

PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY REPORT
September 24, 2013 and September 26, 2013

**LOOP 9 SOUTHEAST
CORRIDOR/FEASIBILITY STUDY**

**DALLAS, ELLIS AND KAUFMAN
COUNTIES, TEXAS**

CSJ: 2964-10-002

**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

JANUARY 2014

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1. PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

FOR: Loop 9 Southeast Corridor/Feasibility Study

LIMITS: From US 67 to I-20

COUNTY: Dallas, Ellis and Kaufman

Proposed Improvements

To address the local and regional transportation concerns, a new approach has been identified for the Loop 9 Southeast project that replaces the wide, high-speed toll facility previously planned. In September 2012, a Loop 9 Corridor/Feasibility Study began for the revised Loop 9 project concept from US 67 to I-20. The Corridor/Feasibility Study incorporates more flexible design standards, a reduced right-of-way (350 feet vs. 600 feet), lower design speed (70 mph vs. 85 mph), shorter project length, and phased project development and construction. The proposed Loop 9 project minimizes the overall impacts when compared to past studies.

Need and Purpose

Traveling through the Dallas, Ellis, and Kaufman County study area can be a challenge. I-20, the closest east-west highway, lies miles to the north. There are gaps in the arterial street network that force east-west traffic to take circuitous routes that use I-20 or US 287. In addition, arterial roadways are growing more congested as the area adds residential, commercial, and industrial development. Loop 9 would provide important east-west connectivity, reduce travel times, and support economic development opportunities in the study area.

Notices and Articles

Notices were published in the following newspapers:

- *The Dallas Morning News* on September 1, 2013 and September 14, 2013.
- *Al Día* on September 1, 2013 and September 15, 2013.
- *The Focus Daily News* on September 1, 2013 and September 13, 2013.
- *The Suburbia News* on September 5, 2013 and September 12, 2013.
- *The Ellis County Press* on September 5, 2013 and September 12, 2013.

Full versions of the newspaper advertisements of the Loop 9 Public Meeting notices will be available to view at the TxDOT Dallas District Office located at 4777 E. Highway 80, Mesquite, Texas 75150.

Public Meeting Dates and Places

The first Public Meeting was held at Lancaster Elementary School, 1109 West Main Street, Lancaster, Texas 75146 on September 24, 2013, inside the school cafeteria. The second Public Meeting was held at Red Oak Intermediate School, 401 E. Ovilla Road, Glenn Heights, Texas 75154 on September 26, 2013, inside the school cafeteria. See **Section 2** for representative photographs of the Public Meeting facilities. The meetings were presented in an Open House format held from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., a formal presentation held from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and another Open House held from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. During the Open House sessions, there were explanatory exhibits and aerial maps of the proposed corridors. TxDOT staff and the project consultant team were available to answer questions. The maps, exhibits, and presentation, as well as other September Public Meeting materials (comment forms, fact sheet, etc.) are available to view at www.loop9.org. The formal presentation consisted of a PowerPoint

slide show and project discussion conducted by Mr. Bruce Nolley, P.E., TxDOT Loop 9 Project Manager and Mr. Brian Clark, P.E., Atkins Loop 9 Project Manager.

Attendance

The total registered attendance at the September 24, 2013, Public Meeting was 150 people. A total of eight TxDOT project staff, two representatives of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), two representatives of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and 17 project consultants also attended. The total registered attendance at the September 26, 2013, Public Meeting was 183 people. A total of 10 TxDOT project staff, two representatives of NCTCOG, and 16 project consultants also attended. Sign-in sheets can be viewed at the TxDOT Dallas District Office.

Exhibits

Plans illustrating the proposed corridor alignments with typical sections were displayed for public viewing and comments. Environmental constraints maps were on display as well as project-specific informational boards relating to the current Corridor/Feasibility Study and the future steps in the study. Copies of the TxDOT State Purchase of Right-of-Way booklet were made available. A link to this booklet is available under the Public Involvement section of the www.loop9.org website.

Summary of Comments

Fourteen comment forms and two letters were submitted during the first Public Meeting and 10 comment forms were submitted during the second Public Meeting. Following the Public Meetings, five comment forms and three e-mails were submitted during the comment period, which ended on October 7, 2013. A total of 29 comment forms, two letters, and three e-mails were received at the public meetings and during the 10-day comment period. Copies of the written comments (comments forms, letters, and e-mails) can be viewed at the TxDOT Dallas District Office.

