



## Notice

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

#### United States Highway 77

#### From South of Farm-to-Market 66 to North of McMillan Street

CSJs: 0048-03-050 & 0048-03-055

#### ELLIS County, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing to widen and reconstruct United States Highway 77 (US 77) from South of Farm-to-Market 66 (FM 66) to north of McMillan Street in Ellis County, Texas, a distance of approximately 0.8 mile. Pursuant to Texas Administrative Code, Title 43, Part 1, Chapter 2, Subchapter E, §2.107 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 TxDOT will be conducting a public hearing on the proposed project. The hearing will be held on January 26, 2017 at the Waxahachie Civic Center, 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 planned improvements and to receive public comment on the proposed project.

The proposed project involves demolition and replacement of the existing US 77 Viaduct with a northbound bridge and construction of a new parallel bridge to the west of the Viaduct for southbound traffic. The project also involves reconstruction of the existing US 77 (Elm Street) and Monroe Street to provide a couplet system that would tie into the proposed bridges. Both bridges would cross over a linear park (Waxahachie Creek Hike and Bike Trail).

The proposed project would require approximately 3.8 acres of new Right-of-Way (ROW), and the acquisition of 0.14 acres of driveway easements. The existing viaduct ROW is 50 feet wide, while the non-viaduct portion of US 77 and Monroe Street ROW widths are 60 feet wide. The proposed ROW width is 80 feet for US 77 and Monroe Street. The proposed project would displace five commercial structures. 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 and businesses. Although additional right-of-way is required, no residential structures would be displaced. Information concerning services and benefits available to affected property owners and information about the tentative schedule for right-of-way acquisition may be obtained from the district office at the address listed below.

As part of this project, the City of Waxahachie is considering a Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact determination for impacts to Waxahachie Creek Hike and Bike Trail. Additionally, this hearing will be conducted in accordance with Chapter 26 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code. An approximate 0.42 acre strip of land located west of the existing bridge would be required for permanent incorporation into the proposed transportation facility. The viaduct improvements will result in a slight re-alignment (from curved to straight) of approximately 175 feet of sidewalk and removal of a few mature woody trees. A Section 4(f) *de minimis* finding means that the proposed project would not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes that qualify the Waxahachie Creek Hike and Bike Trail for protection under Section 4(f). The City of Waxahachie and TxDOT will consider comments received during this Public Hearing before making final Section 4(f) *de minimis* determination.



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Any environmental documentation or studies, 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 TxDOT Dallas District Office, 4777 East Highway 80, Mesquite, Texas 75150 and [www.keepitmovingdallas.com](http://www.keepitmovingdallas.com). 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 Dallas District Office. Comments must be received on or before February 9, 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 TxDOT Dallas District Public Information Office at (214) 320-4483, 4777 East Highway 80, Mesquite, Texas 75150. 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 Ms. Denise Lunski, P.E., at (214) 320-6154, 4777 East Highway 80, Mesquite, Texas 75150.

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.