



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING & CHAPTER 26 PUBLIC HEARING



US 59 Loop from International Blvd. to US 59/Loop 20 Intersection

The TxDOT Laredo District is proposing to upgrade 6.9 miles of the US 59 Loop (formerly known as Loop 20 and Bob Bullock Loop) to a full freeway facility in north-eastern Laredo, Webb County, Texas. This work is in cooperation with the Laredo Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Webb County-City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority. This section of the US 59 Loop (the "Loop") is also part of the western leg of the Future I-69 corridor (I-69W) in south Texas.

The TxDOT-Laredo District will conduct an open house public meeting and Chapter 26 Parks and Wildlife Code public hearing on the proposed US 59 Loop project as follows:

Tuesday, March 28, 2017
TAMIU Western Hemispheric Trade Center – Room 111
5201 University Blvd., Laredo, Texas 78041
5 pm: Public Meeting
6 pm: Chapter 26 Public Hearing

The public meeting, which will be held in an open house format, is to discuss the proposed project and to gather public input in an informal, one-on-one setting. It will be held from 5-6 p.m. and will resume after the 6 p.m. Chapter 26 public hearing. TxDOT is considering a Section 4(f) *De minimis* impact determination (under 23 CFR 774) for impacts to the Casa Blanca Golf Course and the Lake Casa Blanca State Park. The Chapter 26 public hearing is to discuss the proposed project's potential impacts to approximately 15.7 acres of the Casa Blanca Golf Course and to approximately 2.1 acres of the Lake Casa Blanca State Park. If a Section 4(f) *De minimis* impact finding is determined, the proposed project would not adversely affect the activities, features or attributes that qualify the Casa Blanca Golf Course and Lake Casa Blanca State Park for protection under Section 4(f). TxDOT will consider the input received during this public hearing before making a final 4(f) *De minimis* determination.

The proposed US 59 Loop project limits are from International Blvd. to the existing overpass at the US 59/Loop 20 intersection. The existing facility is typically a six-lane roadway with signalized intersections at the major street crossings. The proposed US 59 Loop mainlanes would consist of three 12-foot travel lanes in each direction, a center concrete traffic barrier, inside and outside shoulders and appropriately placed on-off ramps. The mainlanes would be constructed between three-lane frontage roads. Sidewalks and an adjacent multi-use bike/jogging/walking path are also proposed. Mainlane overpasses are proposed at the Airport, Jacaman, University, Del Mar and Shiloh intersections. All of the proposed work would be constructed to urban interstate standards. The typical right-of-way width would be expanded from the current 150-foot to 400-foot which would require the acquisition of approximately 184 acres. Two governmental facilities are anticipated to be displaced; impacts to other existing facilities are not anticipated to require relocations. When completed, this work would provide for an improved facility that can move traffic through this portion of the Loop with no interruptions, unlike the current situation where all traffic on the Loop has to pass through several fully signalized intersections.

Maps, drawings, and other pertinent information including the draft *Environmental Assessment (EA), Section 4(f) De Minimis Report*, and other relevant project documents will be available for public inspection. During the open house the public will be able to discuss the project in an informal manner with TxDOT. Comments can be submitted either verbally or in writing and will become part of the official public meeting and Chapter 26 public hearing records. The comments will be responded to in writing after the open house and Chapter 26 hearing and will be considered when making project related decisions as much as possible.

Project documents are available at the TxDOT-Laredo District Office at 1817 Bob Bullock Loop, Laredo 78043 during normal business hours (Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM), and are available online at www.txdot.gov, keyword "US 59 Loop". Direct environmental questions to Mike Graham at (956) 712-7742, or e-mail: Mike.Graham@TxDOT.gov, and direct engineering questions to Ana Duncan, P.E. at (956) 712-7446, or e-mail: Ana.Duncan@txdot.gov.

Spanish-speaking staff will be available at the public meeting. If you have other communication or accommodation requests, please contact Raul Leal, the TxDOT public information officer at 956-712-7416, or e-mail: Raul.Leal@TxDOT.gov, at least five days before the event. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate these needs.

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.