Notice
Affording Opportunity for a Public Hearing
SMITH RANCH ROAD
From Hughes Ranch Road to N. of Broadway Street (FM 518)
CSJ: 0912-31-293
Brazoria County, Texas

The City of Pearland, in conjunction with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), is proposing to widen and improve Smith Ranch Road from Hughes Ranch Road to north of Broadway (Farm-to-Market Road [FM] 518) in Brazoria County, Texas. The total distance of the project is approximately 0.76 mile. Pursuant to Texas Administrative Code, Title 43, §2.106 this notice is affording an opportunity for a public hearing on the proposed project. 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.

Within the project limits, Smith Ranch Road, an urban local road, consists of a two-lane roadway with one 10-foot-wide travel lane in each direction, no shoulders, and open vegetated ditches or swales. The existing right-of-way (ROW) width in this section of the project is 40-70 feet and no bicycle or pedestrian accommodations exist within the existing project limits.

The proposed improvements would include widening Smith Ranch Road to a four-lane, divided roadway. The proposed roadway would have four new, concrete-paved, 12-foot-wide travel lanes, curb-and-gutter drainage with an underground storm sewer system, and a raised median. Also proposed is a 10-foot-wide path on the west side of the roadway to accommodate both pedestrians and bicyclists. The purpose of the proposed project is to improve mobility and connections of the existing roadway, provide pedestrian and bicyclist accommodations, and enhance the safety of the roadway. The project would require up to approximately 4 acres of new ROW to widen it from an existing 40 to 70 feet width to a 100-foot-wide ROW. No residential or non-residential structures would be displaced.

Two potential jurisdictional waters of the US, Hickory Slough and a rerouted tributary of Hickory Slough, and two potentially isolated (non-jurisdictional) wetlands were identified within the project limits. All unavoidable impacts to jurisdictional waters of the US, including wetlands, would require a Section 404 Permit with the US Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District.

Exhibits showing schematic plans for the proposed project corridor and other information relative to 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 Houston District Office, 7600 Washington Avenue, Houston, Texas 77077. To schedule an appointment at the Houston District Office please contact Mohammed Zubair, P.E. at (713) 802-5616. These items are also available at the City of Pearland. To schedule an appointment at the City of Pearland, please call Susan Johnson at (281) 652-1734, or email her at SJohnson@pearlandtx.gov. The information is also online at the TxDOT website:

http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/get-involved/about/hearings-meetings.html. Please reference project number 0912-31-293 in any requests for information.

Any interested person may request a public hearing covering the social, economic and environmental effects of the proposed location and design for this project. Requests for a public hearing must be submitted in writing on or before November 14, 2018, to the TxDOT Houston District Office, Director of Project Development, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas 77251-1386 or submitted electronically at http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/get-involved/about/hearings-meetings.html or via email at HOU-PIOWebMail @txdot.gov. Additionally, any comments regarding the proposed project can be submitted to the address included above. If you have general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or the opportunity for the public hearing, contact Mohammed Zubair, P.E. at (713) 802-5616.