



Open House and Scoping Meeting

for the Proposed SH 190 Transportation Study
IH 30 to IH 20, Dallas County
Thursday, July 26, 2005



Welcome

Welcome to the Open House and Scoping Meeting for the proposed State Highway (SH) 190 (The East Branch) from IH 30 to IH 20 in eastern Dallas County

Project Overview

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is conducting a study to determine the feasibility of developing a new roadway from IH 30 to IH 20 in eastern Dallas County. The study begins along side the cities, towns, and the public to determine alternatives and alignments for the potential new roadway. In so far as the study's "blank canvas" of possibilities, TxDOT will rely heavily on city/town leadership and input in determining what alignment works best for each jurisdiction. It is anticipated the facility would improve local north-south transportation and complete the regional (eastern) SH 190 Loop – connecting the President George Bush Turnpike extension at IH 30 to IH 20 to the south, near the Dallas County study of the proposed Loop 9 corridor. The East Branch study objectives and evaluations will determine if a roadway is needed, and if so:

- What type of roadway is warranted
- Location of the roadway
- Potential environmental effects of building the roadway

This study involves the development and evaluation of alternatives and development of an Environmental Impact Statement in accordance with state and federal guidelines. Alternative development and evaluation, public and agency involvement, and schematic design are included. This combined planning effort will conclude with:

- Identification of a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)
- Typical cross-sections with Right-of-Way width determination
- Preliminary Design Schematic
- Final environmental clearance through a Record of Decision (ROD)

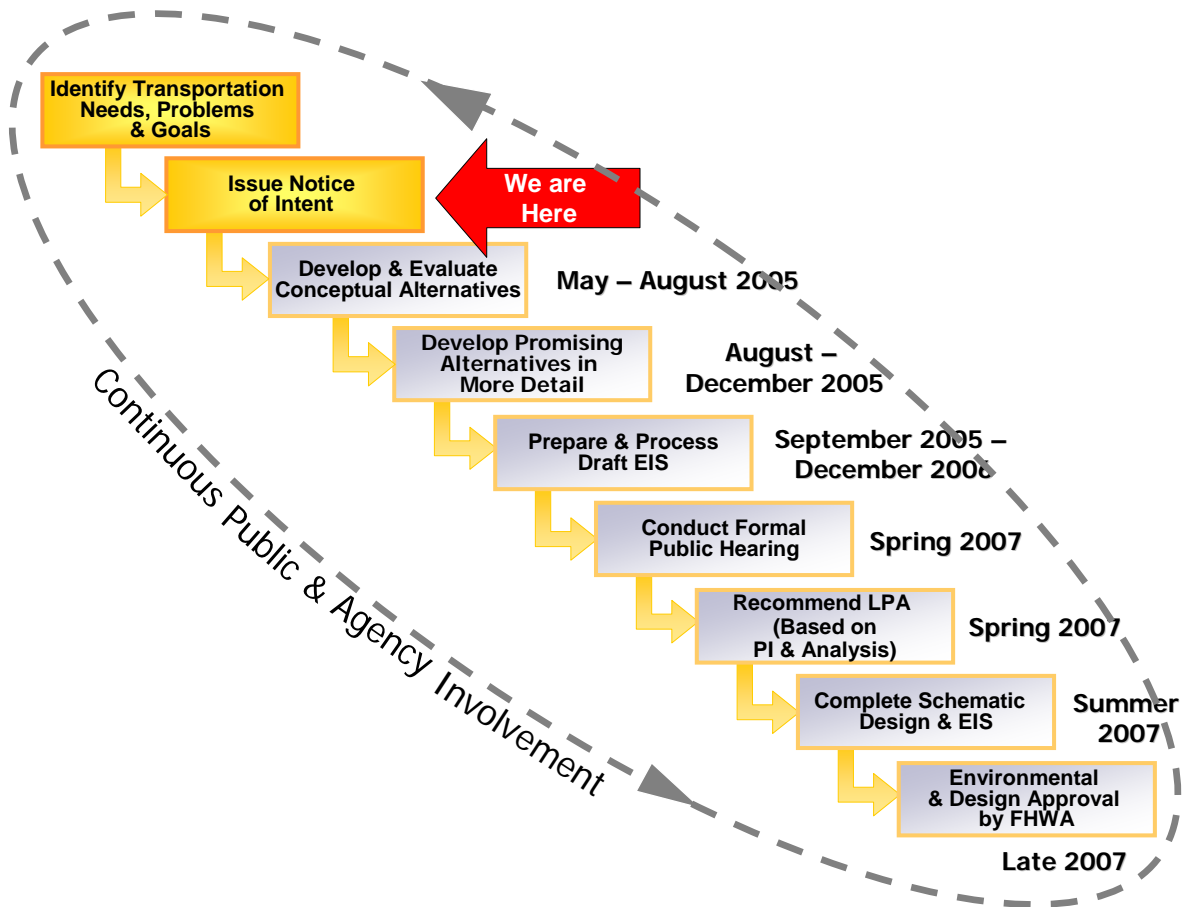
Future Toll Road?

