



Notice
Draft Environmental Assessment
Available for Public Review & Public Hearing
FM 676 (MILE 5)
From SH 107 (Conway Avenue) to FM 2220 (Ware Road)
CSJs: 1064-01-027, 1064-01-043, & 1064-01-046
Hidalgo County, Texas



Hidalgo County, in conjunction with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) as the joint agency, are proposing to widen FM 676 (Mile 5) from SH 107 (Conway Avenue) to FM 2220 (Ware Road) in Hidalgo County, 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, October 1, 2019 at the Alton Elementary School Cafeteria located at 205 N. Chicago Street, Alton, TX. Displays will be available for viewing at 5:00 PM with the formal hearing starting at 6:00 PM. The purpose of the hearing is to present the planned improvements and to receive public comment on the proposed project.

FM 676 (Mile 5) is located in the cities of Alton and McAllen, Texas. FM 676 (Mile 5) would be widened to an 82-foot-wide urban type facility consisting of four 12-foot-wide travel lanes, two 10-foot-wide shoulders, a 14-foot-wide continuous left turn lane, and five-foot-wide sidewalks on both sides of the roadway throughout the length of the project (4.0 miles) within a proposed 100-foot-wide Right-Of-Way (ROW). Drainage would be handled by a storm drain system. The existing bridge located 0.2 miles east of Bentsen Road would be removed and replaced to match the proposed roadway. One new drainage outfall would be constructed 0.2 mile east of Taylor Road and one existing drainage outfall, 0.2 miles east of Bentsen Road, would be cleaned of debris and widened approximately 10-feet within existing ROW.

The existing ROW width varies from 40-feet to 90-feet; the proposed ROW is 100-feet wide. The proposed project is anticipated to require 25.1 acres of additional ROW, 17 potential residential relocations, and five commercial relocations. Information about the TxDOT and Hidalgo County 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 Pharr District office at the address listed below. Relocation assistance is available for displaced persons and businesses. The acquisition of proposed ROW and any relocations will be conducted in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (Uniform Act), as amended. Information concerning services and benefits available to affected property owners and information about the tentative schedule for ROW acquisition may be obtained from the district office at the address listed below.

The proposed project would impact two parks/recreational areas, Josefa Garcia Park and Mesina's Pavilion. Approximately 0.4 acres of ROW would be required from the park and 0.04 acres of ROW would be required from the pavilion. These properties require special consideration under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act and under Chapter 26 of the Parks and Wildlife Code (PWC). A determination on Section 4(f) and Chapter 26 will be made after public input is received at the public hearing. Approximately 3.1 acres of the proposed project lies within the 100-year floodplain; of which, 0.5 acres is proposed ROW. The project would comply with Executive Order 11988 on Floodplain Management and no adverse impacts are anticipated. No wetlands or waters of the U.S. would be impacted.

The draft EA, environmental documentation or studies, 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 District office located at 600 W. Interstate 2, Pharr, TX 78577. Please call (956) 702-6100 to schedule an appointment to view the project information. This information will also be available for inspection at the

hearing. Additionally, responses to comments received will be on file and available for review once they have been prepared.

Verbal and written comments from the public regarding the project are encouraged and may be presented at the hearing, or submitted in person or by mail to TxDOT Pharr District, Attn: Robin Gelston at 600 W. Interstate 2, Pharr, TX 78577. Comments must be received on or before Tuesday, October 16, 2019 to be part of the official hearing record.

The hearing will be conducted in English; however, Spanish translation services will be provided. Persons interested in attending the hearing who have special communication or accommodation needs, such the need for an interpreter, are encouraged to contact Ms. Norma Robledo, with TxDOT, at (956) 702-6161. 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 Mr. Damien Tijerina, P.E., L&G Project Engineer, at (956) 585-1909.

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.
