WELCOME TO THE MEETING!

Please Sign In

Pick Up Handouts

View Presentation

View Exhibits

Ask Questions

Share Your Thoughts

Leave Your Comments

BIENVENIDOS A LA REUNIÓN

Favor De Registrarse

Recoger Folletos

Ver Presentación

Ver Exhibiciones

Hacer Preguntas

Compartir Opiniones

Dejar Sus Comentarios

NORTH HOUSTON HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Thank You For Your Support

Written Comments Accepted Until May 14, 2015

- Leave in Drop Box Tonight or
- Mail to: Director of Project Development
  Texas Department of Transportation
  P.O. Box 1386
  Houston, TX 77251-1386
- Email: HOU-PIOWebMail@TxDOT.gov

Texas Department of Transportation

PROYECTO DE MEJORAS PROPUESTAS AL SISTEMA DE CARRETERAS AL NORTE DE HOUSTON

Gracias Por Su Apoyo

Comentarios Por Escrito Seran Aceptados Hasta El Jueves 14 De Mayo De 2015

- Puede Depositarlos En La Caja De Comentarios Esta Noche ó
- Los Puede Enviar Por Correo Posta a:
  Director of Project Development
  Texas Department of Transportation
  P.O. Box 1386
  Houston, TX 77251-1386
- Correo Electronico: HOU-PIOWebmail@TxDOT.gov

Texas Department of Transportation

Purpose of the 4th Public Meeting

1. Present and gather your input on the
   - Alternatives Evaluation Process
   - Proposed Recommended Alternative
2. Discuss project with you and answer questions
3. Present the project timeline, history, and background
4. Explain the next steps
5. Receive your comments on the project
6. Encourage your continued involvement

Propósito de la 4ta Reunión de Alcance Pública

1. Presentar y recopilar sus ideas sobre
   - Proceso de evaluación de alternativas
   - Alternativa Propuesta Recomendada
2. Discutir el proyecto con usted y contestar sus preguntas
3. Presentar la cronología, historia y antecedentes del proyecto
4. Explicar los próximos pasos a seguir
5. Recibir sus comentarios acerca del proyecto
6. Promover su envolvimiento continuo

Project Team

Texas Department of Transportation

Lead Agency

AECOM

Environmental

HNTB

Design Engineering

CDM Smith
cdmsmith.com

Traffic Engineering

klotz associates

EIS Support

CP&Y

EIS Support

RABA KISTNER

EIS Support

THE LENTZ GROUP

Public Involvement

North - Hardy Corridor Studies History

North - Hardy Planning Studies - METRO, TxDOT, H-GAC

2003 North - Hardy Corridor Alternatives Analysis Report

- Examined transit and highway alternatives
- Recommended that transit alternatives be examined prior to detailed evaluation of highway alternatives

2004 North - Hardy Corridor Planning Studies Alternatives Analysis Report (Transit Component)

- Findings used to develop a regional transit system plan that combines an aggressive bus service program with Advanced High Capacity Transit (light rail)

2005 North - Hardy Planning Studies Alternatives Analysis Report (Highway Component)

- Recommended highway alternative from downtown Houston to Beltway 8 North is to add four managed lanes to the IH 45 / Hardy Toll Road Corridor

2011 TxDOT / FHWA Begin Environmental Document Preparation (Environmental Impact Statement) for North-Hardy Corridor Highway Component

Study Area includes:

- IH 45 (N) from US 59 to BW 8 North
- Hardy Toll Road Corridor from downtown to BW 8 North
- Portions of IH 10, IH 610 & US 59 near the downtown Houston area

What is an EIS?

