Notice

Draft Environmental Assessment and Opportunity for a Public Hearing

Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge Expansion
Pharr Port of Entry (POE) to the International Boundary with Mexico
(Rio Grande)

CSJ: 0921-02-479

Hidalgo County, Texas

The City of Pharr, in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), proposes to construct an approximately 1.35-mile long twin bridge west of and adjacent to the existing Pharr International Bridge (PRIB). The project is located between the international boundary with Mexico (Rio Grande River) and the existing Pharr Port of Entry (POE) in Hidalgo County, Texas. This notice advises the public that a draft environmental assessment (EA) and relevant technical reports are available for public review and that the City of Pharr is affording an opportunity for a public hearing on the proposed project.

The proposed project would add a second adjacent 'twin' structure, which would consist of a 1.35-mile-long structure upriver (west) of the existing PRIB, built primarily within City of Pharr-owned right of way. Construction would include four 12-foot travel lanes with a six-foot (emergency use only) sidewalk on the west side with features that would include two crossovers, additional lighting and electronic signage that would facilitate the flow of traffic, reduce wait times and enhance safety. The proposed project would involve an action in a floodplain and water of the U.S. (Rio Grande).

Although additional minor amounts of right of way would be required, no residential or non-residential structures are anticipated to be displaced at this time. Information concerning services and benefits available to affected property owners and information about the tentative schedule for right-of-way acquisition and construction can be obtained from the City of Pharr by calling (956) 402-4221.

The draft EA, maps and drawings showing the project location and (preliminary) design, tentative construction schedules, and other information regarding the proposed project are on file and available for inspection Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at The City of Pharr, 118 S. Cage Blvd, Pharr, Texas 78577. Project materials are also available online at https://pharr-tx.gov (scroll down to PUBLIC NOTICE / AVISO PÚBLICO) and at www.txdot.gov keyword "Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge." If you do not have internet access, you may call Maria Rangel, Assistant Director of Engineering for the City of Pharr at (956) 402-4221 to ask questions about the project and access project materials at any time during the project development process.

The project materials are written in English. If you need an interpreter or document translator because English is not your primary language or you have difficulty communicating effectively in English, one will be provided to you. If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. If you need interpretation or translation services or you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation to

review the project materials or submit information, please contact Maria Rangel, Assistant Director of Engineering for the City of Pharr, at (956) 402-4221 no later than 4 p.m. CT, at least three business days before the date on which you would like to review the project materials or submit information. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for the City of Pharr to arrange.

Any interested person may submit a written request for a public hearing on this project. Written comments from the public regarding the proposed project are also requested. Written hearing requests and comments may be submitted by mail to Raba Kistner, Inc. Attn: Brittney Davis, 12821 West Golden Lane, San Antonio, Texas 78249, or by email to bdavis@rkci.com. All hearing requests and comments must be received on or before Friday, August 25, 2023. A hearing will be held if ten or more individuals submit timely written requests for a hearing, or if an agency with jurisdiction over the project submits a timely written request for a hearing that is supported by reasons why a hearing will be helpful. Responses to comments received will be available online at https://pharr-tx.gov (scroll down to PUBLIC NOTICE / AVISO PÚBLICO) once they have been prepared.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project, please contact Maria Rangel, Assistant Director of Engineering, City of Pharr, at maria.rangel@pharr-tx.gov or if you do not have internet access call (956) 402-4221.

The lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act for the proposed project is the Federal Highway Administration.