



403 HUCK STREET, YOAKUM, TEXAS 77995 | 361.293.4300 | WWW.TXDOT.GOV

**Notice  
Draft Environmental Assessment Available for Public Review  
and  
Public Hearing  
US 59 Wharton County  
From FM 2919 To FM 710  
CSJs: 0089-08-094, 0089-07-145 and 0089-06-080  
Wharton County, Texas**

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing to upgrade US 59 to Interstate Highway Standards from FM 2919 to FM 710 in Wharton County, Texas. Pursuant to Texas Administrative Code, Title 43, Part 1, Chapter 2, Subchapter E, §2.107 and Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Chapter I, Subchapter H, §771.111 and Title 40, Chapter V, §1506, this notice advises the public that TxDOT will be conducting a public hearing on the proposed project. The hearing will be held on Thursday, February 9, 2017, at the Wharton Civic Center at 1924 N Fulton St, Wharton, TX 77488. 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 existing facility consists of a four-lane divided highway (two 12-foot lanes in each direction) with 6-foot inside shoulders and 10-foot outside shoulders divided by a depressed grass median that varies from 40 to 117 feet in width. The proposed project would consist of a four-lane divided freeway facility (two 12-foot lanes in each direction) with 4-foot inside shoulders and 12-foot outside shoulders divided by a depressed grass median that varies from 34 to 62 feet in width. The freeway facility would have continuous frontage roads (two 12-foot lanes in each direction) with 10-foot outside shoulders and 4-foot inside shoulders. Total length of the proposed construction area is 39.5 miles in length. The purpose of the proposed project is to upgrade US 59 to meet Interstate design standards through Wharton County.

The existing right-of-way (ROW) width varies from 275 to 375 feet. The proposed typical ROW varies from 350 to 500 feet in width. The proposed improvements would require approximately 441 acres of additional (ROW). The proposed project would displace six residences, six commercial structures, and nine other structures. 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.

Nearly half of the proposed project would traverse the 100-year floodplain and the proposed project crosses 16 bodies of water. Seven of these bodies of water are wetlands.

The draft EA which includes maps showing the project location and design 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 Yoakum District Office, 403 Huck Street, Yoakum, TX 77995 (361) 293-4300, or the TxDOT Wharton Area Office, 1512 FM 102, Wharton, TX 77488, (979) 532-3141, and at [txdot.gov](http://txdot.gov), keyword "US 59 Wharton County". 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 the TxDOT Yoakum District Office. Comments must be received on or before February 24, 2017, 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 Cari Hensley, Yoakum District Public Information Officer, at (361) 293-4436. 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. Jeffery Vinklarek, P.E., Director of Transportation, Planning, and Development, by phone at (361) 293-4363 or email at [jeffery.vinklarek@txdot.gov](mailto:jeffery.vinklarek@txdot.gov).

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.