The Fort Bend County Engineering Department, in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), is proposing improvements to Farm-to-Market (FM) 521 from to State Highway (SH) 6 to County Road (CR) 56 in Fort Bend County, Texas.

This notice advises the public that the project team will be conducting an online virtual public meeting on the proposed project with an in-person option. **The virtual public meeting will be available starting on Tuesday, September 27, 2022, at 4 p.m.** To log onto the virtual public meeting, go to the following web address after the date and time indicated above: https://www.fortbendcountytx.gov, keyword search “FM 521” in the search box.

The virtual public meeting will consist of a pre-recorded video presentation and will include 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 Mr. Kevin Mineo, Senior Project Engineer, Binkley & Barfield, Inc. (project design consultant), Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 713-869-3433 to ask questions and access project materials during the project development process. Formal comments may be provided by mail or email as explained below.

Additionally, Fort Bend County and TxDOT are providing an in-person option for individuals who would like to participate in person. In-person attendees will be able to view the same pre-recorded presentation delivered in the online public meeting, review hard copies of project materials, ask questions, and submit written comments. **The in-person option will be held on Thursday, September 29, 2022 from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Heritage Rose Elementary School Cafeteria, 636 Glendale Lakes Drive, Rosharon, Texas 77583.**

The proposed project would reconstruct and widen existing FM 521 from a two-lane, undivided roadway to a four-lane roadway with two 12-foot-wide travel lanes in each direction, a 16-foot-wide noncontinuous raised grassy median, and a 10-foot-wide side path along the east side of FM 521. Left and right turn lanes and median openings would be provided at designated locations. During the virtual public meeting held in June 2021, alternatives were presented for the railroad crossing. Based on public response, the preferred alternative chosen is a four-lane bridge that would replace the existing at-grade crossing. The bridge would have two 12-foot-wide travel lanes in each direction and be divided by a 16-foot-wide raised concrete median. A 14-foot-wide side path would be located on the bridge structure, and it would be separated from the traffic lanes by a concrete traffic rail. This alternative includes an at-grade access road and a cul-de-sac under the bridge, in order to maintain access to the businesses and property owners on the east side of FM 521. Five new traffic signals are also proposed at Masterson St, Glendale Lakes Drive, Sienna Point/Caldwell Ranch, Southern Colony Road, and Juliff-Manvel Road, and two existing traffic signals would be replaced at Fenn Road and Sienna Parkway.

The proposed project would subject to final design considerations, require additional right of way and potentially displace one non-residential structure. Relocation assistance is available for displaced persons and businesses. Information concerning services and benefits available to affected property owners and information about the tentative schedule for right-of-way acquisition and construction may be obtained from the Fort Bend County website at www.fortbendcountytx.gov or from Mr. Kevin Mineo by calling 713-869-3433.

The proposed project would involve construction in wetlands.

The proposed project would involve an action in a floodplain.

Any environmental documentation or studies, 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 review Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the Fort Bend County Engineering Office, 301 Jackson Street, Richmond, Texas 77469. Project materials are also available online at https://www.fortbendcountytx.gov, keyword search “FM 521”

The public meeting 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 in English or Spanish, 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 public meeting, please contact Mr. Kevin Mineo, Senior Project Engineer, Binkley & Barfield, Inc., at 713-869-3433 or by email at FBCProject-FM521South@binkleybarfield.com no later than 4 p.m., Friday, September 23, 2022. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for the project team to arrange.

Written comments may also be submitted by email to FBCProject-FM521South@binkleybarfield.com or online at https://www.fortbendcountytx.gov, keyword “FM 521”. Please reference CSJ 0111-03-064 on all comments. All comments must be received or postmarked on or before Friday, October 14, 2022, to be included in the public meeting summary report. Responses to comments received will be available online at https://www.fortbendcountytx.gov, keyword “FM 521” approximately three months after the close of the comment period.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or the virtual meeting, please contact the Project Manager, Mr. Kevin Mineo, Senior Project Engineer, Binkley & Barfield, Inc., at 713-869-3433.

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.