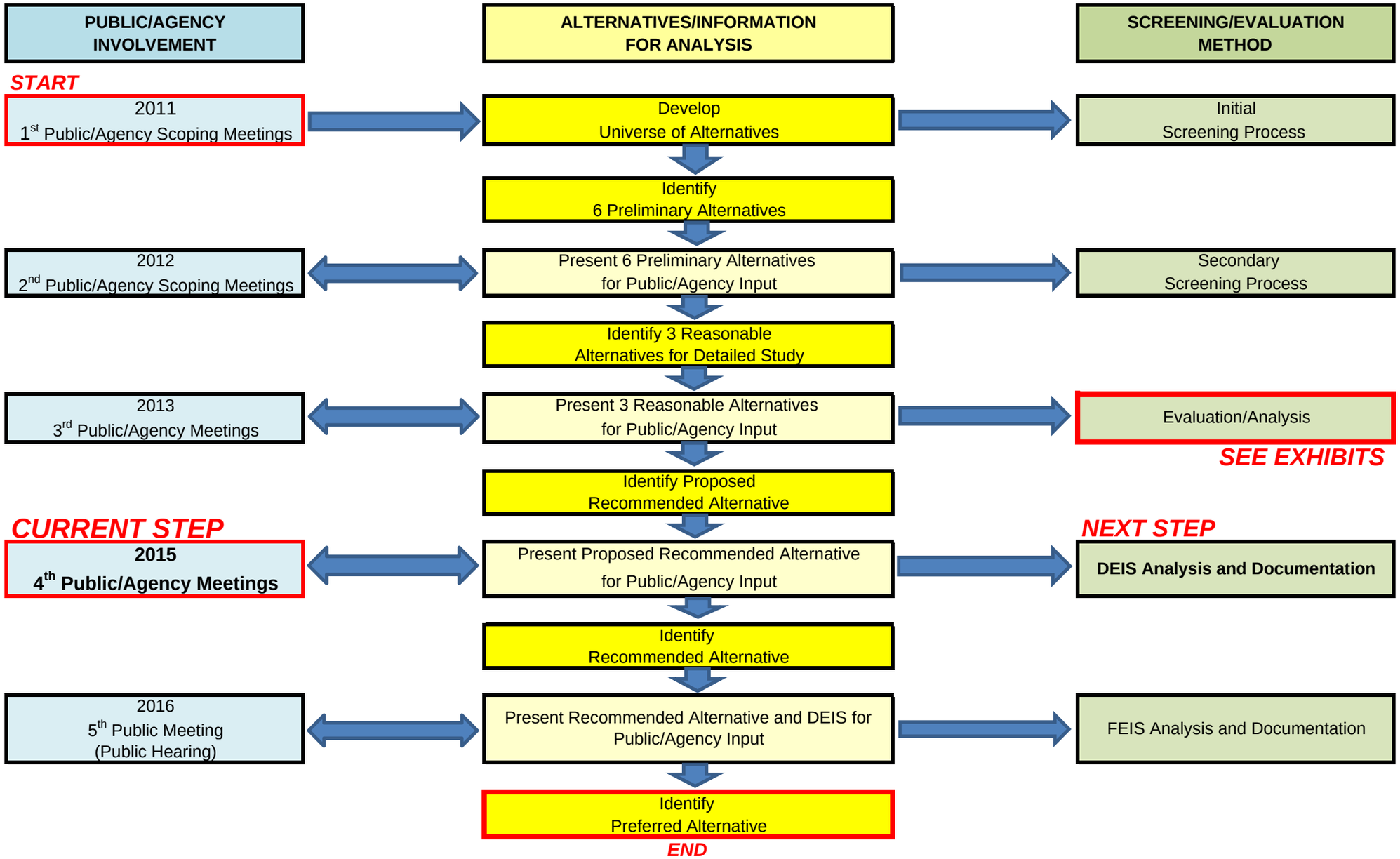
What is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?

- A full disclosure document detailing the environmental review process through which the transportation project was developed
- Includes the consideration of a range of reasonable alternatives
- Analyzes the potential impacts resulting from the alternatives
- Demonstrates compliance with other applicable environmental laws and executive orders
- The EIS process is completed in the following ordered steps
  - Notice of Intent (NOI)
  - Draft EIS document (DEIS)
  - Final EIS document (FEIS)
  - Record of Decision (ROD)
- The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, requires Federal agencies to prepare Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) for major Federal actions that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment

