



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Proposed Improvements to FM 545
From FM 2933 to BS-78D
CSJ: 1012-02-030
Collin County

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will conduct a public hearing for the purpose of presenting planned improvements and soliciting public comments regarding the proposed roadway improvements to Farm to Market Road (FM) 545 in the cities of Melissa and Blue Ridge in Collin County, Texas. **The public hearing will be held on Monday, June 3, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Blue Ridge High School, 11020 County Road 504, Blue Ridge, Texas 75424.** Displays will be available for viewing at 6:00 p.m. with the formal hearing beginning at 7:00 p.m. Representatives from TxDOT, Collin County, City of Melissa, City of Blue Ridge, and project staff will be available to answer questions about the proposed project.

The proposed project limits extend from FM 2933 to Business State Highway 78 (BS – 78D) in Collin County for a total distance of 9.09 miles; however, 1.69 miles of this roadway within these limits will exclude previously reconstructed roadway and bridge replacements including Sister Grove Creek and Pilot Grove Creek. The total construction length for this proposed project is approximately 7.40 miles. The existing FM 545 roadway consists of a two-lane, undivided roadway with 11-foot wide travel lanes and one foot shoulders. The proposed project will have two, 12-foot travel lanes and 10-foot shoulders. In addition, the proposed project would include the improvement of four curves by shifting the center line of each curve to improve safety. The FM 545 existing roadway section will be resurfaced from Pecan Street to BS-78D in Blue Ridge. The existing roadway right-of-way width varies from approximately 80 feet to 120 feet and the proposed roadway right-of-way width footprint will increase to approximately 132 feet. The proposed project will require approximately 52 acres of new right-of-way and an estimated 2.8 acres of permanent easements. Relocation assistance is available for displaced persons.

The proposed project is located within the 100-year floodplain associated with Stiff Creek, Brinlee Branch, Sister Grove Creek, and Pilot Grove Creek. The hydraulic design for the proposed project would be in accordance with current TxDOT and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) design policies and standards. The proposed drainage improvements would result in impacts to the following eight creeks: Stiff Creek and one of its unnamed tributaries, two unnamed tributaries to Sister Grove Creek, Brinlee Branch and one of its unnamed tributaries, Harrington Branch and Lick Branch. These impacts would be authorized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Nationwide Permit 14.

In accordance with Chapter 26 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, this hearing will serve to allow the public the opportunity to provide comments on the project's potential impacts to approximately 0.231 acre of publicly-owned land designated as the City of Melissa Sports Complex (0.026 acre of right-of-way and 0.205 acre of permanent drainage easement). In addition, the project is subject to Section 4(f) coordination for parks, recreation areas, and wildlife and waterfowl refuges pursuant to Part 23 CFR 774.3(b) for the impacts to the publicly-owned recreation area and coordination with the City of Melissa, which has jurisdiction over the recreation area. Though effects to the resource are minimal, the total property acquisition does constitute a *de minimis* use of the property under Section 4(f). A Section 4(f) *de minimis* finding means that the proposed project would not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes that qualify the recreation area for protection under Section 4(f). TxDOT will consider comments received during the public comment period before making a final Section 4(f) *de minimis* determination.

Any environmental documentation, studies, or 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 Dallas District Office, 4777 East US Highway 80, Mesquite, Texas 75150; the TxDOT Collin County Area Office, 2205 South SH 5, McKinney, Texas 75069; and online at www.KeepItMovingDallas.com under Upcoming Public Hearings/Meetings. This information will also be available for inspection and review at the public hearing. Verbal and written comments from the public regarding the project are requested and may be presented at the public hearing, or submitted in person or by mail to the TxDOT Dallas District Office, ATTN: Ms. Marlena Kelly, P.E., TxDOT Project Manager, 4777 E. Highway 80, Mesquite, Texas 75150-6643. **Written comments must be postmarked on or before Tuesday, June 18, 2019 to be part of the official public 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 Dallas District Public Information Office at (214) 320-4480. 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 you may contact Ms. Marlena Kelly, P.E., via phone at (214) 320-4426 or by email at marlena.kelly@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.