



NORTH HOUSTON HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

PUBLIC HEARING

MAY 9 & 11, 2017

Welcome to the Hearing!

WHERE TO GO?

- Sign-In
- Register to Speak
- Pick-Up Handouts
- View Exhibits
- Attend Formal Hearing
- Provide Your Comments

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Welcome to the Public Hearing for the North Houston Highway Improvement Project, located in Harris County, Texas.

This evening's hearing 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 details the many ways you may be involved throughout this project.

PUBLIC HEARING LOCATIONS

Tuesday, May 9, 2017
 5:30 p.m. - Open House
 6:30 p.m. - Public Hearing
 St. Pius X High School
 811 W. Donovan Street
 Houston, Texas 77091

Thursday, May 11, 2017
 5:30 p.m. - Open House
 6:30 p.m. - Public Hearing
 Houston Community College
 Central Campus
 San Jacinto Building
 1300 Holman Street
 Houston, Texas 77004

Purpose of the Public Hearing

- Present the Proposed Recommended Alternative
- Present an overview of the Draft EIS
- Solicit your comments on the Proposed Improvements and the Draft EIS
- Encourage your continued involvement

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 16, 2014, executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

Project website: www.IH45northandmore.com

Comment Procedure

The Public Hearing provides an opportunity to make verbal and written comments. Both verbal and written comments will be considered equally. If comments are submitted in writing, it is not necessary to repeat the same comments verbally.

- To make a verbal comment during the hearing, submit a speaker registration card at the speaker registration table. Verbal comments will be limited to three (3) minutes. Please limit comments to issues relevant to the proposed project.
- Verbal comments may also be made to the Court Reporter in the open house area of this hearing.
- To submit written comments, you may use the Comment Form provided at this hearing, or you can mail or email comments as described below.

<p>ALL INFORMATION PRESENTED AT TONIGHT'S MEETING MAY ALSO BE VIEWED ON THE PROJECT WEBSITE</p>	<p><i>DON'T FORGET!</i> We want your input on the: 1. Proposed Recommended Alternative 2. Draft Environmental Impact Statement 3. Issues Related to the Proposed Project</p>	<p>VISIT WITH THE PROJECT TEAM IN THE OPEN HOUSE AREA PROVIDE VERBAL OR WRITTEN COMMENTS</p>
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Submit Comments by Tuesday, June 27, 2017

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

- Submit written comments in the comment boxes at this public hearing.
- Mail comments to:
 Director of Project Development
 Texas Department of Transportation
 P.O. Box 1386
 Houston, TX 77251-1386
- 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 Description

The proposed project includes the addition of four managed express (MaX) lanes (including high-occupancy vehicle [HOV] and toll lanes) on Interstate Highway 45 (I-45) from Beltway 8 North to Downtown Houston, including reconstruction of mainlanes and frontage roads, and the rerouting of I-45 in the Downtown area to be parallel with I-10 on the north side of Downtown and parallel with U.S. Highway (US) 59/I-69 on the east side of Downtown. The existing elevated I-45 roadway along the west and south sides of Downtown would be removed. Access to the west side of Downtown would be provided via “Downtown Connectors” that would allow access to and from various Downtown streets. Both I-10 and US 59/I-69 within the proposed project area would be realigned to eliminate the current roadway curvature, and four I-10 express lanes would be added between I-45 and US 59/I-69.

Projected increases in population and employment in the Houston metropolitan area will contribute to additional traffic congestion on I-45, which would be classified as serious to severe if no improvements are implemented. 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 project will be paid for with a mix of state and federal funds.

At tonight’s hearing, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is presenting information about the Proposed Recommended Alternative and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Identical information is being presented at both Public Hearing locations. The same information may also be viewed on the project website.





Proposed Recommended Alternative

SEGMENT 1: BELTWAY 8 TO I-610

New Roadway Capacity:

- Add four (4) managed express (MaX) lanes
- Add one (1) frontage road lane in each direction
- Add full-width shoulders
- Add bike/pedestrian features along frontage roads
- Approximately 212 acres of new right-of-way
- New right-of-way to be acquired primarily on the west side of I-45

SEGMENT 2: I-610 TO I-10

New Roadway Capacity:

- Add four (4) managed express (MaX) lanes
- Add full-width shoulders
- Add bike/pedestrian features along frontage roads
- I-45 and I-610 frontage roads would be continuous through the I-45/I-610 interchange
- Approximately 19 acres of new right-of-way
- Between Cottage Street and Norma Street, mainlanes and MaX lanes would be depressed, frontage roads would be at grade
- Opportunity for structural cap/open space over depressed section (to be funded and built by parties other than TxDOT)

SEGMENT 3: DOWNTOWN LOOP SYSTEM

- Reroute I-45 to be parallel with I-10 and US 59/I-69
- Realign I-10 and US 59/I-69 to eliminate current roadway curvature
- Depress US 59/I-69 from Spur 527 to Downtown
- Add I-10 express lanes from I-45 to US 59/I-69
- Remove existing I-45 Pierce Elevated
- Add Downtown Connectors to access Downtown streets
- Approximately 160 acres of new right-of-way
- Opportunity for structural cap/open space over depressed section (to be funded and built by parties other than TxDOT)



Project website: www.IH45northandmore.com