

Summary

SCOPING MEETING SUMMARY

Environmental Impact Statement

North Houston Highway Improvement Project

Agency Scoping Meeting

Two agency scoping meetings were held on Monday, November 14, 2011 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 13 participating agencies and 4 cooperating agencies on October 11, 2011.

Seven individuals with three agencies (METRO, Houston-Galveston Area Council, and Harris County Flood Control District) attended the morning session for participating agencies. One individual from METRO attended the afternoon session for cooperating agencies. Meeting attendees were provided an agenda, exhibit packet, informational handout, survey form, comment form and a project map. Reference materials were also available including a project area map, aerial map, the draft Need and Purpose Statement and the draft 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

Introduction

Two identical public 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. The first meeting was held on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at Jefferson Davis High School, 1101 Quitman Street, Houston, Texas. The second meeting was held on Thursday, November 17, 2011 at Aldine Senior High School, 11101 Airline Drive, Houston, Texas. Both meetings were held from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

Public Notice

The public scoping meeting notices were published in the Federal Register, Texas Register, Houston Chronicle, La Voz and Houston Defender. A total of 4,805 postcards were mailed on October 28, 2011 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 project map. A total of 259 individuals attended the first meeting and 52 individuals attended the second 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 6:00 and 8:00 pm.

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. Two sets of 17 exhibit boards were displayed on easels pertaining to the purpose of the meeting, project team, history, environmental process and need for improvements. Two sets of aerial maps were rolled out on tables and staff representatives took notes about issues and concerns expressed by the public. Reference documents were available including the Citizen's Guide to NEPA, Alternatives Analysis for North Hardy (Highway Component), draft Agency Coordination and Public Involvement Plan, and the draft Need and Purpose Statement. Tables were set up for participants to complete their survey and comment forms. Copies of the exhibits are located in the "Presentation" section.

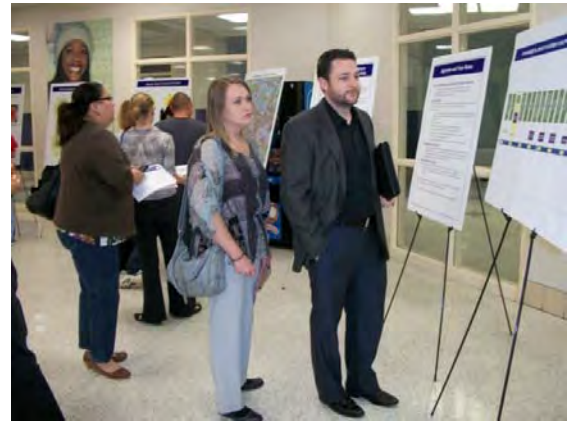


Agency Scoping Meeting Photos TxDOT Houston District Office, November 14, 2011





Scoping Meeting Photos Jefferson Davis High School, November 15, 2011





Scoping Meeting Photos Aldine Senior High School, November 17, 2011

