge to just north of FM 1093. The project would be 9.23 miles in length.

The proposed project would require approximately 100 acres of additional (ROW). The proposed project would require one displacement of a utility building. The proposed project would not require the displacement or partial acquisition of any commercial or residential structure. 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.

The proposed project encroaches on the 100-year floodplain. Approximately 128.5 acres of the project area lies within the 100-year floodplain; however, the project would not result in an increase of the net base flood elevation. There are approximately 9 acres of wetlands, and 2,642 linear feet of waters of the U.S. within the proposed project area; however, TxDOT will design the proposed project to minimize impacts to the wetlands and waters of the U.S.

One potential 4(f) resource was identified in the project area, a mid-nineteenth century farmstead located at 5831 FM 723. An approximate 60-foot strip of new ROW would be acquired from this property. The new strip of ROW would not impact the resources' integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling or association. TxDOT believes the proposed project meets the requirements for a Section 4(f) de minimis impact finding under 23 CFR 774. Texas State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurrence was completed on February 22, 2018.



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., excluding state holidays, at the TxDOT Houston District Office, located at 7600 Washington Avenue, Houston, Texas 77007 and the TxDOT Fort Bend Area Office located at 4235 SH 36, Rosenberg, TX 77471. To schedule an appointment at the Houston District please contact Mr. Samuel Ainabe at (713) 802-5260 or at the Fort Bend Area Office contact Mr. Grady Mapes at (281) 238-7900. The project information can also be viewed online at TxDOT's website: <http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/get-involved/about/hearings-meetings.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, by mail to the TxDOT Houston District Office, or via e-mail to hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov. Comments must be received on or before September 21, 2018 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 the TxDOT District Public Information Officer at TxDOT (713) 802-5076. 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. Samuel Ainabe at (713) 802-5260.

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.