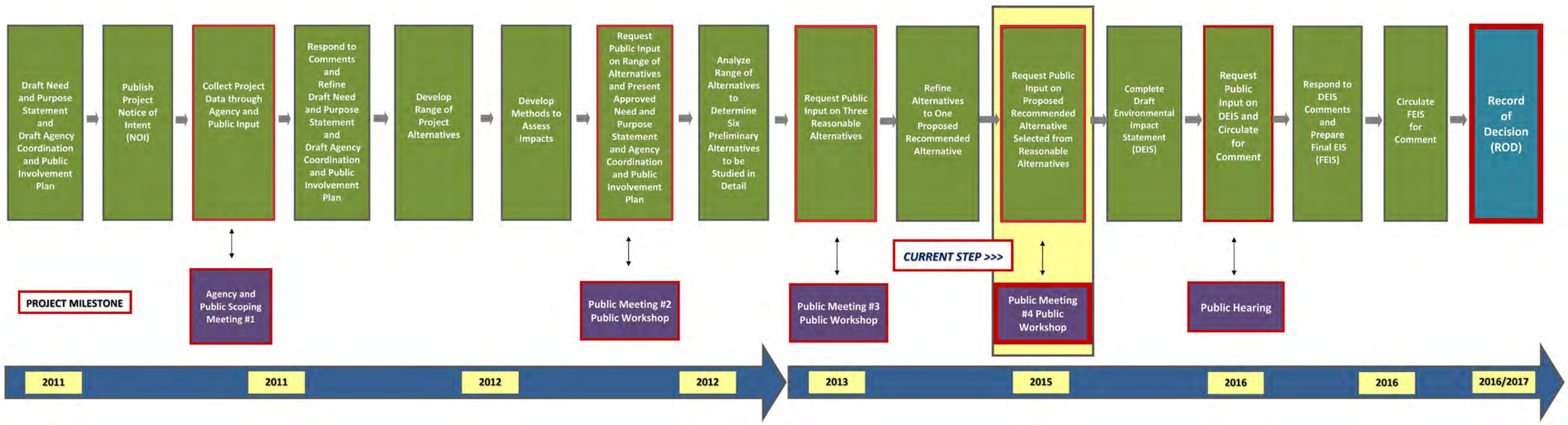
What is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)?

- An environmental review process that considers multiple alternatives as possible ways to complete a project
- Includes alternative alignments and variations of multi-modal configurations, such as railway and roadway combinations
- Considers the no-build or no-action alternative, which would be to do nothing
  - Provides a baseline to which we can compare the build alternatives
  - Analyzes what would occur if nothing was done to address the needs of the project area
- Alternatives are identified, analyzed, evaluated, and documented, with regard to the impact each would have on the natural, built and social environment.
- Potential impact information, along with engineering schematic design, is used to determine the best possible alternative for the community and those who use the facility

