

Draft Environmental Assessment and Virtual Public Hearing Interstate Highway (IH) 35W Frontage Roads From Dale Earnhardt Way to South of the IH 35E/ IH 35W Interchange CSJ: 0081-13-065 **Denton County, Texas**

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing to improve IH 35W from Dale Earnhardt Way to south of the IH 35E/ IH 35W Interchange 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. The virtual hearing will be held on Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. To log onto the virtual public hearing, go to the following web address at the date and time indicated above: http://www.keepitmovingdallas.com/IH35WFR. 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 (214) 320-6628 between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm to ask questions about the project and access project materials during the project development process. Members of the public may call (469) 333-0439 to provide verbal testimony immediately following the conclusion of the virtual public hearing presentation (6:00PM), through 11:59 PM on May 15th, 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 project consists of the construction of the northbound and southbound frontage roads for IH 35W from Dale Earnhardt Way in the City of Fort Worth to south of the IH 35E/IH 35W interchange in the City of Denton, Texas; a distance of approximately 12.3 miles. The frontage roads would consist of one 12-foot wide inside travel lane, and one 14-foot wide outside shared-use lane with two-foot wide curb offsets, and a six-foot wide sidewalk in both directions. Other improvements would include changing the IH 35W ramp configuration from a conventional diamond to a reverse diamond (X ramp) and flipping the Farm-to-Market (FM) 1171 (Cross Timber Road), Old Justin Road, and John Paine Road/ Allred Road interchanges so that the IH 35W mainlanes cross over these streets.

The existing right-of-way (ROW) width ranges from 300 to 700 feet. The proposed ROW width, including the existing ROW width, would range from 690 to 1.160 feet. The proposed project would require approximately 95.43 acres of additional ROW and 2.47 acres of permanent drainage easements. Although additional ROW would be required, no residential or non-residential structures are anticipated to be displaced at this time. Information concerning services and benefits available to affected property owners and information about the tentative schedule for ROW acquisition and construction can be obtained from the district office by calling (214) 320-6628 or by visiting the project website.

The proposed project would involve construction in wetlands and an action in a floodplain.

The draft EA, and any maps and drawings showing the project location and design, tentative construction schedules, and other information regarding the project are on file and available online at http://www.keepitmovingdallas.com/IH35WFR.

TxDOT makes every reasonable effort to accommodate the needs of the public. The virtual public hearing 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 (214) 320-4480 no later than Tuesday, April 28, 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 Nelson Underwood, P.E., 4777 E. Highway 80, Mesquite, TX 75150. Written comments may also be submitted by email to Nelson.Underwood@txdot.gov. All comments must be received on or before May 15, 2020. Additionally, as stated above, members of the public may call 469-333-0439 and verbally provide testimony immediately following the virtual hearing presentation (6:00PM) to 11:59PM on May 15th, 2020. Responses to written and verbal comments received will be available online at http://www.keepitmovingdallas.com/IH35WFR once they have been prepared.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or the virtual hearing, 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.

OUR GOALS