The East Branch will be evaluated for potential toll-application as part of the SH 190 Transportation Study objectives. In Texas, current identified transportation needs exceed available funding by three to one. Traditional, tax-based methods of financing roads are no longer sufficient to handle the statewide and local transportation needs in a timely fashion. Future transportation depends on funding tools that maximize budgets by using strategic partnerships with local communities and private businesses. Currently, Texas highways are funded by a combination of federal, state and local funds.

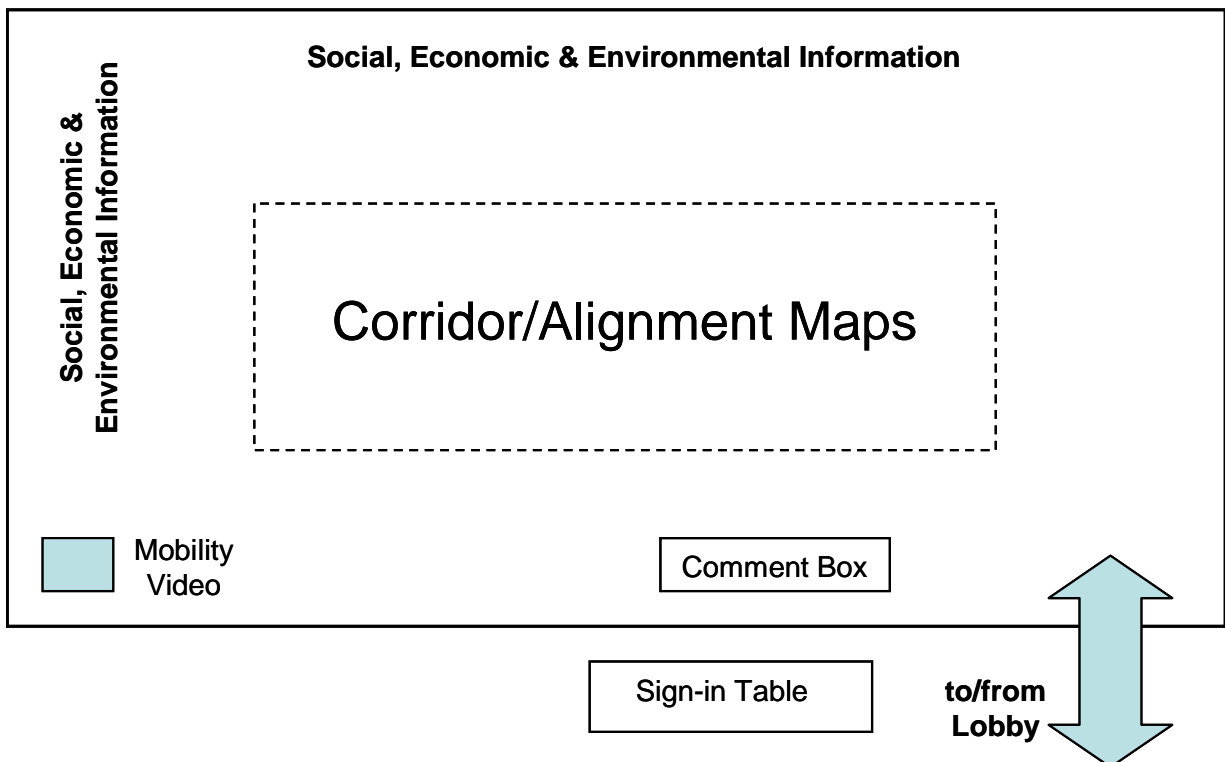
TxDOT is seeking your comments on input on this proposed project. Please contact Timothy M. Nesbitt, P.E., Texas Department of Transportation, Dallas District Office, P.O. Box 133067, Dallas, Texas 75313-3067. Please note you will not receive a direct response to verbal or written comments, however, all written comments will be made part of the project record.