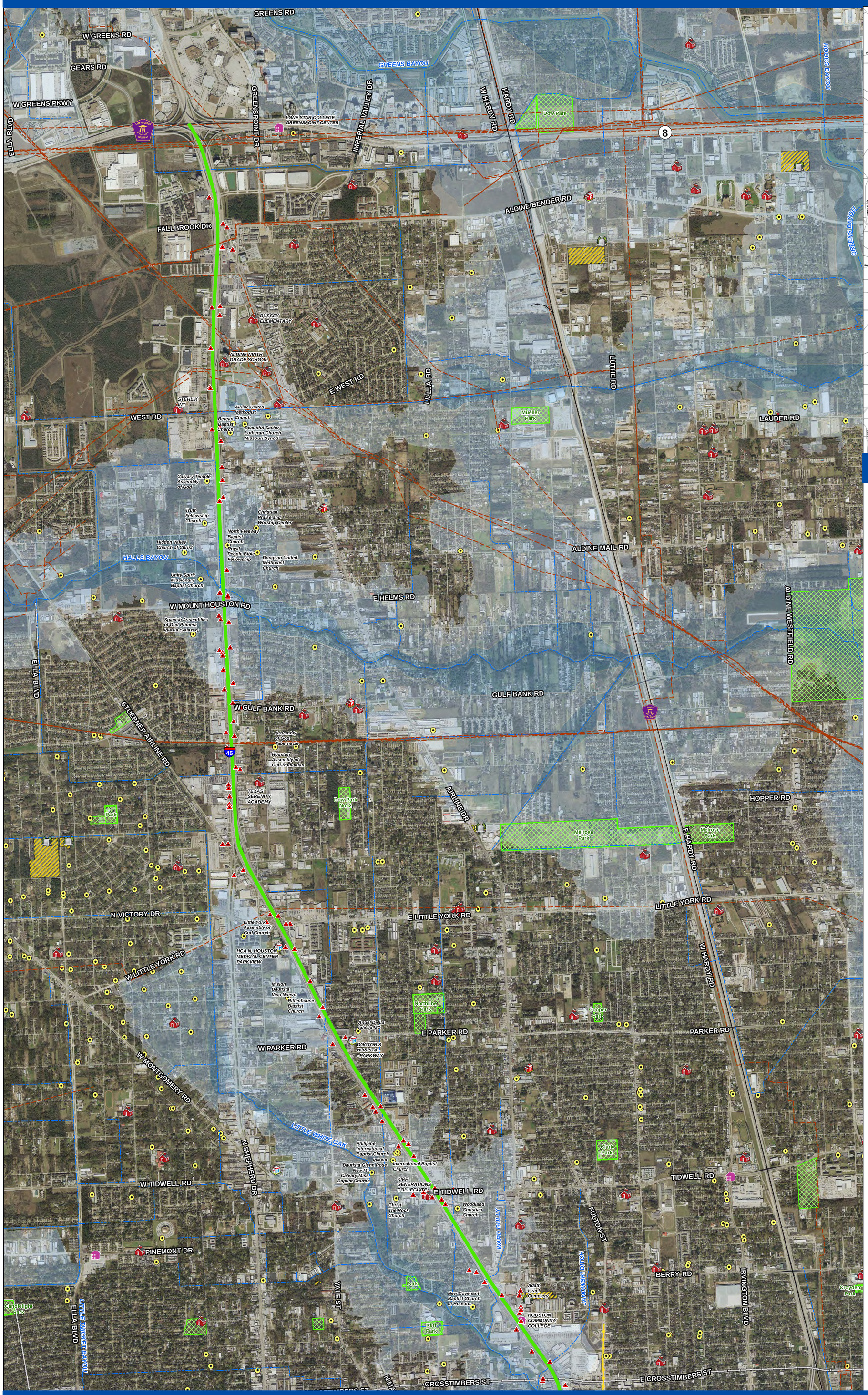
ALTERNATIVES SCREENING PROCESS

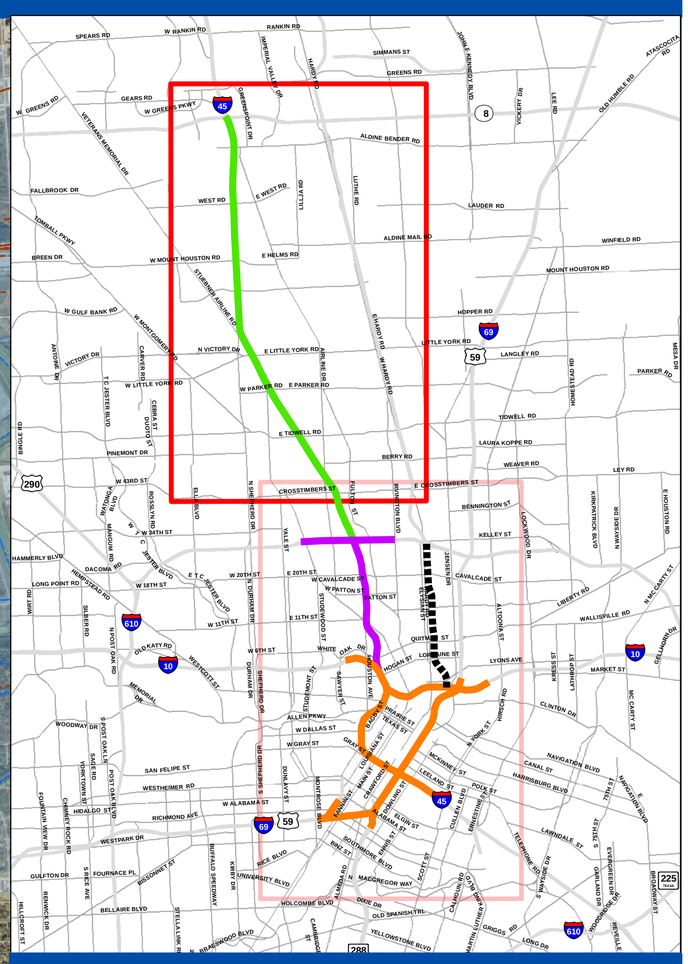


Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Process and Timeline



