



PUBLIC HEARING & OPEN HOUSE NOTICE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2018 - WALKER COUNTY STORM SHELTER

Open House: 4:30 p.m.

Public Hearing: 6:00 p.m.

INTERSTATE HIGHWAY (IH) 45 CENTRAL WALKER COUNTY WIDENING PROJECT

Segment 2A – Control Section Job Number: 0675-07-097 and 0675-06-108

Segment 2B – Control Section Job Number: 0675-06-103

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), as the Lead Agency, is proposing to widen a portion of IH 45 in Walker County, Texas. This notice advises the public that TxDOT will be conducting a Public Hearing and Open House for the proposed project. Both will be held on Thursday, Aug. 9, 2018 at the Walker County Storm Shelter located at 455 SH 75, Huntsville, TX 77320. There are two proposed segments within the Central Walker County Project that are currently being studied by TxDOT. Displays for both Segment 2A and Segment 2B will be available for viewing during a 4:30 PM Open House. A formal hearing for Segment 2A will start at 6:00 PM. The purpose of the Segment 2A hearing is to present the planned improvements and to receive public comment for the proposed project.

The existing IH 45 facility consists of a four-lane divided controlled access freeway. There are two travel lanes in each direction, bounded by 10 foot outside and 6 foot inside shoulders. Two-lane one-way frontage roads are positioned on the outside of the main lanes. The existing and proposed right-of-way varies from 175 to 250 feet in width.

Segment 2A is a proposed 4.4 mile long project in the city limits of Huntsville from 0.3 miles north of SH 19 to 0.9 miles north of SH 30. It would widen IH 45 from four to six lanes and would include reconstruction and realignment of the main lanes and ramps; improving drainage structures and bridges; and improvements to frontage roads, crossroads adjacent to new ramps, and interchanges. The project also includes adding collector-distributor roads, which is a road that parallels and connects the main travel lanes and frontage roads.

Segment 2B is a proposed 4.7 mile long project in the city limits of Huntsville from SH 30 To 0.7 miles south of FM 1696. It would widen IH 45 from four to six lanes and would include reconstruction and realignment of the main lanes and ramps; improving drainage structures and bridges; and improvements to frontage roads, crossroads adjacent to new ramps, and interchanges. The project also relocates the interchanges of SH 75 to near San Jacinto Street (west of IH 45) and Moffett Springs Road (east of IH 45). Segment 2B does not include collector-distributor roads.

The proposed project adjoins the floodplains on MacDonald and Robinson Creeks. Emergent wetlands would be impacted by the project. As part of this project, TxDOT is considering a Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact determination for impacts to the Raven Nest Golf Course. Approximately 0.2 acres located along the eastern boundary of the golf course would be required for permanent incorporation into the proposed transportation facility. A Section 4(f) *de minimis* finding means that the proposed project would not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes that qualify the Raven Nest Golf Course for protection under Section 4(f). TxDOT will consider comments received during the environmental process before making a final Section 4(f) *de minimis* determination.

The proposed Segment 2A project would require additional right-of-way of approximately 11.5 acres and would displace 4 commercial structures. Information about the TxDOT Relocation Assistance Program, benefits and services for displacements, as well as information about the tentative schedules for right-of-way acquisition and construction can be obtained from the TxDOT Bryan District Office at the address listed below. Relocation assistance is available for displaced persons and businesses. Information concerning services and benefits available to affected property owners and information about the tentative schedule for right-of-way acquisition may be obtained from the district office at the address listed below.

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 Bryan District Office at 2591 North Earl Rudder Freeway, Bryan Texas, by phone at (979) 778-2165. 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 Bryan District Office. Comments must be received on or before August 24, 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, are encouraged to call (979) 778-2165. Requests should be made at least two days prior to the hearing. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate these needs.

Project information is also available by visiting www.txdot.gov and Search: I-45 Central Walker County. If you have any general questions or comments regarding the proposed project or the hearing, please contact Mr. Neal Riddle, P.E. at (979) 778-9791 or you can submit your comments online at <http://bit.ly/BryanComments>

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.