

SECTION 1

SUMMARY & PHOTOGRAPHS

North Houston Highway Improvement Project Environmental Impact Statement AGENCY AND PUBLIC MEETING 3 SUMMARY

A third series of meetings were held to receive comments regarding the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the North Houston Highway Improvement Project, which includes the Interstate Highway 45 corridor from near downtown Houston to North Sam Houston Tollway, also known as Beltway 8; the Hardy Toll Road corridor from Interstate Highway 610 (the North Loop) to the North Sam Houston Tollway; and US Highway 59 and Interstate Highway 10 near downtown Houston. As detailed below, two agency meetings and two public meetings were held.

Agency Meetings

Two agency meetings were held at the TxDOT Houston District office, 7600 Washington Avenue, Houston, Texas 77007, on the dates and at the times listed below:

1. Participating agencies - Wednesday, November 13, 2013; 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
2. Cooperating agencies - Thursday, November 14, 2013; 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Thirteen invitations were mailed to participating agencies on November 1, 2013, and six to cooperating agencies on October 11, 2013.

There were 14 individuals representing seven agencies (Greater Northside Management District, Houston-Galveston Area Council, City of Houston, Harris County Public Infrastructure Department, Houston Downtown Management District, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Federal Highway Administration) in attendance at the meeting for the participating agencies.

Four individuals from two agencies (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County) were in attendance at the meeting for the cooperating agencies.

Meeting attendees were provided an informational handout, survey form, and comment form. Reference materials were also available, including the exhibits from the first and second public meetings, the North-Hardy Planning Studies, Alternatives Analysis Report (Highway Component), a summary from the first and second public meeting, a glossary of common terms, the Need and Purpose Statement, and the Agency Coordination and Public Involvement Plan. An open discussion followed the public meeting presentation. No written comments were submitted at the meeting.

Public Meetings

Introduction

The identical public meetings were held in two locations in the project area, on two different days, to provide two opportunities for interested citizens to attend. Both meetings were held from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, on the dates and at the locations listed below.

1. Thursday, November 14, 2013 at Aldine Ninth Grade School, 10650 North Freeway, Houston, Texas 77037

2. Tuesday, November 19, 2013 at Jefferson Davis High School, 1101 Quitman Street, Houston, Texas 77009

Public Notice

Public meeting notices were published twice in the Houston Chronicle, La Voz and Houston Defender. A total of 5,000 postcards were mailed on October 21, 2013 to elected officials, government agencies, local organizations, civic groups, businesses, landowners, and interested citizens. Copies of the newspaper advertisements, postcard, and mailing list are included in the "Notification" section of this document.

Registration & Attendance

Participants signed in at the registration table located at the front entrance and were given an informational handout, survey form, comment form, and a summary of the universe of alternatives. A total of 257 individuals attended the southern Jefferson Davis High School meeting and 65 individuals attended the northern Aldine Ninth Grade School meeting. Copies of sign-in sheets are included in the "Registration" section of this document.

Presentation

A PowerPoint presentation with recorded audio was replayed every 13 minutes to accommodate the schedules of individuals arriving at different times between the hours of 5:30p.m. and 7:30p.m. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is included in the "Presentation" section of this document.

Open House Area

The open house area was arranged with a variety of presentation boards and maps displayed around the room. The format of the exhibit area was informal and interactive with members of the project team available to discuss the exhibits and answer questions. Exhibit boards were displayed on easels pertaining to the purpose of the meeting, project team, history, environmental process, and need for improvements, aerial maps, and the universe of alternatives. Reference documents were available including the North Hardy Highway component study, a summary from the first and second public scoping meetings, the draft Need and Purpose Statement, a glossary of common terms, the Agency Coordination and Public Involvement Plan, and the CEQ's Citizen's Guide to NEPA. Tables were set up for participants to complete their survey and comment forms. Copies of the exhibits are located in the "Exhibit Board" section of this document. Personnel from the TxDOT Right of Way Division were present to answer questions about land acquisition and the relocation assistance process. Copies of a booklet titled "Relocation Assistance" written by the TxDOT Right of Way Division were also available for the public to take with them. A copy of this booklet is included in "Handouts" section of this document.



NHHIP Public Meeting 3 Photographs
Aldine Ninth Grade School, November 14, 2013





NHHIP Public Meeting 3 Photographs
Jefferson Davis High School, November 19, 2013

