



NORTH HOUSTON HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

OCTOBER 9 & 11, 2012

WHERE TO GO?

- Sign-In
- Pick-Up Handouts
- View Video
- View Exhibits
- Ask Questions
- Share your Thoughts
- Leave your Comments

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Welcome to the Meeting!

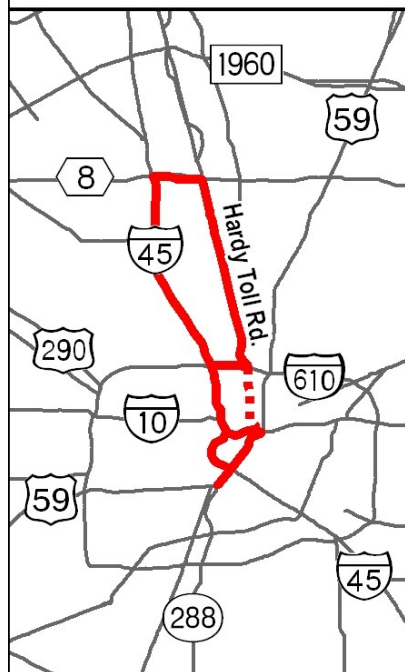
Welcome to the 2nd Public Scoping Meeting for the North Houston Highway Improvement Project, located in Harris County, Texas.

This evening's meeting is an integral part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process and the Preliminary Engineering phase of this project.

We greatly appreciate your participation.

This handout will detail the many ways you may be involved throughout this project.

PROJECT LOCATION



PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Tuesday**
October 9, 2012
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
OPEN HOUSE
Jefferson Davis High School
1101 Quitman Street
Houston, Texas 77009
- Thursday**
October 11, 2012
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
OPEN HOUSE
Aldine Ninth Grade School
10650 North Freeway
Houston, Texas 77037

Purpose of the Public Scoping Meeting

- * Present and gather your input on the Alternatives Evaluation Screening Process, the Universe of Alternatives and the Six Preliminary Alternatives
- * Present two updated documents: Need and Purpose Statement and Agency Coordination and Public Involvement Plan
- * Discuss the project with you and answer questions
- * Present the project timeline, history and background
- * Encourage your continued involvement



DON'T FORGET!

We want your input on the:

- 1. Alternative Evaluation Screening Process**
- 2. Preliminary Alternatives**

INFORMATION

ABOVE IS AVAILABLE AT THIS MEETING

AND ON THE PROJECT WEBSITE

All information presented at tonight's meeting may be viewed on the project website.

Project Description

The proposed project and study limits begin at the interchange of US 59 and SH 288 south of downtown Houston and follow northward along IH 45 to the interchange of IH 45 and Beltway 8 North, a distance of approximately 16 miles. The proposed project area also includes portions of IH 10, IH 610, and US 59 near downtown Houston; and the Hardy Toll Road corridor from downtown to Beltway 8 North.

Projected increases in population and employment in the Houston metropolitan area will contribute to additional traffic congestion on IH 45, which is currently classified as serious to severe. The proposed project is needed to address the congestion and to accommodate existing and anticipated future traffic. Additionally, the project is needed to bring the roadway up to current design standards, which would improve safety and provide for more efficient movement of people and goods. Improved efficiency is also needed to aid in evacuation events. The purpose of the proposed North Houston Highway Improvement Project is to create additional roadway capacity to manage congestion, enhance safety, and to improve mobility and operational efficiency. The costs and sources of funding for future project implementation have not been determined.

A reasonable range of alternatives will be considered to satisfy the identified need for and purpose of the project. The alternatives will include the no-build alternative as well as managed lane/tolling alternatives. The proposed project will be developed in compliance with Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Alternatives Evaluation Process

INITIAL SCREENING PROCESS

- ⇒ An Initial Screening Process has been used to narrow the Universe of Alternatives down to the six Preliminary Alternatives presented at this evening's meeting. (See Page 3 of this handout for the Initial Screening Matrix)
- ⇒ The Universe of Alternatives is a combination of ideas from the project team, the public, and participating and cooperating agencies.
- ⇒ The evaluation criteria for the Initial Screening Process was developed using the need and purpose statement, the project goals, and the feedback received from the agencies and public at the 1st Scoping Meeting.

SECONDARY SCREENING PROCESS

- ⇒ A Secondary Screening Process will be used to narrow the six Preliminary Alternatives for each of the three segments (a total of 18), down to the three Reasonable Alternatives for each of the three segments (a total of 9). The Reasonable Alternatives will be presented at the next round of Public Meetings.
- ⇒ The next step is to complete another screening matrix for the three Reasonable Alternatives for each of the three segments, showing the details of this evaluation. This information will then be made available for your review and comment at another public meeting and on the project website.
- ⇒ See Page 4 of this handout for the Secondary Screening Matrix evaluation criteria. The evaluation criteria for the Secondary Screening Process is developed to evaluate the alternatives more thoroughly than the Initial Screening Process.

How to Submit Comments by Friday, October 26, 2012

There are several convenient ways to submit your comments about the project:

- **Use the comment box at this meeting to submit comments**

- **Mail comments to:**

Director of Project Development
Texas Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 1386
Houston, TX 77251

- **Email comments to:**
HOU-piowebmail@txdot.gov

- **Go to the project website:**
www.IH45northandmore.com and click on the "Comments/Contact Us" tab.

Your input is important to us.
Please submit your comments!



