



## NOTICE

**Draft Environmental Assessment Available for Public Review and Public Hearing  
Interstate Highway 35E (I-35E) Frontage Roads  
From US 77 South of Waxahachie to US 77 North of Waxahachie, Ellis County, Texas  
CSJs: 0048-04-090; 0048-04-092; 0048-04-093 and 0048-04-094**

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) proposes improvements to Interstate Highway 35 East (I-35E) in Waxahachie, Ellis County, Texas. The project limits extend from US 77 South of Waxahachie to US 77 North of Waxahachie, for a total distance of approximately 11 miles. 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 Monday, May 13, 2019 at the Waxahachie Civic Center Ballrooms 1 & 2, located at 2000 Civic Center Lane, Waxahachie, Texas 75165.** Displays will be available for viewing at **6 p.m. with the formal hearing starting at 7 p.m.** The purpose of the hearing is to present the proposed project and to receive public comments.

The proposed project will reconstruct and widen the existing frontage roads, convert all two-way operations to one-way operations and make all of the frontage roads continuous along the entire project. The proposed frontage roads would include a 12-foot inside lane, a 14-foot outside shared use lane with 2 foot offsets to the face of curb, provide six-foot sidewalks throughout and provide new pedestrian bridges along US 287 east and west of I-35E. Additional improvements would include new I-35E overpasses at Lofland Drive, Butcher Road (Farm-to-Market [FM] 387), Sterrett Road; a new interchange at Hotel Drive at FM 664 (Ovilla Road) and improvements to FM 66 and FM 1446. All of the cross-street improvements would also include left and right turn bays along with U-Turns. This project also proposes to build two direct connectors [in the peak hourly direction] at the US 287/I-35E interchange to relieve the current congestion at this interchange. The project would require the acquisition of approximately 33.2 acres of new right of way (ROW) and 1.1 acres of permanent drainage easements; 1.3 acres of temporary construction easements would also be required to accommodate the proposed roadway improvements. No residential or commercial property displacements or relocations would be required.

The proposed project is located within the 100-year floodplain associated with North Grove Creek, South Grove Creek, Mustang Creek, Waxahachie Creek, and some associated tributaries. The hydraulic design for the proposed project would be in accordance with current TxDOT and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) design policies and standards. It is anticipated that the proposed project would result in fill within waters of the U.S. and would require authorization by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Section 404 Nationwide Permit 14. Sites 8 and 17 would require Pre-construction Notification for impacts to wetlands.

Four properties would experience direct effects by the proposed project. The proposed project would take ROW from properties that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the project is subject to Section 4(f) coordination pursuant to 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 774.5. Effects to the resources are minimal and resulted in a finding of No Adverse Effect; however, total property takes constitute a *de minimis* use of the properties under Section 4(f). TxDOT will consider comments received during the environmental process before making a final Section 4(f) *de minimis* determination. The Draft EA, maps and drawings reflecting the project's location and design will be displayed at the Public Hearing. These items and other information about the proposed project are available for public inspection and duplication Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the TxDOT Dallas District Office located at 4777 E. Highway 80, Mesquite, Texas 75150; the TxDOT Ellis/Navarro County Area Office, 100 SW County Road 1000, Corsicana, TX 75110; at Waxahachie City Hall, 401 S. Rogers, Waxahachie, TX 75168; and on-line at [www.keepitmovingdallas.com](http://www.keepitmovingdallas.com) under Public Hearings/Meetings.

All interested persons are invited to attend this hearing to obtain information about the project and to express their views. Persons requiring special communication or accommodation needs should contact the TxDOT Dallas District Public Information Office at (214) 320-4480. The Public Hearing will be conducted in English. Any request for language interpreters, special communication needs or other accommodations should also be made at least two (2) working days prior to the Public Hearing. Every reasonable effort to accommodate these needs will be made. For additional information about the project, please contact Mr. Nelson Underwood, P.E., TxDOT Dallas District Project Manager, via phone at (214) 320-6628, or e-mail: [Nelson.Underwood@TxDOT.gov](mailto:Nelson.Underwood@TxDOT.gov).

Verbal and written comments from the public regarding this project are requested and may be presented for a period of 15 calendar days following the hearing. Written comments may be submitted either in person, by mail or emailed to the TxDOT Dallas District Office, Mr. Nelson Underwood, P.E., 4777 East US Highway 80 Mesquite, Texas 75150, [Nelson.Underwood@TxDOT.gov](mailto:Nelson.Underwood@TxDOT.gov). All written comments must be postmarked on or before **Tuesday, May 28, 2019** to be included in the official public hearing record.

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.