Thank you for your interest in the project and for attending the Open House and Scoping Meeting!

Planning Process



Open House Layout



Written Comment Form

for

SH 190 (The East Branch) from IH 30 to IH 20
Dallas County

The Texas Department of Transportation is seeking your comments on the proposed project. Your written comments are welcomed. Your comments will be given full consideration during the remainder of the planning and design phases. Please note you will not receive a direct written response to your comments or questions. All written comments will be addressed in and made part of the project record. Thank you for your participation and comments.

Name _____

Address _____

To mail, please fold in half with this page on the inside and affix a postage stamp. Please tape (**do not staple**) closed.

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Mr. Timothy M. Nesbitt, P.E.
Project Manager
Texas Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 133067
Dallas, Texas 75313-3067

RE: The East Branch – July 2005



July 5, 2005

SUBJECT: Proposed SH 190 (The East Branch) from IH 30 to IH 20

Dear Interested Party:

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) recently initiated a Major Transportation Study (MTS) and the environmental documentation and preliminary engineering for proposed State Highway (SH) 190 (The East Branch) from Interstate Highway (IH) 30 to IH 20 within southeast Dallas County. The purpose of this letter is to formally notify you of the study, publication of the Notice of Intent, and to invite your participation.

TxDOT will conduct a Public Scoping Meeting for the purpose of announcing and soliciting public comment on the proposed project. A new location roadway is proposed, and viable alternatives and potential transportation modes including the No-Build option and Build alternative alignments with toll-applications will be examined. The corridor is approximately 11 miles in length.

- Who:** All Interested Persons
- What:** The public scoping meeting will be an Open House format between the hours of 4 pm and 8 pm with no formal presentation
- When:** Tuesday, July 26, 2005
- Where:** Mesquite Convention and Rodeo Center, 1700 Rodeo Drive, Mesquite, Texas, 75149

Maps, drawings, and other project information will be on display to allow interested persons to learn more about the proposed project, environmental study process and analysis. TxDOT personnel will be available to assist in orientation and explanation of the drawings and other material on hand and provide attendees the opportunity to ask questions in a one-on-one setting. Additional project information may be obtained by visiting the project's website at www.theeastbranch.org.

All interested persons are invited to attend this Public Scoping Meeting and express their views on this proposed project. Verbal and written comments from the public may be submitted either in person, or by mail to: Timothy M. Nesbitt, P.E., Texas Department of Transportation, Dallas District Office, P.O. Box 133067, Dallas, Texas 75313-3067.

Persons interested in attending this meeting who have special communication or accommodation needs are encouraged to contact the TxDOT Dallas District Public Information Office at (214) 320-6100 at least two days prior to the meeting. Because the Public Scoping Meeting will be conducted in English, any requests for language interpreters or other special communication needs should also be made at least two days prior to the Public Scoping Meeting. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate these needs.

