

Notice Draft Environmental Assessment and Virtual Public Hearing with In-Person Option

US 90 Widening Liberty County From FM 563 to SH 61 CSJs: 0028-04-069 and 0028-04-077 Liberty County, Texas

TxDOT is proposing to reconstruct and widen US 90 from FM 563 to SH 61 in Liberty County, Texas. This notice advises the public that a draft environmental assessment (EA) is available for public review and that TxDOT will be conducting an online virtual public hearing on the proposed project with an in-person option. The virtual hearing will consist of a pre-recorded video presentation and will include both audio and visual components. The presentation will be posted online by Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024, at 5 p.m. To view the virtual public hearing, go to the following web address at the date and time indicated above: www.txdot.gov and search "US 90 Widening Liberty County." If you do not have internet access, you may call 409-898-5732 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, to ask questions and access project materials during the project development process.

Additionally, TxDOT is providing an in-person option for individuals who would like to participate in person instead of online. The in-person option will be held in open house format. In-person attendees will be able to view the same presentation delivered in the virtual public hearing, which will be playing on a screen, review hard copies of project materials, ask questions of TxDOT staff and/or consultants, and leave written comments. **The in-person option will be held on Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Liberty Center Auditorium, 1829 Sam Houston St, Liberty, TX 77575**.

For both the virtual public hearing and in-person option, members of the public may call 936-209-4804 to provide verbal testimony immediately following the conclusion of the virtual public hearing presentation at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024, through 11:59 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 6, 2024. Formal written comments may also be provided by mail or email as explained below. All verbally provided testimony and timely written comments will be considered by TxDOT and included as part of the official record. Responses to verbally provided testimony and comments will be prepared by TxDOT, included as part of the hearing and project record, and made available online at <u>www.txdot.gov</u> and search "US 90 Widening Liberty County."

The approximately 11-mile-long proposed project would reconstruct and widen the existing US 90 highway, from a two-lane undivided highway (one lane in each direction) to a four-lane highway (two lanes in each direction) with divided medians in non-urban sections and turn lanes throughout. The existing highway does not meet current or projected traffic demand, which affects mobility in the area. The proposed project would reduce congestion and upgrade the highway to meet current design standards, thereby improving mobility and safety. The existing right of way (ROW) width is approximately 120 feet, and the proposed project would require a width of up to 250 feet.

The proposed project would, subject to final design considerations, require additional right of way and potentially displace four residences and ten (seven active and three vacant) non-residential structures. Relocation assistance is available for displaced persons and businesses. Information about the TxDOT Relocation Assistance Program and services and benefits for those displaced and other affected property owners, as well as information about the tentative schedule for right-of-way acquisition and construction, can be obtained from the TxDOT district office by calling 409-898-5732.

The proposed project is anticipated to impact the following properties protected under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966: Wickliff's Gas & Grocery (located at 102 East Main Street,



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Ames), Maxwell Farm (located at 17064 US 90, Devers), and the Ames Freedom Colony Historic District. TxDOT anticipates making a *de minimis* determination for this use under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966. Public comment on the effects of the proposed project on the activities, features, or attributes of the Wickliff's Gas & Grocery, Maxwell Farm, and/or the Ames Freedom Colony Historic District may be submitted as described below.

The proposed project would involve construction in wetlands.

The proposed project would involve an action in a floodplain.

The draft EA, any maps and drawings showing the project location and 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 TxDOT Beaumont District Office, 8350 Eastex Freeway Beaumont, TX 77708, 409-898-5732. Project materials are also available online at <u>www.txdot.gov</u>. These materials will also be available in hard copy form for review at the in-person option.

The virtual public hearing and in-person option will be conducted 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 attend and participate in the virtual public hearing or in-person option, please contact Tanya Avila tanya.avila@txdot.gov, Beaumont District, at 409-898-5745 no later than 4 p.m. CT, Monday, Nov. 11, 2024. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for the Texas Department of Transportation to arrange.

La audiencia pública se llevará a cabo en inglés. Si usted necesita un intérprete o un traductor de documentos porque su idioma principal no es el inglés o tiene alguna dificultad para comunicarse eficazmente en inglés, se le proporcionará uno. Si usted tiene alguna discapacidad y necesita ayuda, se pueden hacer arreglos especiales para atender la mayoría de las necesidades. Si usted necesita servicios de interpretación o traducción o usted es una persona con alguna discapacidad que requiera una adaptación para asistir a y participar en la audiencia pública, por favor póngase en contacto con Tanya Avila, Beaumont District, al número 409-898-5745 no a más tardar a las 4 p.m. hora central, lunes, 11 de noviembre de 2024. Por favor sepa que es necesario dar aviso con anticipación, ya que algunos servicios y adaptaciones pueden requerir tiempo para que TxDOT los organice.

Written comments from the public regarding the proposed project are requested and may be submitted by mail to the TxDOT Beaumont District Office, ATTN: US 90 Widening Liberty County, 8350 Eastex Freeway Beaumont, TX 77708. Written comments may also be submitted by email to <u>bmtprojects@txdot.gov</u>. **All written comments must be received on or before Friday, Dec. 6, 2024**. Additionally, as stated above, members of the public may call 936-209-4804 and verbally provide testimony from 5 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024, until 11:59 pm on Friday, Dec. 6, 2024. Responses to written comments received and public testimony provided will be available online at <u>www.txdot.gov</u> once they have been prepared.

If you have any general questions regarding the proposed project or virtual hearing or in-person option, please call (409) 898-5732 or email <u>bmtprojects@txdot.gov</u>.



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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 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.