

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

State Highway (SH) 276

From Farm to Market (FM) 549 in Rockwall County to County Road (CR) 2472 in Hunt County

CSJs: 1290-03-016, 1290-03-020, 1290-04-011, 1290-05-019

Rockwall and Hunt Counties, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing to widen 7.4 miles of SH 276 from FM 549 in Rockwall County to CR 2472 in Hunt County, Texas. This notice advises the public that TxDOT will be conducting a public hearing on the proposed project. **The hearing will be held on Tuesday, July 9, 2019 at the Liberty Hall Jury Room located inside the Rockwall County Courthouse, located at 1111 East Yellow Jacket Lane, Rockwall, Texas 75087.** Displays will be available for viewing at **6:00 p.m. with the formal hearing starting at 7:00 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 would reconstruct and widen a portion of SH 276 from FM 549 to CR 2472 in Rockwall and Hunt counties. Proposed improvements would involve the expansion to a four-lane divided urban highway with one 12-foot-wide travel lane and one 14-foot-wide outside shared-use lane in each direction, a variable width median that would accommodate an additional future lane in each direction, and left-turn lanes at various driveways and side-streets along the corridor and at intersections, including FM 551 and FM 548. Additional improvements would include five-foot sidewalks along both sides of the roadway. The existing right of way (ROW) width is 120 feet for the majority of the project. The proposed ROW width would be approximately 140 feet. The project is anticipated to require the acquisition of approximately 34.6 acres of new ROW. Although additional ROW is required, no residential or non-residential structures would be displaced. Information concerning services and benefits available to affected property owners and information about the tentative schedule for ROW acquisition may be obtained from the district office at the address listed below.

The proposed project would impact both streams and wetlands. There are three major stream crossings within the proposed project area including Brushy Creek, Hackberry Creek and Klutts Branch. A portion of the proposed project area is located within a FEMA-designated 100-year floodplain. The hydraulic design for the proposed project would be in accordance with current TxDOT and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) design policies and standards. It is anticipated that the proposed project would result in fill within waters of the U.S. and would require authorization by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Section 404 Nationwide Permit 14.

Two historic properties would experience direct effects by the proposed project. The proposed project would acquire ROW from properties that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The project is subject to Section 4(f) coordination pursuant to 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 774.5. Effects to the resources are minimal and would result in a finding of No Adverse Effect; the effects constitute a *de minimis* use of the properties under Section 4(f). Coordination is ongoing with Texas Historical Commission (THC) for Section 4(f) *de minimis* determination.

Environmental documentation, maps showing the project location and design, 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 located at 4777 E. US Highway 80, Mesquite, Texas 75150, and also available online at www.keepitmovingdallas.com under Public Hearings/Meetings. 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, by mail or e-mailed to the TxDOT Dallas District Office, Ms. Marlena Kelly, P.E., 4777 East US Highway 80, Mesquite, Texas 75150, Marlena.Kelly@txdot.gov. **All written comments must be postmarked on or before Wednesday, July 24, 2019 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 as the need for an interpreter, are encouraged to contact the TxDOT Dallas District Public Information Office at (214) 320-4480. 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. Marlena Kelly, P.E. TxDOT Dallas District Project Manager, via phone at (214) 320-4426, or e-mail: Marlena.Kelly@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 16, 2014, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.