

APPENDIX N: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

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Public Involvement

TxDOT has conducted continuous public involvement and agency coordination for the North Houston Highway Improvement Project (NHHIP) for more than eight years. In 2011, TxDOT began preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Public involvement and agency coordination for the EIS included scoping meetings, public meetings, a public hearing, and more than 300 meetings with stakeholders along the project corridor.

Appendix A of the Community Impacts Assessment Technical Report (Appendix F in the Final EIS) contains a summary of public involvement and agency coordination for the project, including efforts that preceded initiation of the current schematic design and environmental documentation phase of project development in 2011.

During the public involvement and agency coordination for the NHHIP, TxDOT has ensured adherence to all regulatory guidelines and policies in compliance with federal and state statutes and sound public involvement practice. TxDOT has solicited and encouraged involvement of all stakeholders during the planning process and incorporated input received in the various planning activities. During the study process, TxDOT has provided accurate and timely information, proactively sought early and continuing public input and involvement, and has been responsive to inquiries and suggestions. Since the beginning of the project, the project purpose and need, alternatives, and mitigation have been refined as a result of feedback from the impacted communities, local government and other agencies, and other stakeholders. Input from all stakeholders has been reviewed and considered.

Note that Volume III of the Final EIS includes responses to public comments on the Draft EIS and responses to public comments on the draft technical reports prepared for the Final EIS.