Environmental Constraints Map
From Beltway 8 to Crosstimbers Street





Vicinity

N
W E
S

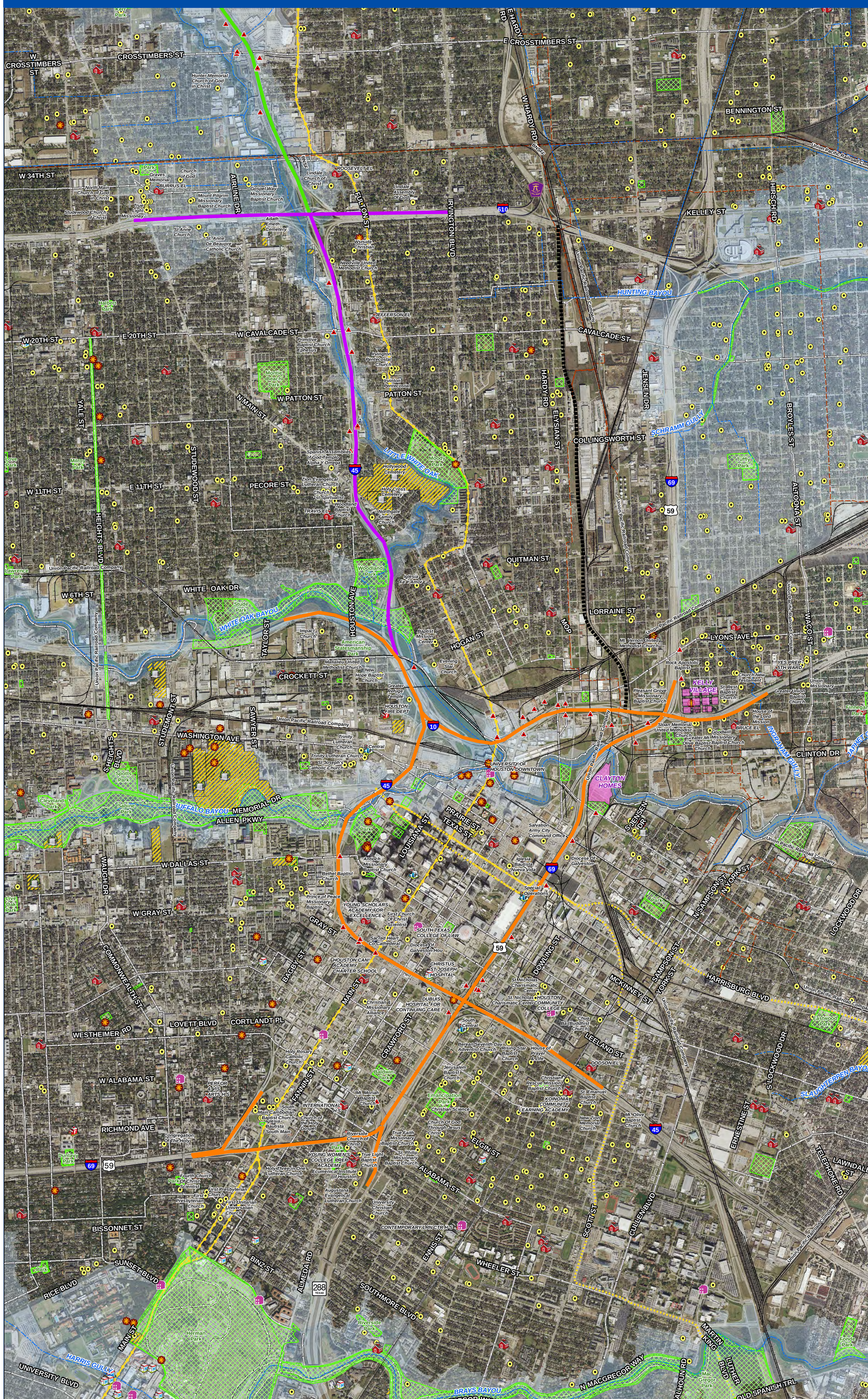
0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1
Miles

