

TxDOT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in cooperation with Denton County and the Cities of Lewisville and Carrollton and the Town of Hebron will conduct a Public Hearing for the proposed Farm to Market (FM) Road 544 roadway improvements from FM 2281 to Dozier Road within Denton County. The purpose of the Hearing is to discuss the social, economic, and environmental effects of the proposed roadway improvements within this 3.2 mile section of FM 544. The Hearing will be held on Thursday, March 29, 2007 at Castle Hills Community Center, 2501 Queen Margaret, Lewisville, Texas 75056. 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 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 FM 544. The existing facility (FM 544) is a two-lane undivided rural roadway along the entire length of the project. The proposed project would modify the existing FM 544 to a six-lane (three in each direction) divided urban curb and gutter roadway with raised median and left-turn lanes at various intersections. The proposed project is located within the Cities of Lewisville and Carrollton and in the Town of Hebron in Denton County and would be built primarily on the existing road alignment. The road would be realigned slightly near the intersection with the KCS Railroad.

The typical right-of-way width for the existing roadway is 96 feet. The typical right-of-way width for the proposed project would be 126 feet. This would require the acquisition of approximately 34 acres of additional right-of-way. No residences or businesses would be displaced as a result of the additional right-of-way for the proposed project improvements. Some proposed improvements would occur within the floodplain; however, the proposed improvements would not increase the base flood elevation to a level which would violate applicable floodplain regulations or ordinances.

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 Dallas District Office located at 4777 East Highway 80, Mesquite, Texas 75150 and at the TxDOT Dallas Northwest Area Office located at 12000 Greenville Ave, Dallas, Texas 75243. The drawings are also on file at the Denton County Department of Public Works Engineering, 1505 East McKinney Street, Suite 175, Denton, Texas 76209. Information about the TxDOT services associated with right-of-way acquisition for affected property owners; as well as information about the tentative schedules for right-of-way 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 the TxDOT Dallas District Public Information Office 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. Written comments can also be submitted to the following address:

Freese and Nichols, Inc.
Attn: Spencer Maxwell
4055 International Plaza, Suite 200
Fort Worth, Texas 76109.

Written comments submitted after the Public Hearing must be hand-delivered or postmarked on or before Monday, April 9, 2007, in order to be included in the Public Hearing record.