



Notice

**Draft Environmental Assessment Available for Public Review
and
Public Hearing**

FARM-TO-MARKET (FM) 2001

From Interstate Highway 35 (I-35) to State Highway (SH) 21

CSJs: 1776-02-018

Hays and Caldwell Counties, Texas

Hays County in conjunction with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), as the lead agency, are proposing to widen and realign FM 2001 from I-35 to SH 21 (Camino Real) in Hays and Caldwell Counties, Texas. Pursuant to Texas Administrative Code, Title 43, Part 1, Chapter 2, Subchapter E, §2.107 and §2.108 and Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Chapter I, Subchapter H, §771.111 and Title 40, Chapter V, §1506, this notice advises the public that a draft environmental assessment (EA) is available for public review and that TxDOT will be conducting a public hearing on the proposed project. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at Studio Estates Club house, 6880 Goforth Road, Kyle, TX 78640. Displays will be available for viewing at 5:00 p.m. with the formal hearing starting at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the hearing is to present the planned improvements and to receive public comment on the proposed project.

The existing FM 2001 facility is a rural two-lane highway that provides access to the cities of Buda and Niederwald, as well as numerous residential subdivisions. The existing roadway consists of one 11-foot-wide travel lane in each direction, typically with four-foot-wide outside shoulders. The existing FM 2001 right-of-way (ROW) varies, with a minimum ROW width of 70 feet. Overpass Road, which connects existing FM 2001 to I-35, consists of two 12-foot-wide travel lanes in each direction within a 120-foot ROW.

The proposed project is approximately 8.5 miles and connects I-35 to SH 21. The I-35/FM 2001 intersection is a logical northern terminus for the proposed improvements as I-35 is a major traffic generator. SH 21 is a logical southern terminus that would allow for the straightening of the 90-degree turns and the construction of a continuous connection of FM 2001 north and south of SH 21.

The proposed project consists of both an urban and suburban roadway configuration. The urban section is located at each end of the project and consists of two 12-foot-wide lanes in each direction, a 16-foot-wide raised median, 5-foot-wide bike lanes and 6-foot-wide sidewalks within a 120-foot ROW. The suburban section is in the middle of the project between the two urban sections and consist of two 12-foot-wide lanes, 10-foot-wide outside shoulder in each direction, and 16-foot-wide center two-way left turn lane within a 160-foot ROW, including an allowance on the edge of both ROW lines for future 5-foot wide sidewalks. The 10-foot-wide outside shoulders that would be built along the suburban section as part of the proposed project would accommodate bicyclist/pedestrian movements throughout these areas before the sidewalks are constructed.



Draft EA Notice of Availability and a Public Hearing



The purpose of the proposed project is to improve safety, improve mobility, and to provide system linkage between FM 2001 north and south of SH 21 to improve travel times for commuters and emergency vehicles.

The proposed improvements would require approximately 113.9 acres of additional ROW, 5.02 acres of temporary easements and 4.68 acres of permanent easements. The proposed project would displace one residence. Information about the TxDOT Relocation Assistance Program, benefits and services for displacees, as well as information about the tentative schedules for ROW acquisition and construction can be obtained from the TxDOT district office at the address listed below. Relocation assistance is available for displaced persons.

The proposed project would include construction within approximately 6.48 acres of the 100-year floodplain along Brushy Creek and one of its tributaries. Waters of the U.S. present in the project area that would be impacted include two wetlands, six creeks (Brushy Creek and its tributaries) and four ponds. Impacts to these waters of the U.S. would be authorized under a Clean Water Act Section 404 Nationwide Permit. A traffic noise analysis determined that noise impacts would occur and that noise abatement would be feasible and reasonable.

The draft EA, 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 Hays County Precinct 2 Office (5458 FM 2770, Kyle, Texas 78640) and at the TxDOT South Travis Area Office (9725 S IH 35, Austin, Texas 78744) and <http://www.co.hays.tx.us/commissioner-precinct-2.aspx>. 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 Austin District Office. Comments must be received on or before April 12, 2017 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, such the need for an interpreter, are encouraged to contact the Hays County Precinct 2 Office at (512) 262-2091. 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, please contact Jennifer Scott, Commissioner Precinct 2 Assistant at (512) 262-2091 or jennifer.scott@co.hays.tx.us.

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.