



Notice
Virtual Public Hearing with In-Person Option
FARM TO MARKET ROAD (FM) 1173
From Farm To Market Road 156 to Interstate Highway 35
CSJs: 1059-01-047 and 1059-02-002
Denton County, Texas

Project Website: <http://www.keepitmovingdallas.com/FM1173>

The Texas Department of Transportation (“TxDOT”) is proposing to improve Farm-to-Market (FM) 1173 from FM 156 to Interstate Highway (IH) 35 in Denton County, TX. This notice advises the public that TxDOT will be conducting an online virtual public hearing on the proposed project with an in-person option. **The pre-recorded virtual hearing will begin on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020 at 6 p.m. and remain on line through Friday, Dec. 18, 2020.** To log onto the virtual public hearing, go to the project website at the date and time indicated above. Project staff will give a presentation which will be a pre-recorded video and will include both audio and visual components. Please note that the presentation will not be available on the website until the time and date listed above. Following the virtual public hearing, the presentation will remain available for viewing at the web address indicated above until Friday, Dec. 18, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. If you do not have internet access, you may call (214) 320-6628 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, to ask questions about the project and access project materials during the project development process.

Additionally, TxDOT is providing an in-person option for individuals who would like to participate in-person instead of online. In-person attendees will be able to view the same presentation delivered in the online public hearing which will be playing on a screen, review hard copies of project materials, ask questions of TxDOT staff and/or consultants from a socially distanced approach, and leave written comments. The in-person option will be held on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the TxDOT District Office, 2624 West Prairie Street, Denton, TX 76201. **Attendance at the in-person option will be by appointment only.** Individuals wishing to attend the in-person option must call (214) 551-5401 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, to make an appointment. In recognition of COVID-19, enhanced safety measures will be applied at the in-person option, including a requirement to wear a face mask, submit to a temperature check prior to entry, have an appointment, and follow social distancing practices. If anyone arrives without an appointment, they may be asked to wait outside to ensure we maintain appropriate occupancy within the hearing room.

For both the virtual public hearing and in-person option, members of the public may call (817) 381-2473 to provide verbal testimony immediately following the conclusion of the virtual public hearing presentation at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 3 through 11:59 pm on Friday, Dec. 18, 2020. Formal written comments may also be provided by mail or email as explained below. All verbally provided testimony and timely written comments will be considered by TxDOT and included as part of the official

record. 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 on the project website.

The proposed improvements include constructing four travel lanes from FM 156 to East 6th Street and six travel lanes from East 6th Street to IH 35 in the City of Krum in Denton County. In the FM 156 to East 6th Street segment, the travel lanes would include one outside 14-foot shared-use lane and a varying 11 to 12-foot inside lane in each direction. In the East 6th Street to IH 35 segment, the travel lanes would include one outside 14-foot shared-use lane and two varying 11 to 12-foot inside lanes in each direction. The eastbound and westbound lanes would be divided with a raised median along the centerline from the BNSF Railway railroad tracks to IH 35. Sidewalks would vary from five feet wide with a three-foot berm to six-feet wide adjacent to the back of the curb. The proposed facilities ROW widths would vary from 120 feet to 300 feet.

The proposed project would, subject to final design considerations, require additional right-of-way and potentially displace one residence and one non-residential structure. Relocation assistance is available for displaced persons and businesses. Information about the TxDOT Relocation Assistance Program and services and benefits for those 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 (214) 320-6628 or by visiting the project website.

The proposed project is anticipated to impact publicly owned Eastside Park, which is a property protected under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 and Chapter 26 of the Parks and Wildlife Code. Eastside Park is a 35-acre park located on the south side of FM 1173 at Hopkins Road. The park currently has an existing 10-foot trail extending from FM 1173 south to Dakota Trail and southeast to Meadowcreek Drive. The park is included in the City of Krum Parks and Open Space Master Plan for additional facilities in the future. The proposed project would consist of approximately 1.5 acres (4.4 percent) of the northern edge of the park along FM 1173 to accommodate the roadway widening and reconstruct approximately 150 feet of the trail at FM 1173. TxDOT anticipates making a *de minimis* determination for this use under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966. A Section 4(f) *de minimis* finding means that the proposed project would not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes that qualify the park for protection under Section 4(f). Public comment on the effects of the proposed project on the activities, features, or attributes of East Side Park may be submitted as described below.

The proposed project would involve construction in wetlands. The proposed project would involve an action in a floodplain. Any environmental documentation or studies, maps and drawings showing the project location and design, tentative construction schedules, and other information regarding the proposed project are available online at the project website. These materials will also be available in hard copy form for review at the in-person option.

The virtual public hearing and in-person option will be conducted in English. If you need an interpreter or document translator because English is not your primary language or you have difficulty communicating effectively in English, one will be provided to you. If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. If you need interpretation or translation services or you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation to attend and participate in the virtual public hearing or in-person option, please contact Emily McCann, the TxDOT Dallas District Public Information Office, at (214) 320-4485 no later than 4:00 p.m. Central time on Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2020. Please be aware that advance notice is

required as some services and accommodations may require time for the Texas Department of Transportation 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: Nelson Underwood, P.E., 4777 East US Highway 80, Mesquite, TX 75150-6643. Written comments may also be submitted by email to Nelson.Underwood@txdot.gov. **All written comments must be received on or before Friday, Dec. 18, 2020.** Additionally, as stated above, members of the public may call (817) 381-2473 and verbally provide testimony from 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020 until 11:59 pm Friday, Dec. 18. Responses to written comments received and public testimony provided will be available online at the project website, 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 the TxDOT project manager, Nelson Underwood, P.E., by phone 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 Dec. 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.