DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Smith County, Texas

AGENCY: Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Federal notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

SUMMARY: The FHWA, on behalf of TxDOT, is issuing this notice to advise the public that an EIS will be prepared for a proposed transportation project to construct Toll 49, Segment 6 located partially within and just east of the City of Tyler in Smith County, Texas. The project is sponsored by the North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott Ford, Project Delivery Manager, Environmental Affairs Division, Texas Department of Transportation, 125 E 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701–2483, telephone (512) 416–2687, email: scott.ford@txdot.gov. TxDOT’s normal business hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. (central time), Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 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.

Toll 49, Segment 6 will be an extension of Toll 49 from the Toll 49, Segment 5 eastern terminus at State Highway (SH) 110 to United States (US) 271. There is no existing facility; therefore, the project is proposed on a new location. The proposed roadway will consist of an interim two-lane facility (one lane in each direction) with an intermittent single passing lane that alternates direction along the length of the corridor (Super 2) and an ultimate four-lane divided highway.

The EIS will evaluate a range of build alternatives and a no-build alternative. Possible build alternatives include three route options identified in the Toll 49, Segment 6 Feasibility Study completed in November 2019. The three route options begin at the Toll 49, Segment 5 terminus at SH 110, end at different locations on US 271, and range from 10 to 13 miles long. TxDOT will issue a single Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision document pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 139(n)(2), unless TxDOT determines statutory criteria or practicability considerations preclude issuance of a combined document.

In accordance with 23 U.S.C. 139, cooperating agencies, participating agencies, and the public will be given an opportunity for continued input on project development. A public scoping meeting is planned for Spring 2020 at a location to be determined. An agency scoping meeting will also be held with participating and cooperating agencies. The agency and public scoping meetings will provide an opportunity for the participating/cooperating agencies and public to review and comment on the draft coordination plan and schedule, the project purpose and need, the range of alternatives, and methodologies and level of detail for analyzing alternatives. In addition to the agency and public scoping meetings, a public hearing will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the meetings and hearing.

Issued on: March 12, 2020.

Michael T. Leary,
Director, Planning and Program Development,
Federal Highway Administration.

Note: There is a privacy statement published on http://www.Regulations.gov. Comments, including any personal information provided, are posted without changes or edits to http://www.Regulations.gov.

Confidential Business Information: Confidential Business Information (CBI) is commercial or financial information that is both customarily and actually treated as private by its owner. Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552), CBI is exempt from public disclosure. If your comments responsive to this notice contain commercial or financial information that is customarily treated as private, that you actually treat as private, and that is relevant or responsive to this notice, it is important that you clearly designate the submitted comments as CBI. Pursuant to 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §190.343, you may in the Federal pipeline safety regulations. At the conclusion of the 30-day comment period, PHMSA will review the comments received from this notice as part of its evaluation to grant or deny the special permit renewal request.

DATES: Submit any comments regarding this special permit request by April 27, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Comments should reference the docket number for this special permit request and may be submitted in the following ways:

- E-Gov Website: http://www.Regulations.gov. This site allows the public to enter comments on any Federal Register notice issued by any agency.
- Hand Delivery: Docket Management System: U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Instructions: You should identify the docket number for the special permit request you are commenting on at the beginning of your comments. If you submit your comments by mail, please submit two (2) copies. To receive confirmation that PHMSA has received your comments, please include a self-addressed stamped postcard. Internet users may submit comments at http://www.Regulations.gov.