

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Farm-to-Market Road 1626
From Farm-to-Market Road 967 to Brodie Lane
Hays and Travis Counties

On Tuesday, December 8, 2009, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will conduct a Public Hearing to discuss plans to improve Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1626 from FM 967 in Hays County to Brodie Lane in Travis County.

The Public Hearing will be held at Elm Grove Elementary School located at 801 FM 1626 in Buda, Texas. The Public Hearing will begin with an open house from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. During this time, displays of the proposed improvements and other project information will be available for review. Project team members will be available during this time to answer questions. At 6:30 p.m., presentations will be given, followed by a public comment period.

Within the proposed project limits, existing FM 1626 has an overall pavement width that varies from 22 to 28 feet which accommodates two 11-foot travel lanes with shoulders that vary in width from 0 to 3 feet. The existing usual right-of-way width varies from 80 to 100 feet. The purpose of the proposed project is to improve the safety and mobility on FM 1626. The need for the proposed project is to address the increasing traffic volume and accident rate on this segment of FM 1626. The proposed project is included in the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) 2030 Transportation Improvement Program (adopted June 6, 2005).

Proposed improvements include widening FM 1626 to an overall pavement width of 82 feet that would consist of four 12-foot travel lanes (two in each direction), a 14-foot continuous left turn lane, and 10-foot shoulders. The proposed usual right-of-way width would be 160 feet.

Although no residential or commercial relocations are anticipated at this time, the acquisition of properties and relocation assistance for displaced residential and business property owners would be conducted in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended. Information about TxDOT's right-of-way acquisition and relocation assistance program will be available at the Public Hearing.

There is no potential habitat for federal and/or state listed endangered or threatened species within the project limits. The proposed project would encroach upon a floodplain but would not encroach upon a wetland or sole-source aquifer recharge zone. Potential impacts to waters of the U.S. would be permitted by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permits for Linear Transportation Crossings. Portions of the proposed project are located over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone and would require a Water Pollution Abatement

Plan approved by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality prior to construction. The proposed project would not require the acquisition of public land designated and used as a park, recreation area, wildlife refuge, historic or cultural site, or scientific area.

The draft environmental document, design schematics, and other information concerning the project are available for review at the TxDOT South Travis Area Office located at 9725 S. IH 35 or at the TxDOT District Office located at 7901 N. IH 35. These will also be available for review at the Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing will be conducted in English. Persons interested in attending the Public Hearing who require auxiliary aids or services, such as interpreters, are requested to contact Dennis Nielsen at (512) 832-7056 at least five business days prior to the Public Hearing so that appropriate arrangements may be made. TxDOT will make every reasonable effort to accommodate communication or accessibility needs.

All interested citizens are encouraged to attend the Public Hearing and provide input on the project. Verbal and written comments may be presented at the Public Hearing. Written comments not submitted at the Public Hearing may also be submitted to: TxDOT Austin District Environmental Coordinator, Texas Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 15426, Austin, Texas 78761-5426. All comments received by Friday, December 18, 2009, will be included in the official Public Hearing record.