

Notice of Virtual Public Hearing FARM TO MARKET ROAD (FM) 664 From US 287 to Westmoreland Road

CSJs: 1051-01-038 & 1051-01-052 Ellis County, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing to reconstruct, realign, and widen FM 664 from US 287 to Westmoreland Road in Ellis County, Texas. This notice advises the public that TxDOT will be conducting an on-line public hearing on the proposed project. The virtual hearing will be held on Thursday July 9, 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: www.keepitmovingdallas.com/FM664. Project staff will give a presentation regarding the project. The presentation will be a pre-recorded video and will include both audio and visual components. Please note that the hearing materials will not be available on the project website until the time and date listed above. If you do not have internet access, you may call (214) 320-6628 between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to ask questions about the project and access project materials during the project development process. Members of the public may call (469) 547-7164 to provide verbal testimony immediately following the conclusion of the virtual public hearing presentation at 6 p.m. on July 9, 2020 through 11:59 p.m. on July 24, 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 on the project website.

The proposed project consists of the reconstruction, realigning, and widening of FM 664 from US 287 in Waxahachie to Westmoreland Road in Ovilla, TX. Improvements would include the expansion of the current 2-lane rural roadway to a 4-lane urban roadway (ultimate 6-lanes) with a raised median to provide additional capacity and improve safety. Improvements would consist of 12-foot wide travel lanes, 14-foot wide outside shared-use lanes, and 6-foot sidewalks with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) curb ramps in both directions. Other improvements would include eliminating 90-degree turns along FM 664 between FM 1387 and Marshall Road. The proposed project is anticipated to require 87.18 acres of additional right-of-way (ROW) and 0.61 acre of proposed easement.

The proposed project would, subject to final design considerations, require additional ROW and potentially displace one residential 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 displacees and other affected property owners, as well as information about the tentative schedule for ROW 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 would impact publicly owned Heritage 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. Heritage Park is an approximately 3.3-acre park located on the west side of FM 664 between Main Street to the north and Red Oak Creek to the south in the City of Ovilla. The park consists of a pavilion, public restrooms, picnic area, concrete trail, and a parking area. The improvements are proposed to be constructed at the southernmost edge of the park. Approximately 0.15 acres (4.5%) of ROW would be required to accommodate the widening. TxDOT is considering a Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact determination for impacts to Heritage Park. 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). The City of Ovilla and TxDOT will consider comments received during the environmental process before making a final Section 4(f) *de minimis* determination.

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 http://www.keepitmovingdallas.com/FM664.

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 Monday July 6, 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 written comments must be received on or before July 24, 2020. Additionally, as stated above, members of the public may call (469) 547-7164 and verbally provide testimony immediately following the virtual hearing presentation at 6 p.m. on July 9, 2020 through 11:59 p.m. on July 24, 2020. Responses to written and verbal comments received will be available online at http://www.keepitmovingdallas.com/FM664 once they have been prepared. All comments must be received on or before July 24, 2020.

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