



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING International Bridge Trade Corridor



The Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority (HCRMA) will conduct a PUBLIC HEARING on November 30, 2010 to discuss the proposed International Bridge Trade Corridor (IBTC) project in Hidalgo County, Texas. This hearing will allow the public the opportunity to view the project exhibits and provide comments. The hearing details are as follows:

Donna High School Lecture Hall
1/4 Mile East Wood Avenue
Donna, Texas

Open House/Exhibit Viewing Period: 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM
Presentation and Public Hearing: 6:30 PM

HCRMA proposes to construct a controlled access six-lane divided toll facility from US 83 (0.5 miles east of FM 1423) to US 281 (Military Highway) at San Juan Road and FM 493 (1.5 miles north of Military Highway). The total length of the proposed project is approximately 14.7 miles. Approximately 618.2 acres of additional right-of-way would be acquired for the proposed project.

The identified needs of the proposed project are:

- There is a lack of north-south connectivity to US 83 Expressway from the Pharr/Reynosa and Donna/Rio Bravo International Bridges.
- South of US 83 Expressway, freight movement originating from and destined to the border are limited to using local roads, which disrupts communities.
- The existing street network is insufficient to handle projected freight and auto traffic from the Pharr/Reynosa and Donna International Bridges. Reduce the mix of truck/auto traffic on the existing street network.
- The concerns over the mix of truck/auto traffic on the existing street network.
- Forecasted transportation funding is insufficient to finance needed transportation improvements.

Portions of the proposed project lie within the 100-year Flood Zone; however, this project would be designed to permit the conveyance of a 100-year flood and would not increase the base flood elevation to a level that would violate applicable ordinances or regulations. Potential displacements would include 46 single-family residences, 2 commercial properties (Valley Wholesale Nursery and one unknown), 1 vacant commercial warehouse, and aboveground tanks associated with a gas well located outside the ROW (listed as miscellaneous or abandoned buildings). Approximately 0.09 acres of wetlands and 5.38 acres of waters of the U.S. lie within the proposed ROW; however, measures are being taken to minimize impacts to these waters.

As indicated above, an Open House/Exhibit Viewing Period will be held prior to the public hearing from 5:30-6:30 PM during which the Environmental Assessment and maps and exhibits for the proposed project will be available for review. A schematic layout showing the proposed alignment, along with the Environmental Assessment for the proposed project are on file and available for review and copying prior to the hearing at the HCRMA Office at 510 S. Pleasantview Drive, Weslaco, Texas 78596 or at L&G Engineering at 900 S. Stewart Road Suite 9 in Mission, Texas, 78572.

HCRMA Right-of-Way agents will be available to discuss relocation procedures, benefits, programs and other needed information.

All interested citizens are invited to attend this public hearing. Persons who have special communication, access, or accommodation needs should contact Sharon Becca, PBS&J, via phone (512) 342-3332 or e-mail: SGBecca@pbsj.com or Velma Garcia, L&G Engineering, via phone (956) 565-9813 or e-mail: velma@lgengineers.com at least two working days prior to the hearing. The public hearing will be conducted in English, but Spanish interpreters will be available during both the Open House and Public Hearing. Hidalgo County will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate any special needs.

Verbal and written comments relative to the proposed project are requested. Comments may be presented either at the hearing or in writing after the hearing. Written statements and other exhibits may be mailed to Godfrey Garza Jr., Administrative and Managerial Consultant for HCRMA at 510 S. Pleasantview Drive, Weslaco, Texas 78596. Written comments and other exhibits may be presented for a period of 10 days following the public hearing and must be postmarked by December 10, 2010 in order to be included in the public hearing record. Comments may also be submitted via email at fkoll@hcrma.org.

A Public Hearing Summary Report will be available for public viewing at HCRMA Office at 510 S. Pleasantview Drive, Weslaco, Texas 78596.

For additional information please contact Sharon Becca, PBS&J, via phone (512) 342-3332, fax (512) 327-2453, or e-mail: SGBecca@pbsj.com or Velma Garcia, L&G Engineering, via phone (956) 565-9813 or e-mail: velma@lgengineers.com.