

TxDOT NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT & NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING



United States Highway (US) 80 & Interstate Highway (IH) 635 From: IH 635 to: North Galloway Avenue & From: South of Gross Road to: Eastbound US 80 Frontage Road CSJs: 0095-02-102; 2374-02-126

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will conduct a Public Hearing on Thursday, November 12, 2015, at the Mesquite Arts Center Rehearsal Hall, 1527 N. Galloway Ave., Mesquite, TX 75149. The purpose of the public hearing is to present the proposed improvements to the interchange of US Highway (US) 80 and Interstate Highway (IH) 635 within the City of Mesquite, Dallas County, Texas. Displays will be available for viewing at 6:00 p.m. with the formal hearing commencing at 7:00 p.m.

The existing facility within the project limits located along US 80 extends from IH 635 to North Galloway Avenue and consists of three 12-foot wide mainlanes in each direction, with the outside lane functioning as an auxiliary lane; two 12-foot wide frontage road lanes with four-foot wide inside shoulders and outside shoulders that vary from 14-22 feet in width; and, an outside lane widens to 13.5 feet in order to accommodate the merging traffic, narrowing back to 12 feet after the merge is completed. The existing US 80 right-of-way width varies from approximately 348-374 feet. The existing facility within the project limits located along IH 635 extends from south of Gross Road to the eastbound US 80 frontage road and consists of four 12-foot wide lanes in each direction with 10-foot wide inside shoulders and 12-foot wide outside shoulders. North of Gross Road, a 12-foot wide auxiliary lane is located along the outside mainlanes. There are no frontage roads. South of Gross Road, the existing IH 635 right-of-way width varies from approximately 320-350 feet, and north of Gross Road, the right-of-way width varies from approximately 328-520 feet.

The proposed improvements to US 80 would include reconstruction of the eastbound frontage road and the relocation of the North Galloway Avenue exit ramp; and, the proposed improvements to IH 635 would include the addition of a new northbound frontage road consisting of a 14-foot outside lane to accommodate bicycles and one 12-foot inside lane, and the widening of the exit ramp at Gross Road. A five-foot wide sidewalk would be provided along the proposed northbound frontage roads. The proposed sidewalks would meet ADA design criteria. The proposed improvements would increase mobility within the project area by relocating the eastbound North Galloway Avenue exit ramp to the southbound IH 635 to eastbound US 80 direct connector, thus eliminating the bottleneck and heavy weave created by the proximity of the direct connector and its associated auxiliary lane to the current North Galloway Avenue exit ramp. Approximately 3.0 acres of new right-of-way would be required for the proposed project, and approximately 0.5 acres would be required for drainage easements. There would be no residential or commercial displacements as a result of the project. The proposed project would permanently impact a total of approximately 0.17 acres of waters of the U.S. and associated wetlands. Approximately 0.04 acres would be temporarily impacted and restored to pre-existing conditions after construction is completed. Approximately 0.2 acres of riparian woodland vegetation would be impacted.

Maps and other drawings showing the proposed project's location and design will be displayed at the Public Hearing. Environmental documentation for the project will also be available for inspection at the hearing. Other information about the proposed project is 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 Dallas District Office located at 4777 East Highway 80, Mesquite, Texas 75150, and on-line at www.keepitmovingdallas.com under Upcoming Public Hearing/Meeting. Information about benefits and services for affected property owners and the tentative schedules for ROW acquisition and construction will be available at the Public Hearing and can also be obtained from the TxDOT Dallas District Office.

All interested persons are invited to attend this Public Hearing. Verbal and written comments from the public regarding this project are encouraged and may be presented for a period of 10 calendar days following the hearing. Written comments may be submitted either in person or by mail to the TxDOT Dallas District Office, Mr. Jim Dobbins, 4777 East US Highway 80 Mesquite, Texas, 75150. All written comments must be postmarked on or before Monday, November 23, 2015 to be included in the official public hearing record. For additional information please contact Mr. Michael A. Renfrow, P.E. at (214) 320-4472 or email him at mike.renfrow@txdot.gov.

The Public Hearing will be conducted in English. Persons interested in attending the hearing who have special communication or accommodation needs, or need an interpreter, are encouraged to contact the TxDOT Dallas District Public Information Office at (214) 320-4480. Request should be made at least two days prior to the Public Hearing. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate these needs.

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.