NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING S.M. Wright Project (US 175, SH 310 and I-45) Proposed Improvements CSJs 0092-01-052, 0092-14-081, 0197-02-108

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) propose to construct improvements to the S.M. Wright Freeway, and will conduct a Public Hearing on **Thursday**, **June 27**, **2013**. The Public Hearing will address the proposed improvements to the S.M. Wright Freeway/US 175, CF Hawn Freeway (US 175), and I-45, near downtown Dallas in Dallas County, Texas.

The Public Hearing will be held at the **Park South YMCA**, **2500 Romine Avenue**, **Dallas**, **TX 75215**. Prior to the Public Hearing, an Open House will be held from **5:00 p.m. to 6:30 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 presentation will begin at **6:30 p.m.** followed by a public comment period.

A Public Hearing for the S.M. Wright project was held on January 31, 2013. At the Public Hearing, citizens expressed concerns regarding the proposed elimination of an exit ramp from I-45 to Pennsylvania Avenue/Martin Luther King Boulevard. Because of these concerns, TxDOT and the project team made revisions to the proposed entrance and exit ramps on I-45 at Lamar Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. The purpose of this Public Meeting is to present the revisions to the design schematic that address these concerns.

Due to the design revisions, approximately 1.5 acre of additional right-of-way (ROW) is required. The additional ROW needed would involve the use of approximately 1 acre of an approximately 28 acre property that has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The FHWA is considering a de minimis Section 4(f) determination for impacts to this property. A Section 4(f) de minimis impact finding means that implementation of this proposed project would have no adverse effect on the property. The FHWA will consider comments received during this Public Hearing before making a final Section 4(f) de minimis determination.

The proposed S.M. Wright Project limits include the following: existing S.M. Wright Freeway/US 175 from I-45 to north of Budd Street, CF Hawn Freeway (US 175) from east of Bexar Street to I-45, and I-45 from south of Lamar Street to S.M. Wright Freeway/US 175. The existing S.M. Wright Freeway segment of US 175 would be reconstructed as a six-lane, low speed urban arterial with at-grade intersections and proposed landscaping enhancements. The CF Hawn Freeway segment of US 175 would be reconstructed and realigned to provide direct connecting (DC) ramps to I-45.

The existing design of US 175 does not meet current urban freeway design standards, nor does it adequately accommodate current traffic demand. The proposed project would satisfy these deficiencies and future travel demand in the area. The purpose of the proposed project is to improve safety, operability,

connections, and mobility; be compatible with local and regional needs and plans; and minimize social, economic, and environmental effects.

Approximately 33 acres of additional ROW would be required for the proposed project, which includes the approximately 1.5 acre needed for the revised ramp design. The ROW widths would vary from approximately 165 to 450 feet on the proposed S.M. Wright Freeway (unchanged from existing), 302 to 500 feet on CF Hawn Freeway/US 175, and 181 to 658 feet on I-45. The proposed project would involve the displacement of six residential and ten commercial structures.

Information concerning the TxDOT Relocation Assistance Program, benefits and services for affected residential and commercial property owners, and information about the tentative schedules for ROW acquisition and construction will be available at the Public Hearing and can also be obtained from the TxDOT Dallas District Office. TxDOT commits to utilizing Workforce Solutions to help minimize or mitigate for adverse impacts to individual employees as a result of the proposed project's implementation.

The proposed project would impact approximately three acres of the Federal Emergency Management Agency 100-year floodplain. No wetlands would be impacted by the proposed project.

The environmental document, maps, and other drawings depicting the project location and proposed improvements will be available at the Public Hearing. This and other public information is also on file and available for public inspection at the City of Dallas City Hall, 1500 Marilla Street, Room 6BS, Dallas, Texas 75201; the TxDOT Dallas District Office, 4777 East Highway 80, Mesquite, Texas 75150; and the Martin Luther King Branch Library, 2922 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Dallas, Texas 75215. This information is also posted on the TxDOT web site, www.keepitmovingdallas.com under Public Hearing. The tentative construction schedule can also be obtained at the TXDOT Dallas District Office.

All interested persons are invited to attend this Public Hearing. Persons interested in attending the Public Hearing who have special communication or accommodation needs are encouraged to contact the TxDOT Dallas District Public Information Officer at (214) 320-6100 at least two (2) work days prior to the Public Hearing. Because the Public Hearing will be conducted in English, requests for language interpreters or other special communication needs should also be made at least two work days prior to the Public Hearing. TxDOT will make every reasonable effort to accommodate these needs.

Verbal and written comments from the public regarding the S.M. Wright Project can be presented at the Public Hearing. Written comments can also be submitted to **Robert Hall, 4777 E. U.S. Highway 80 Mesquite, TX 75150-6643.** Comments may be presented for a period of 10 days after the hearing and must be postmarked by **July 8, 2013** to be included as part of the official public record. For additional information, please contact Robert Hall, TxDOT Dallas District, via phone (214) 320-6157, or e-mail: Robert.Hall@txdot.gov