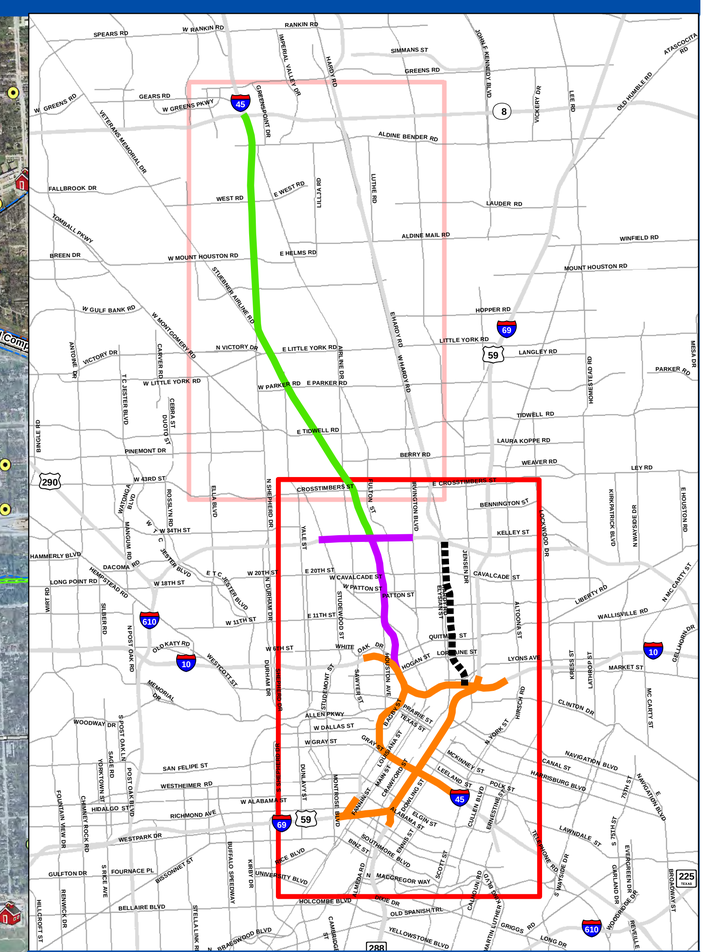
Legend

- Segment 1
- Channels / Streams
- Railroads
- Pipelines
- University / College
- Schools
- Police Station
- Hospital
- Fire Station
- Cemeteries
- Place of Worship
- Historical Markers
- Hazardous Materials Sites
- Cemeteries
- Parks
- Metro Light Rail (Operational)
- Existing Bikeways
- Floodway
- 100-Year Floodplain
- 500-Year Floodplain

Texas Department of Transportation

Environmental Constraints Map
From Crosstimbers Street to South of Downtown





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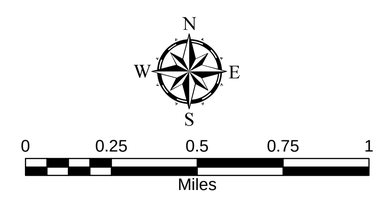

Legend

- Segment 1
- Segment 2
- Segment 3
- Future Hardy Connector
- Channels / Streams
- Railroads
- Pipelines
- University / College
- Schools
- Police Station
- Hospital
- Fire Station
- Cemeteries
- Place of Worship
- Historical Markers
- Hazardous Materials Sites
- Houston Housing Authority
- Cemeteries
- Parks
- Metro Light Rail (Construction)
- Metro Light Rail (Operational)
- Existing Bikeways
- Floodway
- 100-Year Floodplain
- 500-Year Floodplain