Attached, please reference the Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which has been published in the Texas Register and Federal Register. Initially, the study team has initiated data collection for the project to research all data that would be relevant to a transportation facility. Any information or data you are aware of with respect to the project or study area would be greatly appreciated.

If you would like to sign up to receive future project information and future notices of Public Meetings, please go to <http://www.theeastbranch.org/maillinglist.asp> or contact Ms. Athena Bolton at (214) 920-8167. You can also sign up for the mailing list by completing the enclosed survey and mailing it back to address on the back of the survey.

We welcome your participation and interest in this important study. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Timothy M. Nesbitt, P.E. at 214.320.6100.

NOTICE OF INTENT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:

Federal Highway Administration

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT: DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT

ACTION: Notice of Intent

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an environmental impact statement will be prepared for a proposed transportation project in Dallas County, Texas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Salvador Deocampo, District Engineer (North), Federal Highway Administration, 300 E. 8th Street, Room 826, Austin, Texas 78701, Telephone 512-536-5950.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for State Highway (SH) 190 (The East Branch) from Interstate Highway (IH) 30 to IH 20 within southeast Dallas County. The corridor is approximately 11 miles in length. From a regional and local perspective, there is an increasing demand for additional transportation capacity and access through the corridor. In the last 30 years, southeast Dallas County has experienced growth in population and employment and this trend is expected to continue.

Previous feasibility studies and *Mobility 2025 Metropolitan Transportation Plan-Amended April 2005*, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for the Dallas-Fort Worth region, has examined a full range of alternatives and alignments within the corridor. SH 190 is included in the current MTP as a new location six-lane roadway. The environmental study will examine viable alternatives and potential transportation modes including the No-Build and the potential for toll-application to the build alternative alignments. All alternative alignments begin at or near the proposed IH 30/President George Bush Turnpike interchange and proceed south toward and ultimately terminate at IH 20. These proposed alternatives would be contained within a corridor generally bounded to the east by the Dallas/Kaufman County Line and to the west by Bobtown Road in Garland, Collins Road and Clay Road in Sunnyvale, and Clay-Mathis Road and Lawson Road in Mesquite. The project has included public involvement to address the long-term mobility needs of both the region and local community. The environmental study will include the determination of the number of lanes, roadway configuration, and operational characteristics. It will also include a discussion of the effects on the social, economic, and natural environments and of other known and reasonably foreseeable agency actions proposed within the SH 190/East Branch Corridor. If a build alternative is selected, and if it is determined to be a viable project, TxDOT shall construct and operate the facility. Issues relative to the project include noise, archeological sites, historic properties, socio-economic effects, changes to travel patterns, air quality, water quality, floodplains, and wetlands.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, regional, and local agencies, and to organizations and persons who have previously expressed or are known to have interest in this proposal. In addition to public meetings, a future public hearing will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the meetings and the hearing. The Draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment before the public hearing.

A public scoping meeting in an Open House format with no formal presentation will be conducted on Tuesday, July 26, 2005, between the hours of 4 pm and 8 pm at the Mesquite Convention Center and Rodeo Center located at 1700 Rodeo Drive, Mesquite, Texas 75149. This will be the first in a series of meetings to solicit public comments on the proposed action as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Persons interested in attending this meeting who have special communication or accommodation needs are encouraged to contact the local TxDOT Public Information Office at (214) 320-6100 at least two days prior to the meeting. Because the public meeting will be conducted in English, any requests for language interpreters or other special communication needs should also be made at least two days prior to the public meeting. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate these needs.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA at the address provided above. Additional project information may be obtained by visiting the project's website at www.theeastbranch.org.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