Project website: www.IH45northandmore.com

INITIAL SCREENING MATRIX

<i>DRAFT</i>			EVALUATION CRITERIA							
			Initial Screening of Universe of Alternatives							
			Meets Need and Purpose and Project Goals (Yes/No)	Engineering		Traffic	Environmental			
				Meets Current Design Criteria (Yes/No)	Additional ROW - Cavalcade to Quitman (Yes/No)	Traffic/Mobility Improvements* (High/Medium/Low)	Land Use and Cultural Resources within the Right-of-Way			
SEGMENT #	Alternative Type	Description					Community Parks (Yes/No)	Cemeteries (Yes/No)	National Register of Historic Places (Yes/No)	Recorded Archeological Sites (Yes/No)
Alternative #										
Alternative #										
Alternative #										
Alternative #	<i>SEE EXHIBITS FOR COMPLETED MATRIX</i>									
Alternative #										
Alternative #										
Alternative #										
Alternative #										

*Traffic/Mobility Improvements is a rating determined using outputs from the travel demand models. The model provides information on how many drivers will use the highway if improved, how this compares among various alternative improvements, and how many hours drivers can expect to save traveling on the highway if improved, also known as Vehicle-Hours Traveled (VHT).

SECONDARY SCREENING MATRIX

EVALUATION CRITERIA

DRAFT

Secondary Screening Process of Preliminary Alternatives

Segment 1 Preliminary Alternative	Alternative Type	Description	Engineering		Traffic	Environmental											HazMat																					
			Meets Need and Purpose and Project Goals (Yes/No)	Signature Project Potential (Yes/No)	Meets Current Design Criteria (Yes/No)	Additional ROW - Cavalcade to Quitman (Yes/No)	Traffic/Mobility Improvements* (High/Medium/Low)	Land Use			Cultural Resources			Natural Resources				Air	Noise	Socioeconomics																		
								Community Parks (Yes/No)	Cemeteries (Yes/No)	Commercial (acres)	Residential (acres)	Industrial (acres)	Public (acres)	Total Additional ROW (acres)	National Register of Historic Places (Yes/No)	Recorded Archeological Sites (Yes/No)		Archeological High Probability Areas (acres)	Historic Sites Potentially Eligible for National Register (Yes/No)	Flooding	Wildlife	Wetlands	Streams	Number of Sensitive Receptors (number)	Noise-Sensitive Receivers (number)	Residential Displacements (number)	Commercial Displacements (number)	Residences Adjacent to Roadway (Yes/No)	Businesses Adjacent to Roadway (Yes/No)	Churches (number)	Schools (number)	Visual Impacts (Yes/No)	Changes in Community Cohesion (Yes/No)	Environmental Justice Issues (Yes/No)	Superfund Sites (number)			
Alt. 1																																						
Alt. 3																																						
Alt. 4																																						
Alt. 5																																						
Alt. 6																																						
Alt. 7																																						
Alt. 8																																						

MATRIX TO BE COMPLETED DURING THE NEXT STEP OF THE EIS PROCESS

*Traffic/Mobility Improvements is a rating determined using outputs from the travel demand models. The model provides information on how many drivers will use the highway if improved, how this compares among various alternative improvements, and how many hours drivers can expect to save traveling on the highway if improved, also known as Vehicle-Hours Traveled (VHT).

Following this evening’s meeting, the six Preliminary Alternatives for each of the three segments (18 total) will be narrowed down to three Reasonable Alternatives for each of the three segments (9 total) using the evaluation criteria in the matrix shown here.

This is the next step in the Alternatives Evaluation Process and is provided so you can review and comment on the evaluation criteria; therefore, it is not completed.

Please review this information, ask questions, and provide your comments on both the Initial Screening Matrix (Page 3) and the Secondary Screening Matrix above.

NORTH HOUSTON HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

SECOND PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING COMMENT FORM October 9 & 11, 2012

Thank you for attending this evening's second public scoping meeting. If you would like to provide written comments on the project you may use this form (feel free to include additional sheets of paper if necessary). Please submit this information in the comment box at this evening's meeting, or mail it to: Director of Project Development, Texas Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, TX 77251. You may also email comments to: HOU-piowebmail@txdot.gov, or go to the project website: www.IH45northandmore.com and click on "Comments/Contact Us" tab. **For your comments to be included as part of the official record for this meeting, please email by Friday, October 26, 2012, or if mailing, have postmarked by this date.**

Overall, do you support or oppose the idea to improve highway transportation in the North Houston area?

Support _____ Oppose _____ No Opinion _____

Please explain in the space provided below:

Per Texas Transportation Code, §201.811(a)(5): check each of the following boxes that apply to you:
 I am employed by TxDOT
 I do business with TxDOT
 I could benefit monetarily from the project or other item about which I am commenting

OPTIONAL INFORMATION:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email address: _____

NORTH HOUSTON HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

SECOND PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING SURVEY FORM October 9 & 11, 2012

Check the appropriate answer:

1. How closely have you followed news about plans for the North Houston highway improvements?
Very closely ___ Somewhat closely ___ Not very closely ___ Not at all ___

Check all that apply:

2. What is the best way to share information with your community about the North Houston Highway Improvement Project?

TV ___ Newspaper ___ Radio ___ Internet/Website ___ Library ___ Email ___
Postal Mail ___ Church/Neighborhood Association ___ Other _____

3. Suggestions to improve public outreach:

Per Texas Transportation Code, §201.811(a)(5): check each of the following boxes that apply to you:

- I am employed by TxDOT
- I do business with TxDOT
- I could benefit monetarily from the project or other item about which I am commenting

OPTIONAL INFORMATION:

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email address: _____