



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND SECTION 4(f) *DE MINIMIS* FINDINGS

STATE HIGHWAY LOOP (SL) 121

From Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 439 to Interstate Highway (IH) 35

CSJ: 2502-01-017

Bell County, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing improvements to SL 121 from FM 439 to IH 35 in Bell County, Texas. This notice advises the public that TxDOT will be conducting a public hearing on the proposed project. **The hearing will be held on Thursday, October 18, 2018, at the Harris Community Center, 401 N. Alexander Street, Belton, TX 76513.** 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.

Proposed improvements to SL 121 would reconstruct and widen this highway from FM 439 to IH 35 in the City of Belton, Bell County, Texas; a distance of approximately 4.85 miles. The existing SL 121 consists of a four-lane undivided section from FM 439 to Sparta Road, and a two-lane undivided section with turn lanes at select locations from Sparta Road to IH 35. The proposed improvements include reconstructing and widening the existing roadway. From FM 439 to Sparta Road, the proposed four-lane facility would consist of one 12-foot wide inside travel lane and one 14-foot wide outside shared-use lane in each direction with 1.5-foot wide outside curb offsets. A 14-foot wide central two-way left-turn lane would divide the northbound and southbound lanes. From Sparta Road to IH 35, the proposed four-lane facility would consist of one 12-foot wide inside travel lane and one 14-foot wide outside shared-use lane in each direction with 1.5-foot inside and outside curb offsets, and a six-foot to 17-foot wide raised median with left and right-turn lanes at select locations. The proposed project would also include bicycle accommodations in the form of a behind curb 10-foot wide shared-use path and 14-foot wide outside shared-use lanes. A six-foot wide sidewalk would also be located along the roadway, on the opposite side of the road from the shared-use path, to accommodate pedestrians. Both the sidewalk and shared-used path would extend for the length of the proposed project.

Existing right-of-way (ROW) widths vary from 100 feet to 390 feet wide and proposed ROW widths would vary from 105 feet to 160 feet wide. Approximately 8.7 acres of proposed ROW and 0.9 acre for drainage easements would be required for the proposed improvements. The proposed project would displace one residence and one storage shed. 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. Relocation assistance is available for displaced persons and businesses.

The proposed project involves the use of property protected by Section 4(f) *de minimis*. The proposed project would require the use of approximately 0.236 acre of Property ID 8940 and 0.19 acre of Property ID 8966 (*Tax Appraisal District of Bell County*), both owned by the Belton Independent School District. The properties would be used to accommodate a 10-foot wide shared-use path along southbound SL 121; corner clips at Tiger Drive and Sparta Road to allow for improved intersections and turning radii; and proposed ROW acquisition along southbound SL 121 to allow for the expanded roadway facility and side slopes. In order to qualify for a Section 4(f) *de minimis*, it was established that the project activities will not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes that make the properties eligible for Section 4(f) protection. The proposed project crosses the 100-year floodplain associated with Mitchell Branch and Nolan Creek and its tributary.

Any 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 Waco District Office, 100 S. Loop Drive, Waco, TX 76704 and the TxDOT Belton Area Office, 410 W. Loop 121, Belton, TX 76513, and online at <https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/get-involved/about/hearings-meetings/waco/101818.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 Mr. Andrew Haferkamp, P.E., SL 121 Project Manager, TxDOT Waco District Office, 100 S. Loop Drive, Waco, TX 76704. **Comments must be received on or before Friday, November 2, 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 as the need for an interpreter, are encouraged to contact the TxDOT Waco District Public Information Office at 254-867-2705. 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 general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or the hearing, please contact the TxDOT SL 121 Project Manager, Mr. Andrew Haferkamp, P.E. by telephone at 254-867-2746.

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.

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