

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in cooperation with Dallas County and the Cities of Farmers Branch, Carrollton and Dallas will conduct a Public Hearing for the proposed Interstate Highway (IH) 35E roadway improvements from State Highway (SH) 190, President George Bush Turnpike (PGBT), to IH 635 within Dallas County. The purpose of the Hearing is to discuss the social, economic, and environmental effects of the proposed roadway improvements within this five mile section of IH 35E. The Hearing will be held on July 5, 2006 at the Dr. Pepper StarCenter - Farmers Branch, 12700 N. Stemmons Freeway (IH 35E), Farmers Branch, TX 75234. Prior to the Public Hearing an Open House will be held from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., to allow for questions and review of project exhibits. TxDOT staff will be available to answer questions during the Open House. The formal Public Hearing will begin at 7:00 p.m., followed by the public comment period.

The purpose of the proposed project is to provide transportation improvements to enhance the regional transportation system by increasing capacity, reducing traffic congestion, and improving mobility on IH 35E. The existing facility currently contains six main lanes (three in each direction), two-lane frontage roads in each direction, and two buffer separated High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes that extend just north of Frankford Road. The proposed project would modify the existing facility to ten main lanes (five in each direction), three-lane frontage roads in each direction, and two reversible managed lanes. The project is located within the Cities of Farmers Branch, Carrollton, and Dallas in Dallas County, and would be built on the existing road alignment.

The right-of-way width for the existing roadway ranges from 250 to 300 feet. The right-of-way width for the proposed project would range from 420 to 590 feet. This would require the acquisition of approximately 84 acres of additional right-of-way. The proposed IH 35E improvements would potentially require the displacement of 112 business, five vacant buildings, four places of worship, and two residences. Some proposed improvements would occur within the 100-year floodplain; however, the proposed improvements would not increase the base flood elevation to a level, which would violate applicable floodplain regulations or ordinances. In addition, the proposed project is located within a designated wetland. Any impacts that occur would be addressed through mitigation procedures.

The environmental document, maps, and drawings reflecting the project's location and geometric design will be displayed at the Public Hearing. This and other information about the project are available for public inspection and duplication at the Dallas District Office located at 4777 East Highway 80, Mesquite, Texas 75150. The drawings are also on file at the Dallas County Transportation and Planning Division, Dallas County Public Works Administration Building, 411 Elm Street, 4th floor, Dallas, Texas 75202. Information about the TxDOT Relocation Assistance Program, benefits and services for displaces; as well as, information about the tentative schedules for ROW acquisition and construction may be obtained from the TxDOT Dallas District Office.

All interested persons are invited to attend this Hearing. Persons requiring special communication or accommodation needs should contact Jennifer Halstead at HNTB Corporation (972) 628-3167 at least two (2) working days prior to the Public Hearing. Because the Public Hearing will be conducted in English, any request for language interpreters or other special communication needs should also be made at least two (2) working days prior to the Public Hearing. Every reasonable effort to accommodate these needs will be made.

Written and verbal comments from the public regarding the proposed project can be presented at the Public Hearing. Written comments can also be submitted to the following address: HNTB Corporation, Attn: Jennifer Halstead, 5910 W. Plano Parkway, Suite 200, Plano, Texas 75093. Written comments submitted after the Public Hearing must be hand-delivered or postmarked on or before Monday, July 17, 2006, in order to be included in the Public Hearing record.