Texas Department of Transportation

SEGMENT 1: BELTWAY 8 TO I-610

PRELIMINARY SUBJECT TO CHANGE

EVALUATION CRITERIA																												
Evaluation of Reasonable Alternatives																												
			Engineering / Traffic			Environmental																						
						Cultural Resources			Natural Resources						Noise	Social and Economic Resources									Hazardous Materials		
									Floodplains		Wildlife	Wetlands	Streams															
Improvements Common to Segment 1 Alternatives: Complete reconstruction of I-45 to provide: ● Addition of one (1) frontage road lane in each direction ● Addition of full-width shoulders ● Addition of bike/pedestrian features along frontage roads **Additional Improvements/Needs per Alternative:**	Meets Need and Purpose and Project Goals (Yes/No)	Signature Project Potential (Yes/No)	Reduction in Systemwide Delay (D=Desirable, N=Neutral, U=Undesirable)	Increase in Systemwide Travel Speed (D=Desirable, N=Neutral, U=Undesirable)	Improvement to Freeway Ramping/Access (D=Desirable, N=Neutral, U=Undesirable)	Listed in or Eligible for National Register of Historic Places (number in Area of Potential Effect)	National Register of Historic Places (number potentially eligible in Area of Potential Effect)	Potential for Archeological Deposits (Yes or No)	Floodplain Fill (L=Low, M=Medium, H=High; comparison of Segment 1 alternatives)	Potential Detention Needs (L=Low, M=Medium, H=High)	Threatened & Endangered Species Habitat (Yes/No) (State only, No Federal)	Wetlands (acres)	Streams (linear feet)	Noise Impacts (number of impacted representative receivers)	Residential Displacements (number of single-family units)	Residential Displacements (number of multi-family units)	Business Displacements (number)	Religious/Fraternal Facility and Center Displacements	Parks (acres within proposed right-of-way)	School Displacements (number)	Potential Changes in Community Cohesion (Parks, Schools, Churches - Yes/No)	Visual Impacts (D=Desirable, N=Neutral, U=Undesirable)	Environmental Justice (Yes/No)	Regulatory Database Sites (number of regulated sites within proposed right-of-way)	Regulatory Database Sites (number of regulated sites within proposed right-of-way evaluated as moderate and high risk sites)	Former Gas Stations and Dry Cleaners Sites (number plotted within proposed right-of-way)
Alternative 4	● Addition of four (4) at-grade managed lanes ● New Right-of-Way required mostly along the west side of I-45	Yes	No	N	D	N	0	1	Yes	H	H	Yes	0.71	9,490	26	63	90	241	3	0	2	Yes	N	Yes	10	6	12
Alternative 5	● Addition of four (4) at-grade managed lanes ● New Right-of-Way required mostly along the east side of I-45	Yes	No	N	D	N	0	1	Yes	L	M	Yes	0.19	9,793	15	72	97	353	5	0	3	Yes	N	Yes	23	19	28
Alternative 7	● Addition of four (4) elevated managed lanes (on a single structure) ● New Right-of-Way required on both sides of I-45	Yes	No	N	D	U	0	1	No	M	L	Yes	0.22	9,023	20	37	40	260	4	0	1	Yes	U	Yes	8	6	8

Proposed Recommended Alternative

SEGMENT 2: I-610 TO I-10

PRELIMINARY SUBJECT TO CHANGE

EVALUATION CRITERIA																												
Evaluation of Reasonable Alternatives																												
				Engineering / Traffic			Environmental																					
							Cultural Resources			Natural Resources					Noise	Social and Economic Resources									Hazardous Materials		
										Floodplains		Wildlife	Wetlands	Streams														
	Improvements Common to Segment 2 Alternatives: Complete reconstruction of I-45 to provide: ● Addition of full-width shoulders ● Addition of bike/pedestrian features along frontage roads ● New Right-of-Way required on both sides of I-45 from I-610 to Cavalcade St.	Meets Need and Purpose and Project Goals (Yes/No)	Signature Project Potential (Yes/No)	Reduction in Systemwide Delay (D=Desirable, N=Neutral, U=Undesirable)	Increase in Systemwide Travel Speed (D=Desirable, N=Neutral, U=Undesirable)	Improvement to Freeway Ramping/Access (D=Desirable, N=Neutral, U=Undesirable)	Listed in or Eligible for National Register of Historic Places (number in Area of Potential Effect)	National Register of Historic Places (number potentially eligible in Area of Potential Effect)	Potential for Archeological Deposits (Yes or No)	Floodplain Fill (L=Low, M=Medium, H=High; comparison of Segment 2 alternatives)	Potential Detention Needs (L=Low, M=Medium, H=High)	Threatened & Endangered Species Habitat (Yes/No) (State only, No Federal)	Wetlands (acres)	Streams (linear feet)	Noise Impacts (number of impacted representative receivers)	Residential Displacements (number of single-family units)	Residential Displacements (number of multi-family units)	Business Displacements (number)	Religious/Fraternal Facility and Center Displacements	Parks (acres within proposed right-of-way)	School Displacements (number)	Potential Changes in Community Cohesion (Parks, Schools, Churches - Yes/No)	Visual Impacts (D=Desirable, N=Neutral, U=Undesirable)	Environmental Justice (Yes/No)	Regulatory Database Sites (number of regulated sites within proposed right-of-way)	Regulatory Database Sites (number of regulated sites within proposed right-of-way evaluated as moderate and high risk sites)	Former Gas Stations and Dry Cleaners Sites (number plotted within proposed right-of-way)
Alternative 10	● Addition of four (4) depressed managed lanes	Yes	Yes	N	N	N	0	4	No	H	M	Yes	0	4,676	11	27	18	17	0	0	0	No	D	Yes	0	0	1
Alternative 11	● Addition of four (4) elevated managed lanes (on a single structure)	Yes	No	N	N	N	0	4	No	M	M	Yes	0	4,603	11	26	18	12	0	0	0	No	U	Yes	0	0	1
Alternative 12	● Addition of four (4) elevated managed lanes (on a double-decked structure)	Yes	No	N	N	N	0	4	No	M	M	Yes	0	4,694	11	26	18	11	0	0	0	No	U	Yes	0	0	1

