



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS



Interstate Highway (IH) 35 Frontage Road Improvements from Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1626 to Yarrington Road

Ranch-to-Market Road (RM) 150 East from IH 35 Northbound Frontage Road to County Road (CR) 204/Lehman Road

On **Thursday, September 8, 2011**, Hays County in coordination with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will conduct two Public Hearings. The first is on the proposed improvements to the northbound and southbound frontage roads of IH 35 where the limits extend into the cities of Kyle and San Marcos in Hays County. Approximately 5 miles of improvements are proposed from FM 1626 to Yarrington Road. The second Public Hearing will be for the proposed realignment of approximately 0.58 miles of RM 150 East, located in the city of Kyle from the IH 35 northbound frontage road to CR 204/ Lehman Road.

The purpose of the Public Hearings is to present the proposed improvements and the anticipated environmental effects of the proposed projects. The Public Hearings will be held in the cafeteria of the Hays High School located at 4800 Jack C. Hays Trail in Buda. Prior to the Public Hearings, an Open House will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to allow for questions and review of project exhibits. TxDOT and Hays County project planners will be available to answer questions during the Open House. The formal Public Hearing presentations will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by a public comment period.

IH 35 Frontage Road Improvements

The purpose of this project is to maintain mobility and improve safety. There is a need to provide additional capacity to meet future traffic demands and to bring the roadway into conformity with current design standards. The proposed project includes widening the northbound and southbound frontage roads from two to three lanes. The proposed improvements would also include a short section of new southbound frontage road extending from approximately 400 feet north of Cortez Road to its intersection with S. Old Hwy 81, approximately 2,800 feet south of Center Street (RM 150 West). The frontage roads would also be converted from two-way traffic operation to one-way traffic operation. As a result, existing entrance and exit ramps would be replaced or relocated with associated acceleration and deceleration lanes. The proposed project would also realign the frontage roads and provide the addition of turn and auxiliary lanes and turn-around bridges in order to improve mobility and safety throughout the project area.

RM 150 East Realignment

The purpose for the proposed improvements to RM 150 East is to reduce congestion, enhance safety, and expand economic opportunity. There is a need to provide a continuous roadway from downtown Kyle to rural areas east of IH 35 that provide access to planned development along IH 35. The need for a continuous accessible facility is in response to a rapidly growing transportation demand within the area of downtown Kyle and the IH 35 corridor within the city limits of Kyle. The proposed project would involve moving the existing intersection of RM 150 East and the IH 35 frontage road to approximately 1,500 feet north, which would create continuity between RM 150 East and RM 150 West at the IH 35 junction. The realigned and improved RM 150 East would extend from the new intersection at the IH 35 northbound frontage road and merge into the existing RM 150 East. Approximately 700 feet of the existing RM 150 East that is being realigned would be removed from the state roadway system, remaining open to traffic as a local street, renamed Hill Street. The proposed facility would be a four-lane divided roadway with continuous sidewalks and shoulders.

The proposed projects would cross two floodplains: one associated with Plum Creek and another associated with a tributary to Plum Creek; however, they would not increase the base flood elevation to a level that would violate applicable floodplain regulations or ordinances. The proposed projects do not encroach on any wetlands or sole-source aquifer recharge zones. The proposed project on IH 35 would require that an additional 9.7 acres of right-of-way be acquired. The improvements to RM 150 East would require the use of existing TxDOT right-of-way as well as approximately 7.21 acres of additional right-of-way, 0.32 acres of

drainage easements, and 0.021 acres of construction easements. Although additional right-of-way is required, no residences would be relocated or businesses displaced. Information concerning services and benefits available to affected property owners can be obtained from the TxDOT Austin District Office located at 7901 N IH 35, Austin, Texas 78753 or the Hays County Precinct 2 Office located at 111 N. Front Street in Kyle.

Information Available for Review

Information for both projects, such as the tentative right-of-way acquisition and construction schedules, environmental document, and maps and drawings showing the location and geometric design will be presented at the Public Hearings. This information is also available for public inspection at the Hays County Precinct 2 Office located at 111 N. Front Street in Kyle.

The Public Hearings will be conducted in English. Persons interested in attending who have special communication or accommodation needs are encouraged to contact Nancy Ledbetter at (512) 694-7797 at least one week prior to the Public Hearings. Spanish translation will be available at the Public Hearing. Any requests for other language interpreters or other special communication or accessibility needs should also be made at least one week prior to the Public Hearings. Hays County will make every reasonable effort to accommodate communication or accessibility needs.

Verbal and written comments from the public regarding the proposed projects may be presented at the Public Hearings. In addition, written comments submitted after the Public Hearings may be presented by mail to: Austin District Environmental Coordinator, TxDOT, P.O. Box 15426, Austin, TX 78761 or faxed to (512) 832-7157. Written comments submitted after the Public Hearings must be postmarked on or before **Monday, September 19, 2011**, to be included in the Public Hearing record. For additional information, please contact Jeff Watson at (512) 447-5590.