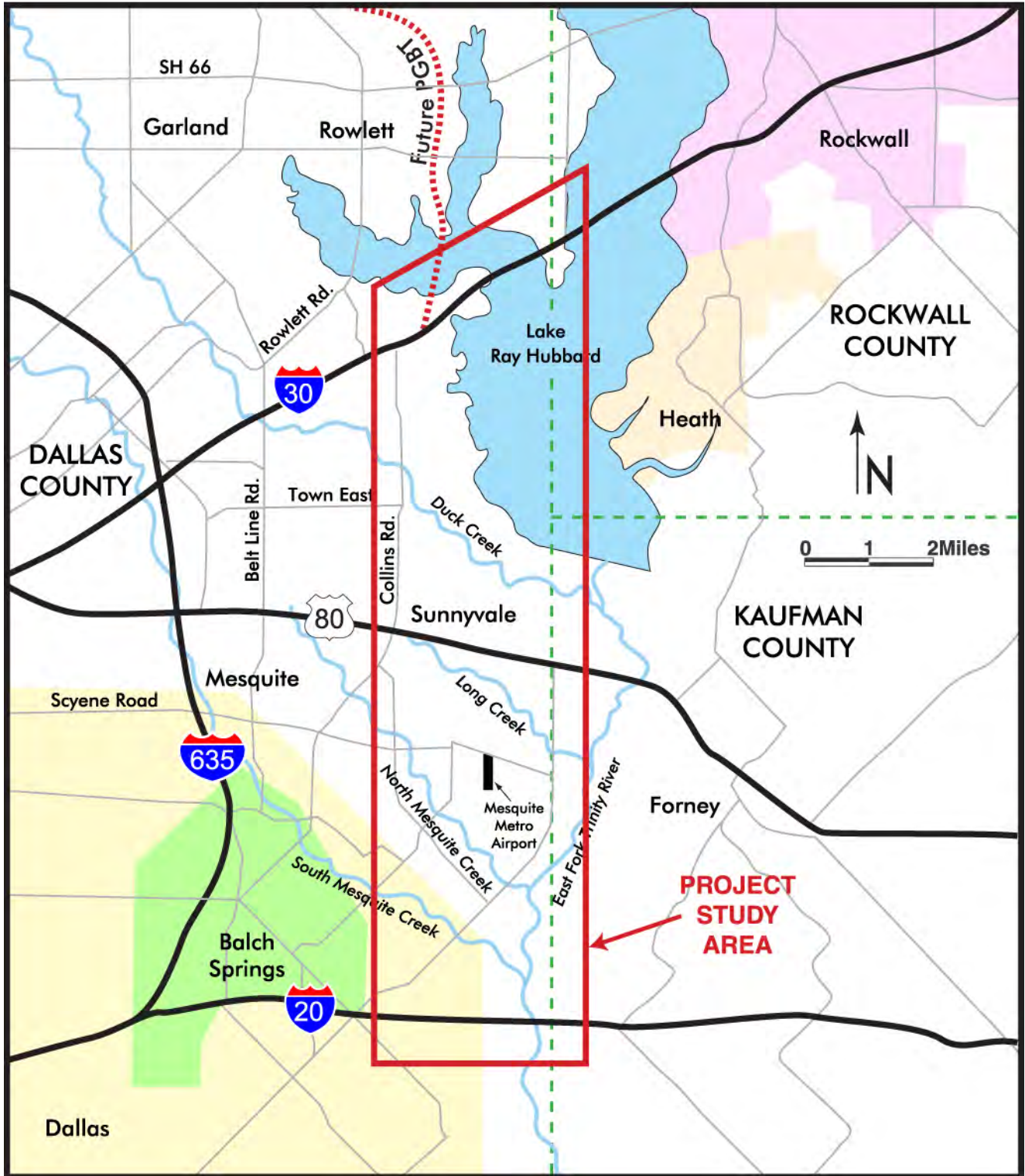


Project Location Map

The East Branch
190

SH190 TRANSPORTATION STUDY
www.theeastbranch.org

The study corridor for the SH 190 Transportation Study is from Interstate Highway 30 south to Interstate Highway 20 and is approximately 11 miles long. The potential route(s) under study will directly involve the cities of Garland and Mesquite, Town of Sunnyvale, and Dallas County. The map below shows the project study area.