Proposed Recommended Alternative

SEGMENT 3: DOWNTOWN LOOP

PRELIMINARY SUBJECT TO CHANGE

EVALUATION CRITERIA																												
Evaluation of Reasonable Alternatives																												
			Engineering / Traffic			Environmental																					
						Cultural Resources			Natural Resources					Noise	Social and Economic Resources									Hazardous Materials		
									Floodplains		Wildlife	Wetlands	Streams														
Improvements Common to Segment 3 Alternatives: Complete reconstruction of I-45, I-10 and US 59/I-69 to provide: ● Addition of four (4) at-grade managed lane connections into Downtown ● Addition of full-width shoulders ● Addition of bike/pedestrian features along frontage roads ● Addition of I-10 express lanes from I-45 to US 59/I-69 ● New Right-of-Way required in various areas along the Downtown loop	**Additional Improvements/Needs per Alternative:**	Meets Need and Purpose and Project Goals (Yes/No)	Signature Project Potential (Yes/No)	Reduction in Systemwide Delay (D=Desirable, N=Neutral, U=Undesirable)	Increase in Systemwide Travel Speed (D=Desirable, N=Neutral, U=Undesirable)	Improvement to Freeway Ramping/Access (D=Desirable, N=Neutral, U=Undesirable)	Listed in or Eligible for National Register of Historic Places (number in Area of Potential Effect)	National Register of Historic Places (number potentially eligible in Area of Potential Effect)	Potential for Archeological Deposits (Yes or No)	Floodplain Fill (L=Low, M=Medium, H=High; comparison of Segment 3 alternatives)	Potential Detention Needs (L=Low, M=Medium, H=High)	Threatened & Endangered Species Habitat (Yes/No) (State only, No Federal)	Wetlands (acres)	Streams (linear feet)	Noise Impacts (number of impacted representative receivers)	Residential Displacements (number of single-family units)	Residential Displacements (number of multi-family units)	Business Displacements (number)	Religious/Fraternal Facility and Center Displacements	Parks (acres within proposed right-of-way)	School Displacements (number)	Potential Changes in Community Cohesion (Parks, Schools, Churches - Yes/No)	Visual Impacts (D=Desirable, N=Neutral, U=Undesirable)	Environmental Justice (Yes/No)	Regulatory Database Sites (number of regulated sites within proposed right-of-way)	Regulatory Database Sites (number of regulated sites within proposed right-of-way evaluated as moderate and high risk sites)	Former Gas Stations and Dry Cleaners Sites (number plotted within proposed right-of-way)
Alternative 10	● Addition of one (1) I-45 mainlane in each direction	Yes	No	N	N	U	10	1	Yes	L	M	Yes	0	9,393	7	33	247	26	1	3.4	2	Yes	U	Yes	4	3	4
Alternative 11	● Realign I-45 NB and SB lanes to be parallel with I-10 and US 59/I-69 ● US 59/I-69 would be below grade from Spur 527 to Downtown ● Remove existing I-45 Pierce Elevated structure	Yes	Yes	D	D	D	10	1	Yes	H	H	Yes	0	8,741	7	31	869	49	1	0.5	1	Yes	D	Yes	13	8	21
Alternative 12	● Realign I-45 NB lanes to be parallel with I-10 and US 59/I-69	Yes	No	N	U	U	10	1	Yes	M	M	Yes	0	10,109	7	36	873	41	2	3.4	0	Yes	U	Yes	8	5	19

Proposed Recommended Alternative

The Section 106 Process

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND CONSULTATION

Initiate Section 106 Process

Identify Historic Properties

- Evaluate historic significance

Historic properties may be affected

Assess Adverse Effects

- Apply criteria of adverse effect

Historic properties are adversely affected

Consult with Texas State Historic Preservation Officer to resolve adverse effects

Texas Department of Transportation