



Notice

Draft Environmental Assessment Available for Public Review and Virtual Public Hearing

STATE LOOP (SL) 288

From Interstate Highway (IH) 35W to IH 35

CSJs: 2250-02-013 & 2250-02-014

Denton County, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and Denton County are proposing to construct a new location segment of SL 288 from IH 35W south of Denton to IH 35 north of Denton, in Denton 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 on-line virtual public hearing on the proposed project with an in-person option. **The virtual hearing will be held on July 9, 2020 at 6 p.m.** To log onto the virtual public hearing, go to the following web address at the date and time indicated above: www.keepitmovingdallas.com/SL288. Project staff will give a presentation regarding the project. The presentation will include both audio and visual components. If you do not have internet access, you may call Nelson Underwood, P.E., TxDOT Project Manager at (214) 320-6628 to ask questions about the project and access project materials at any time during the project development process.

Additionally, TxDOT is providing an in-person option for individuals who would like to participate in-person instead of on-line. Attendees at the in-person option will be able to view the same presentation delivered in the virtual on-line public hearing, review hard copies of project materials, and leave written comments. **The in-person option will be held on July 13, 2020 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Attendance at the in-person option will be by appointment only.** Individuals wishing to attend the in-person option may call (512) 241-2208 between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm Monday through Friday to make an appointment and receive further instructions regarding the in-person option. In recognition of COVID-19, enhanced safety measures will be applied at the in-person option, including a requirement to wear a face mask and follow social distancing.

Members of the public may call (940) 441-5260 and verbally provide testimony from 6 p.m. on July 9, 2020 until 5 p.m. on July 28, 2020. Formal written comments may also be provided by mail or email as explained below. All verbally provided testimony and timely written comments submitted by mail or email will be included as part of the official record for this hearing and project, and considered by TxDOT. 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.

The proposed SL 288 project includes the construction of a four-lane new location frontage road system from IH 35W south of Denton to IH 35 north of Denton, in Denton County, Texas, and is approximately 9.0 miles in length. The proposed project right of way (ROW) would include a median that would accommodate future construction of an ultimate mainlane roadway. Construction of the ultimate mainlane roadway would be based on projected traffic and funding and would require additional environmental analysis prior to construction. At this time, only the construction of the frontage road system is planned.

The new location SL 288 frontage road system would include a northbound and southbound frontage road facility. For rural areas, the roadway would consist of two travel lanes (one 12-foot-wide lane and one 14-foot-wide lane for bicycle accommodation) and 8-foot-wide inside and outside shoulders in each direction, with open ditch drainage. For urbanized areas, the roadway would consist of two travel lanes (one 12-foot-wide lane and one 14-foot-wide lane for bicycle accommodation) in each direction, with curb and gutter drainage. The roadway would also include 6-foot-wide sidewalks along both sides of the road throughout the project limits. The proposed project ROW would include a median (variable width) that would accommodate the future construction of an ultimate mainlane facility.



The project area includes approximately 26.6 acres of existing roadway ROW, 401.5 acres of proposed ROW, 1.2 acres of proposed permanent drainage easements, and 13.2 acres of proposed ROW by others. The proposed project would, subject to final design considerations, displace five single-family residences and one commercial property. Information about the TxDOT Relocation Assistance Program and services and benefits for 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 Nelson Underwood, P.E., TxDOT Project Manager at (214) 320-6628, or by visiting the project website.

Portions of the proposed project area and construction work would occur in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated 100-year floodplains of Hickory Creek and Dry Fork Hickory Creek. The hydraulic design for this project would be in accordance with current Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and TxDOT design policies. Approximately 0.41 acre of streams, 0.04 acre of impoundments, and 0.18 acre of wetlands associated with Waters of the United States would be permanently filled and authorized under a United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Section 404 Nationwide Permit 14 with pre-construction notification to the USACE.

The draft EA, maps showing the project location and design, tentative construction schedules, and other information regarding the project are on file and available online at www.keepitmovingdallas.com/SL288. These materials will also be available in hard copy form at the in-person option.

TxDOT makes every reasonable effort to accommodate the needs of the public. The virtual public hearing and in-person option will be in English. If you have a special communication accommodation or need for an interpreter, a request can be made. If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can also be made to accommodate most needs. Please call the TxDOT Dallas District Public Information Office at (214) 320-4480 no later than July 7, 2020. Please be aware that advance notice is requested as some accommodations may require time for TxDOT to arrange.

Written comments from the public regarding the proposed project are requested and may be submitted by mail to the TxDOT Dallas District Office, Attention: Mr. Nelson Underwood, 4777 E. Highway 80, Mesquite, Texas 75150. Written comments may also be submitted by email to Nelson.Underwood@txdot.gov. An online comment form option will also be made available during the virtual public hearing. **All written comments must be postmarked or received on or before July 28, 2020.** Additionally, as stated above, members of the public may call (940) 441-5260 and leave a verbal comment from 6 p.m. on July 9, 2020 until 5 p.m. on July 28, 2020. Responses to written comments received and public testimony provided will be available online at www.keepitmovingdallas.com/SL288 once they have been prepared.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or the virtual hearing or in-person option, please contact Nelson Underwood, P.E., TxDOT Project Manager at (214) 320-6628 or by email at Nelson.Underwood@txdot.gov.

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.