



Notice
Virtual Public Meeting with
In-Person Option
SH 68 (STATE HIGHWAY 68)
From I-2/US 83 to I-69C/US 281
CSJs: 3629-01-001, -002, -003
Hidalgo County, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing to build a new location highway named State Highway (SH) 68 from I-2/US 83 to I-69C/US 281 in Hidalgo County, Texas. This notice advises the public that TxDOT will be conducting an online virtual public meeting on the proposed project with an in-person option. **The virtual meeting will consist of a pre-recorded video presentation and will include both audio and visual components. The presentation will be posted online by Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.** To log onto the virtual public meeting, go to the following web address at the date and time indicated above: www.txdot.gov, and type "SH 68" into the search box. Project staff will give a presentation consisting of a pre-recorded video with both audio and visual components. Please note that the presentation will not be available on the website until the time and date listed above. If you do not have internet access, you may call Eduardo Saenz, P.E., at (956) 702-6170 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday or Mida Fleegal at (956) 460-9299 between the hours of 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, to ask questions and access project materials during the project development process.

Additionally, TxDOT is providing an in-person option for individuals who would like to participate in person instead of online. In-person attendees will be able to view the same presentation delivered in the online public meeting. Attendees will also be able to review hard copies of project materials, ask questions of TxDOT staff and/or consultants, and leave written comments. **The in-person option will be held on Thursday, February 23, 2023, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the J. Economedes High School cafeteria at 1414 N Alamo Rd, Edinburg, Texas 78542.**

For both the virtual public meeting and in-person option, members of the public may call (956) 457-5654 to provide verbal comments **from 5:30 pm on Wednesday, February 22, 2023 through 11:59 p.m. on Friday, March 10, 2023.** Formal written comments may also be provided by mail or email as explained below. All comments will be considered by TxDOT and included as part of the official record. Responses to comments will be prepared by TxDOT, included as part of the meeting and project record, and made available online at www.txdot.gov keyword search "SH 68" in the search box.

The purpose of the approximately 22-mile SH 68 project is to accommodate population growth and higher traffic volumes, while relieving the limitations of the existing north-south roadways and provide an alternate north-south evacuation route during emergency events such as a hurricane. The new location roadway would be a 4-lane divided rural highway facility with future main lanes and overpasses. The proposed right of way is a usual width of 330 feet and approximately 1,100 acres of new right of way would be acquired.

The proposed project would, subject to final design considerations, require additional right of way and potentially result in 100 displacements. Relocation assistance is available for displaced persons and businesses. Information about the TxDOT Relocation Assistance Program and services and benefits for those displaced and other affected property owners, as well as information about the tentative schedule for right-of-way acquisition and construction, can be obtained from the TxDOT Pharr District office by calling Eduardo Saenz, P.E., at (956) 702-6170 or the SH 68 office by calling Mida Fleegal at (956) 460-9299.

The proposed project would involve an action in a floodplain.

The proposed project is anticipated to impact the Hidalgo County Irrigation District #2 protected under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966. The district is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and elements contributing to the listing include open drainage and irrigation ditches.

Any environmental documentation or studies, any maps and drawings showing the project location and design, tentative construction schedules, and other information regarding the proposed project are on file and available for inspection by appointment only Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. by calling Eduardo Saenz, P.E., at (956) 702-6170 or by visiting the SH 68 office at 4711 S. Alamo Rd., Edinburg, Tx on Tuesday or Wednesday between the hours of 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. Project materials are also available online at www.txdot.gov, keyword search: "SH 68". These materials will also be available in hard copy form for review at the in-person option.

The virtual public meeting and in-person option will be conducted in English and Spanish. If you need an interpreter or document translator because English or Spanish is not your primary language or you have difficulty communicating effectively, one will be provided to you. If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. If you need interpretation or translation services or you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation to attend and participate in the virtual public meeting or in-person option, please contact Norma Robledo at the TxDOT Pharr District at (956) 702-6161 no later than 4 p.m. CT on Friday, February 17, 2023. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and 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 attention of Eduardo Saenz, P.E., at (956) 702-6170 at the TxDOT Pharr District Office, 600 W. I-2, Pharr, Texas 78577. Written comments may also be submitted by email to eduardo.saenz@txdot.gov. **All comments must be received on or before Friday, March 10, 2023.**

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project virtual meeting or in-person option, please contact Eduardo Saenz, P.E., at (956) 702-6170 or eduardo.saenz@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.