

TxDOT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CSJ: 0718-01-064

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will conduct a Public Hearing for the proposed improvements to Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 156 from State Highway (SH) 114 to 12th Street in Denton County, Texas. The purpose of the Hearing is to discuss the social, economic, and environmental effects of the proposed roadway improvements within this approximately 4-mile long section of FM 156. The Hearing will be held on Thursday, December 6, 2012 at Gene Pike Middle School located at 2200 Texan Drive, Justin, Texas 76247. 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 Public Hearing will begin with a formal presentation at 7:00 p.m., followed by a public comment period.

The proposed project is needed to adequately address the expected increase in traffic along FM 156 within the city of Justin, Denton County, Texas. The high population growth in the area, the proximity of Texas Motor Speedway (TMS), and the BNSF at-grade railroad crossing on FM 407 all lead to increased congestion on the existing roadways. The TMS Master Plan and the city of Justin Thoroughfare Plan identify the proposed improvement as necessary in order to provide improved road conditions in the area. The proposed project would be a four-lane divided urban roadway with 12-foot wide inside travel lanes, 14-foot wide shared-use (bicycles) outside travel lanes, and a 20-foot to 44-foot wide raised median. Twelve-foot wide right-turn and left-turn bays would be provided at various cross streets. Within downtown Justin, the proposed roadway would shift east from its present location toward the Burlington-Northern-Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad. The roadway would be shifted in order to provide parking spaces and a sidewalk between the existing Justin businesses to the west and the proposed roadway. This parking area would be located between FM 407 and West 5th Street. The proposed ROW width for the proposed project varies with a typical ROW width of 144 feet. Approximately 14 acres of additional ROW would be acquired for the proposed project. The proposed project would displace four commercial structures. Information about the TxDOT Relocation Assistance Program, benefits and services for displacees; as well as information about the tentative schedules for ROW acquisition and construction may be obtained from the TxDOT Dallas District Office. Permanent impacts to jurisdictional waters of the U.S. crossings (five) would total approximately 0.05 acre.

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 proposed project are available for public inspection and duplication at the TxDOT Dallas District Office located at 4777 East Highway 80, Mesquite, Texas 75150 and the TxDOT Denton County Area Office located at 2624 W. Prairie St., Denton, Texas 76201. A tentative ROW acquisition and construction schedule can be obtained at the Dallas District Office.

All interested persons are invited to attend this Hearing. Persons requiring special communication or accommodation needs should contact the TxDOT Dallas District public information officer at (214) 320-6100 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 may be presented at the Public Hearing. Oral and written comments may be presented for a period of 10 days after the hearing. Written comments can be submitted to:

Robert Hall, P.W.S., CFM
TxDOT Dallas District Environmental Coordinator
4777 East Highway 80
Mesquite, Texas 75150

Written comments submitted after the Public Hearing must be hand-delivered or postmarked on or before Monday, December 17, 2012, in order to be included in the Public Hearing record.