Texas Department of Transportation
Dallas District
P.O. Box 133067
Dallas, Texas 75313-3067
(214) 320-6100
Fax: (214) 320-4470
www.theeastbranch.org

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is conducting a study to determine the feasibility of developing a new roadway from IH 30 to IH 20 in eastern Dallas County. It is anticipated the facility would improve local north-south transportation and complete the regional loop. Study objectives will determine if a roadway is needed, and if so 1) what type of roadway is warranted, 2) the location of roadway, and 3) the potential environmental effects of building the roadway. The purpose of this survey is to help gauge public opinion and project understanding.

1. What roadway do you most commonly travel on a daily basis? Belt Line Road IH 635
 Bobtown Road/Collins Road IH 30
 US 80 IH 20 Scyene Road
 Other, please specify: _____

2. How would you rate current day-to-day travel conditions as far as congestion levels and number of travel lanes provided in your area?
 Unacceptable Poor Adequate
 Good Excellent

3. According to the 2000 Census, the 10-county Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex has over 5.1 million residents. By 2030, it has been projected that over 9.1 million people will live here. Below is a table showing the change in population within the IH 30/IH 20 study area:

City/Town	1970	1980	1990	2000	Estimated 2030
Garland	81,437	138,857	180,650	215,768	241,767
Sunnyvale	995	1,404	2,228	2,693	11,554
Mesquite	55,131	67,053	101,484	124,523	157,259
Heath	520	1,459	2,108	4,149	17,669
Balch Springs	10,464	13,746	17,406	19,375	34,247
Forney	1,745	2,483	4,070	5,588	43,825
Rockwall	3,121	5,939	10,486	17,976	53,265

Source: 1970 through 2000 data from US Census Bureau. Projected 2030 data from the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

Based on this information and recognizing that local cities/towns are pursuing more residential and business development, do you think the current roadway system(s) in the area can adequately accommodate projected (future) increases in both population and drivers?
 Yes No

3a. If "NO," what type of transportation improvements would you prefer, knowing there could be community impacts associated with each improvement? Check all that apply.

North-South Improvements

- Add lanes to Belt Line Road
- Add lanes to Bobtown Road/Collins Road
- Bus Service (this would require local cities/towns to join DART or forming a transit agency)
- New tollway
- New arterial parkway (similar to Oates Road near Audubon Park)

East-West Improvements

- Add lanes to IH 30
- Add lanes to US 80
- Add lanes to IH 20
- Add lanes to Scyene Road
- Adding High Occupancy Vehicle lanes
- Bus Service (this would require local cities/towns to join DART or forming a transit agency)

4. If a new north-south roadway were proposed to accommodate future traffic, what would you think are the most important features/aspects that should be included/considered, understanding most improvements require right-of-way (property) to do so? Rate each using a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being most important.

- A far eastern Dallas County, Lawson Road route/alignment
- A non-evasive route protecting the integrity of communities
- A route/alignment enjoying the benefits of development and commercialization
- Numerous local access locations
- Wider median
- Landscaping buffers
- Community gateways or aesthetic effects
- Bicycle/pedestrian facilities

5. What is your home zip code?
 75088 75149 75150 75180
 75181 Other, please specify: _____

6. If you work outside your home, what is the zip code at your place of employment?
 75088 75149 75150 75180
 75181 75201 75202 75204
 75217 75219 75227 75228
 Other, please specify: _____

7. How long have you lived in the South Garland/Sunnyvale/Mesquite area?
 under 1 year 1-5 years 6-15 years
 More than 15 years

Thank you for your time and input!

To mail, please fold along the lines with this page on the inside and affix a postage stamp. Please tape (do not staple) closed.

If you would like to be included on the mailing list for the Texas Department of Transportation's SH 190 Transportation Study from IH 30 to IH 20, please include your complete mailing address.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

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The East Branch SH 190 Transportation Study
c/o Ms. Athena Bolton
Carter & Burgess, Inc.
7950 Elmbrook, Suite 250
Dallas, Texas 78247

RE: TEB July 2005 Survey

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