

Summary

SCOPING MEETING #2 SUMMARY

Environmental Impact Statement

North Houston Highway Improvement Project

A second series of scoping 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. Two agency scoping meetings and two public scoping meetings were held as identified below.

Agency Scoping Meeting #2

Two agency scoping meetings were held on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Houston District Office, 7600 Washington Avenue, Houston, Texas. The meeting for participating agencies was held from 10:00 am to noon. The meeting for cooperating agencies was held from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Invitations were mailed to 17 participating agencies and 6 cooperating agencies on September 18, 2012.

Six individuals from three agencies (Harris County Flood Control District, City of Houston and Downtown District/Central Houston, Inc.) attended the morning session for participating agencies. Seven individuals with four agencies (METRO, Houston-Galveston Area Council, Federal Highway Administration and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers) attended the afternoon session for 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 public scoping meeting, the North Hardy Highway component study, a summary from the first public scoping meeting, a glossary of common terms, the draft Need and Purpose Statement and the Agency Coordination and Public Involvement Plan. An open discussion followed the scoping meeting presentation. No written comments were submitted at the meeting.

Public Scoping Meeting #2

Introduction

Two identical public scoping meetings were conducted by TxDOT. One was held in the northern portion of the project area and the other in the southern portion of the project area. The southern meeting was held on Tuesday, October 9, 2012 at Jefferson Davis High School, 1101 Quitman Street, Houston, Texas. The northern meeting was held on Thursday, October 11, 2012 at Aldine Ninth Grade School, 10650 North Freeway, Houston, Texas. Both meetings were held from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

Public Notice

Public scoping meeting notices were published twice in the Houston Chronicle, La Voz and Houston Defender. A total of 4,671 postcards were mailed on September 19, 2012 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 185 individuals attended the southern meeting and 50 individuals attended the northern 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 10 minutes to accommodate the schedules of individuals arriving at different times between the hours of 5:30 and 7:30 pm. 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 set of 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.



Agency Scoping Meeting #2 Photos TxDOT Houston District Office, October 10, 2012





**Public Scoping Meeting #2 Photos
Jefferson Davis High School, October 9, 2012**





Public Scoping Meeting #2 Photos Aldine Ninth Grade School, October 11, 2012

