



Public Hearing

Interstate 35

From South Loop 340 to North Loop 340

September 20, 2012

University High School – 7:00 p.m.

Presentation

- **Welcome & Introductions** – Albin A. (Andy) Petter, P.E., Interim District Engineer
- **Project Background and Description** – Albin A. (Andy) Petter, P.E.
- **Technical Presentation** – Laura Weis, P.E., AECOM
- **Public Testimony** *
- **Adjourn****

** Note: You will not receive a direct response tonight to verbal comments made during the public testimony session. All verbal and written comments will be addressed in the public hearing summary and analysis report.*

***Note: Immediately following the hearing you are invited to review the design schematics and to visit with TxDOT and consultant staff.*

PROJECT INFORMATION

The purpose of tonight's hearing is to present the master plan that TxDOT has developed for improving Interstate (IH) 35 through Waco.

Since July 2000, TxDOT has worked with property owners, community leaders, elected officials and other stakeholders along IH 35, on developing the plan for expanding and reconstructing the Interstate through the Waco District. This plan includes 17 expansion projects covering 3 counties for a total length of over 90 miles from the Bell/Williamson county line, south of Salado, to the East/West split, north of Hillsboro. These projects will provide 3 travel lanes in each direction and continuous one-way frontage roads, with a primary focus of reducing congestion & enhancing safety while preserving and further enhancing the State's transportation asset. Construction on all of the rural sections is well under way and TxDOT is now focusing more attention on the urban sections of IH 35, such as those through Waco.

The overall design for the entire length of this project would be an upgrade and expansion of the existing six-lane controlled access roadway to eight mainlanes with one-way continuous frontage roads. Exit and entrance ramps would be relocated and rebuilt to improve safety and maximize access to the downtown area. Construction is already under way on new frontage road bridges across the Brazos River - a project which received environmental clearance and construction funding in 2011.

An important component of this project will be improvements to pedestrian and bicycle access. TxDOT staff and consultants have developed a design to incorporate bicycle and pedestrian traffic based on public input and coordination with City of Waco Officials.

MOVING FORWARD

TxDOT expects final environmental approval later this fall. Although the full eight-lane expansion project is not yet funded for construction, TxDOT has received funds to improve the frontage roads and ramps between MLK, Jr. Blvd and Business 77 which would include building bridges over the Union Pacific Railroad. Right of way acquisition for this segment will begin immediately after environmental clearance. Construction bids for this project will be taken in the Summer of 2013.

IH 35

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McLennan County

CSJ: 0015-01-171 etc.

To review and download the schematic online, go to the TxDOT website at: www.txdot.gov. On the home page, click “Public Hearings and Hearings.” From this page you can view maps of the design schematic. To make an appointment to review the schematic in person at a TxDOT office, contact Alisa K. Polansky, P.E., IH 35 Project Engineer at (254) 867-2719.

Collecting Public Input

We want to hear from you! Several options are available if you would like to provide TxDOT with feedback on this important project.

1. Talk to TxDOT and consultant staff tonight!

TxDOT and consultant staff will be available tonight to discuss your questions or concerns about any of the following issues:

- Engineering/Design
- Environmental Issues (including potential impacts to historic structures, community impacts, water resources, noise impacts etc.)
- Right of way acquisition including benefits and relocation assistance

2. Written Comments

You may submit written comments by mail to:

Texas Department of Transportation
ATTN: Albin A. (Andy) Petter, P.E.
Interim District Engineer
100 South Loop Drive
Waco, TX 76704-2858

3. Internet and e-mail

Information about this project is available on the TxDOT website. Go to the TxDOT website at: www.txdot.gov. On the home page, click “Public Hearings and Hearings.” From this page you can view maps of the design schematic and submit written comments by clicking “e-mail us.”

TxDOT will accept comments on the project until Monday, October 1, 2012. Please submit all comments by this date in order that they may be included in the official public record.