Many of the people that submitted comments referenced numerous issues, concerns, or ideas via a single comment form, letter, or e-mail. In order to provide a summary of all the comments, the table below identifies the main issues presented by concerned parties, the number of people who voiced the concern, and a response to the general comment. Copies of the individual written comments (comments forms, letters, and e-mails) can be viewed at the TxDOT Dallas District Office.

Main Issues Commented On	Number of Persons Referencing Issue in their Comment*	Response
Concerned about Protecting Natural Resources	2	During the initial identification of alternative alignments, known ecological resources were identified as "no-go" areas for the proposed Loop 9 corridor. As the project moves forward into the environmental document phase and additional information is gathered, impacts to these resources will be assessed and avoided and/or mitigated, as necessary.

Main Issues Commented On	Number of Persons Referencing Issue in their Comment*	Response
Frustrated with the Lengthiness of the Study	2	Due to the magnitude of the proposed project, the funding needs, and the numerous entities involved, moving the proposed project forward is a large endeavor to which TxDOT and NCTCOG are committed. TxDOT understands the frustrations of area residents and will strive to keep the public informed at each step of the process. The Program of Projects which will be identified at the end of this study would allow the project to move forward.
Potential Noise Impacts to Residents	3	During the development of the environmental document for each section of Loop 9, a noise analysis will be conducted and if it is determined that a noise barrier is reasonable and feasible, a meeting will be held with adjacent property owners to discuss the barrier.
Supports Specific Alignment	8	TxDOT appreciates your feedback related to the specific corridors and will analyze all comments provided before a determination on the final corridor is made. The final determination of the project alignment will be made during a future environmental study.
Widen Existing Roadways in the Area	2	Currently there is approximately \$100 million in funding set aside specifically for the Loop 9 project. Other improvements in the area are ongoing and each have a separate set of funding available for those projects. Because the Loop 9 roadway would require a wider right-of-way than most existing roadways in the area, following these roadways could displace a larger number of homes and businesses. By placing Loop 9 primarily in undeveloped parcels, TxDOT can reduce the impacts to area residents and businesses.
Access Concerns	3	Existing local access will be maintained with the proposed project and access to cross streets would be determined based on TxDOT design guidelines.
Believes Project is Politically Motivated	1	While local cities and counties have been involved in the planning stages of the proposed project, the need for the project stems from increasing populations, congested roadways, and the lack of sufficient east-west corridors in southern Dallas and northern Ellis Counties. The proposed Loop 9 project is included in <i>Mobility 2035: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas – 2013 Update</i> .
Requests Shift to Proposed Alternatives	4	TxDOT appreciates your feedback related to the proposed corridors and will analyze all comments provided before a determination on the final corridor is made.
Concerns Regarding Changes in Existing Thoroughfare Designations After Loop 9 Implementation	1	TxDOT and NCTCOG will be committed to resolving thoroughfare designation issues on a case by case basis.
Concern Regarding Impacts to Home, Property, Neighborhood, Subdivision, and Potential Relocation	8	All right-of-way acquisitions would be performed according to the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended. When acquiring right-of-way, TxDOT compensation is determined based on an independent appraiser and fair market value. Relocation assistance could also be provided. Discussions with property owners concerning the acquisition of their property will not occur until after the environmental document and preliminary schematic are approved and the right-of-way maps have been prepared.

Main Issues Commented On	Number of Persons Referencing Issue in their Comment*	Response
Concern About Involvement of Foreign Entities	1	No foreign entities are involved with the proposed Loop 9 project. If it is determined at a later date that Loop 9 could be constructed as a toll road, the North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) would have the first right of refusal to manage and maintain the roadway. The roadway would be under public ownership.
*Note: In many cases, a person referenced multiple issues, concerns, or ideas via a single comment form, letter, or e-mail. Therefore, the values presented in this column do not equate to the total number of comments that were received at the public meetings and during the 10-day comment period.		

2. PUBLIC MEETING PHOTOS

Loop 9 Corridor/Feasibility Study Public Meeting Photographs



Loop 9 Corridor/Feasibility Study Public Meeting Photographs

